

Helping one's neighbour 4

The exhilarating work of outreach visiting 6

A great passion to preach the gospel 10

BCA Directory

The Real Australian is a registered trademark of The Bush Church Aid Society

First published 1920 Edition No. 393

Circulation 32,000

All enquiries to

The Editor, The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia

GPO Box 5389, Sydney NSW 2001

ra@bushchurchaid.com.au

Patrons The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier

The Most Revd Geoffrey Smith

The Most Revd Kanishka Raffel

President The Rt Revd Dr Glenn Davies

Vice President The Revd David Crain

Vice President Emeritus The Revd Tom Morgan

Chairman Mr Fred Chilton

Honorary Treasurer Mr Richard Host

National Director The Revd Canon Greg Harris

National Office GPO Box 5389, Sydney NSW 2001

Phone (02) 9262 5017

greg.harris@bushchurchaid.com.au

Indigenous Ministry Officer

The Revd Neville Naden

49 Kilkenny Circuit, Ashtonfield NSW 2323

n.naden@bushchurchaid.com.au

NSW/ACT Regional Office

The Revd Paul Sampson

GPO Box 5389, Sydney NSW 2001

Phone (02) 9262 5017

paul.sampson@bushchurchaid.com.au

Victorian Regional Office

The Revd Adrian Lane

PO Box 281, Heidelberg VIC 3084

Phone (03) 9457 7556

vic@bushchurchaid.com.au

SA/NT Regional Office

The Revd John Warner

Ground Floor, 37 Angas Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Phone (08) 8221 5444

john.warner@bushchurchaid.com.au

QLD/NNSW Regional Office

The Revd Mike Uptin

PO Box 6565, Upper Mt Gravatt QLD 4122

Phone (07) 3349 9081

mike.uptin@bushchurchaid.com.au

Tasmanian Regional Office

The Revd Josh Skeat

14 Marlendy Drive, Deloraine TAS 7304

Phone 0438 681 404

josh.skeat@bushchurchaid.com.au

WA Regional Office

Vacant

PO Box 394, Mount Lawley WA 6929

Phone 1300 554 025

wa@bushchurchaid.com.au

Contents

Editorial	3
Helping one's neighbour	4
The exhilarating work of outreach visiting	6
What it means to be a minister in Moranbah	8
A great passion to preach the gospel	10
What does a Generate Field Development Manager do?	12
Celebrating God's delightfully different family	14
BCA for Kids	15
Around the country	19
A big celebration in Roebourne	20
An intentional investment in kids' ministry	22
From the Archives	24
Post & Rails	26
Councillor's Column	27
Christmas Merchandise	28

Front Cover:

The family of a parishoner from the Anglican Parish of Lismore travelled to the flood devastated region from Brisbane with a truckload of donated food

Editorial — Like clockwork!

Like clockwork on the first day of every month I get a text message from a dear brother in Christ. He has been praying for me and my family for a number of years. I have sought his counsel from time to time on large decisions I've needed to make. And the reason why I've shared with him and him alone was because I knew he would actually come before the Father and pray for me, rather than just say he would.

If you haven't guessed why the first day of the month is when I get that text message, then let me explain. It is on the first day of the month that I feature with the rest of the National Office Team in the BCA *Prayer Notes*. Like clockwork this dear

brother prays daily through the *Prayer Notes* and like clockwork I get a text from him on the first day of each month to encourage me.

I have now got into the habit of asking Field Staff what happens on the day they appear in the BCA Prayer Notes. Without fail many tell me of the text messages, emails, and sometimes even the 'snail mail' that a supporter

has timed perfectly to the day they feature in the Prayer Notes.

Importantly, not once have I heard them say they wished they received less messages of encouragement or even just the 'praying hands' emoji in a text message. That is because on top of the power of prayer there is the power of encouragement.

Many of our Field Staff endure significant discouragement. It is not unheard of for Field Staff to go away on holidays for a couple of weeks and on their return find out that some of the parishioners



in their town have moved. Then there are discouragements like missing family birthdays with interstate relatives, or hearing peers in larger cities describe

So can I encourage

you dear reader to

be like clockwork.

Like clockwork

the Prayer Notes

and bring these

gracious Lord

needs before our

pray through

ministry in their well-resourced churches as difficult.

So can I encourage you dear reader to be like clockwork. Like clockwork pray through the BCA Prayer Notes and bring these needs before our gracious Lord. And if you have the inclination, send a short note to encourage one of the Field Staff. Maybe pick one who has kids with similar names to those in your family, or one in a location you

have visited. Or maybe just go rogue and 'anti-clockwork' and choose a different one each month to encourage.

And to my dear brother who I know reads this article – thanks!

Greg Harris
National Director

Helping one's neighbour









BCA's Kirkby Trust has for many years provided funding for the direct relief of sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, disability or helplessness in rural and regional areas of Australia. Following the devastating floods in February and March this year, BCA provided a generous donation to the Anglican Parish of Lismore to go towards flood recovery costs associated with the Parish Op Shop.

Stephen Hall, Church Warden and Parish Secretary for the Anglican Parish of Lismore, recalls just how the funding from BCA made an impact in the community.

So many of the Op Shops in Lismore were inundated by flood waters rendering them out of action to accommodate the needs of flood-affected families and individuals. Our Op Shop, situated well above flood waters, was ideally placed to provide assistance to people who had lost everything. Our volunteers worked tirelessly meeting the physical (and emotional) needs of so many. Items were given away free of charge and the donation from the Kirkby Trust has gone a long way to restoring the Op Shop to its pre-flood level of operation.

Here are just a few stories of how the Op Shop was able to help the community:

- An 80-year-old widow who was rescued from water which had risen up to her neck, arrived at the Op Shop three days after being rescued with the same clothes on her back. She was after some dry clothes and just one set would be ok. After some insistence she picked out three sets and then asked in a frail voice could she possibly have a handbag as she felt lost and insecure without one.
- A very proud elderly lady came in wearing shoes that were at least two sizes too big and asked if we had any shoes she could have. There was such joy in her voice

when she tried on a pair that actually fitted her.

- A man in his late 70's who had been rescued from his sinking ute was left with just the clothes on his back. This man was known to me personally and it was sad to see his awkwardness in having to ask for charity for the first time in his life. After much talking and reassurance on my behalf, he left in lighter spirits and returned a couple of weeks later for a few more pieces of much needed clothing.
- A younger lady with three children came in some weeks after the flood and wandered around the shop for quite some time before coming to the counter with a basket full of toddler clothing and a couple of things for herself and her husband. There was such relief and surprise when she was told that it was not going to cost her anything because she had been through the flood. She broke down in tears and was so thankful when informed that she could take whatever she needed, and our support was available for as long as the need was there.

There are so many stories from men and women, young and old. People just wanted to tell their flood story and our volunteers were there to listen and offer support. We also emphasised that the Op Shop wasn't just there for the short term; we will offer free goods and clothing, until they are back in their homes, even if this takes a matter of years.

I've cleaned up after many floods in Lismore. This time all I could do was help make sandwiches and deliver them with coffee and homemade slices to people who had been washed out of their homes. Most did not stop to eat, such was their focus on cleaning up and rescuing precious possessions. What struck me on our delivery



rounds during those first few weeks was not only the gratitude they expressed for thinking of their practical needs, but also the strength of character and resilience these people possessed.

Wearing our Lismore Anglican shirts no one asked us 'where is God in all this?'. He was there for those who had eyes to see in the mammoth community response of helping one's neighbour. The support the parish has received from all over Australia has been overwhelming and we have been able to distribute support to deserving people. On behalf of the parish, and indeed the volunteers of the Op Shop, please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks.

Stephen Hall Church Warden and Parish Secretary Anglican Parish of Lismore

The exhilarating work of outreach visiting

Six years ago, James Daymond came to BCA with a vision. Prompted by the Lord, James and his wife Brittany wanted to leave behind suburban Sydney and evangelise Central West New South Wales. After a successful season in Narromine, James & Brittany moved to Mudgee in January 2020. COVID-19 put a halt to commencing a visiting ministry in their first few months, but God in His providence allowed them to start praying for the area and to slowly build an evangelism team.

Outreach visiting is a scary prospect for most Christians, and at first James' team were wary about the type of evangelism he was encouraging. The team suggested that their first visits be to those who were on the church roll but didn't attend. "I wasn't too keen to do this, as I find this group the most difficult to reach," says James. "But to my surprise ten people came to church after our visits and that bowled me over."

The team of six (including James) then moved onto visiting the nearly 200 shops in Mudgee. According to James this visiting provided a real encouragement to the team, as the shopkeepers were for the most part happy to chat. "We would offer to pray for them and ask whether there was anything specific to pray for. They were most often stunned as they had never been asked this before, so I would suggest we could pray for sick employees or for the business, if business was tough. They were really appreciative that the church was engaging with the community and seeking to be a blessing."

If there is real engagement and people feel comfortable, James and the team aim to transition people onto what they think about Jesus. "Everyone has a view on spiritual things," says James. "It's great if you can get people to share their view, even if they reject our view. We are just happy to engage. Once you hear from others, there is an implicit right to reply."

Evangelism takes a great deal of perseverance and is a lifelong commitment for followers of Jesus. James believes that evangelism is actually 90 percent perseverance and 10 percent content. Most people would give up on evangelism after a couple of days without perseverance.

"I see evangelism as something I do, but I am also equipping people," says James. "Jesus was someone who reached people, but he set things up by investing in a few and then it multiplied from there. Throughout the ages we've seen millions and

You feel the pioneering work of God. He is reaching into these people's lives and it's wonderful to be a part of it. You don't need to have a PhD to do this, you just need to believe in our Lord and Saviour



Evangelism Team Members: Phillipa Adams & James Daymond



Ruth Wilson with Phillipa Adams

millions reached for Christ. We'd like to reach everyone in Mudgee but it's three times the size of Narromine, plus we've had COVID, so there are a few things that have been head winds against us. But there is a ministry that has the potential to go on."

By the grace of God James and the team have had a great run recently with their outreach visiting. They are currently visiting people at their homes and on farms and have had some amazing conversations. "We might go out and have a poor day and it would be easy not to go on, but sometimes on our last visit of the day God really brings forth an incredible conversation," says James.

James and one of his team members recently met a young lady who had moved here from overseas, she believed in God but had never heard about Jesus. This lady was really happy to hear about Jesus, accept a copy of *The Essential Jesus* and an invitation to come to church.

Some of James' team are now visiting independently of him, something he's

delighted about. God is sharpening their skills as He has been sharpening James from his time in Mosman, Narromine and now Mudgee.

"I personally find this work exhilarating," says James. "I know most people find this frightening but it's really not. I reckon it's a lie that the evil one plants within the body of Christ – that it's going to be hard, hard work. The reality is that it is hard work, but it is a great joy and very satisfying. It is not for everyone, but imagine if there were more people doing this...if we could all just multiply, imagine the impact for this nation. You feel the pioneering work of God. He is reaching into these people's lives and it's wonderful to be a part of it. You don't need to have a PhD to do this, you just need to believe in our Lord and Saviour."

Janine van den Tillaart

What it means to be a minister in Moranbah





When Luke & Julia Collings moved to the mining town of Moranbah in 2017 they had a vision to serve the community for longer than their initial four year term. In October they notch up five years, and they continue to reach new people with the good news of Jesus.

As was the case across the world, the pandemic affected the regular patterns of ministry in Moranbah. "COVID meant that we had to reframe where we thought we would be at this point, and that's ok," says Luke. "Ministries continue to run and there have been some amazing blessings to give thanks for."

"Last year was about re-establishing our patterns of ministry," Luke explains. "This year has been about consolidation and growth amidst the chaos of life in a mining town where people move in and out, and connections are tenuous."

Moranbah is one of the youngest towns in Queensland having been established in 1970 as a single purpose mining settlement. As with any mining town, it is hard to maintain consistency in a church family due to the constant refreshment of people. While the Collings' have been

encouraged by a couple of new families who have reconnected with the church, one of the challenges they face is a lack of deeply mature believers who can act as elders and examples.

In light of the challenges and changes, Luke has recently spent some time reflecting on what it means to be a minister in Moranbah. "In a lot of ways, it is more like a chaplaincy ministry than a regular parish, in that we meet people at different stages of their journey of knowing God and having contact with the church," he says. "We know we won't be able to go every step of the way with people, but we do our best to bear witnesses to Jesus and the love of God and be known as caring presence for people."

COVID-19 added an extra layer of complexity to life according to Luke. "For a good year and a half, people didn't go out and community connections became frayed. It wasn't just with church, but sporting clubs had lower participation rates and other social activities had to restart in new forms." Now that the town is on the other side of this, the Collings' have embraced the opportunities presented.

"We've reinstated barbecues in the park, where once a term we have a



sausage sizzle for anyone who wants to join us," says Luke. "At the first one we had a mum and her little boy attend; they have now become a core part of our playgroup which is terrific. We also hosted a potluck dinner and had 27 people come along. The group that we can invite to things like women's events and messy church is starting to build up."

Another exciting expansion for the Collings' has been the playgroup which this term is running two days a week because the mums were asking for it. And the Friday night youth group is experiencing growth with some of the kids bringing younger siblings and friends along. "It's all happening in those spaces," says Luke.

Moranbah's once a month market traditionally proved a difficulty for the church as people enjoyed it as a day out, and those on the fringe would choose the markets over church. Luke & Julia decided not to compete but have their own stall and run a more laid back service that Sunday at 5pm. This has proven to be a great way for people to see that the church is 'open for

business'. "We have our banner up, our newsletter, some Bibles and bring some second-hand books from the Op Shop. We always manage to hand out newsletters to newcomers or travellers. A lady who works on one of the other stalls now comes to church every so often. Being a visible presence is a big thing."

That visible presence continues each week through the Op Shop which is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. One family who visited the Op Shop over the worst of the pandemic have become regulars at church.

Luke & Julia are excited about the possibilities that ministry in Moranbah presents, but to do more as a church they ask for your prayers for some mature Christians to move to Moranbah. "We have

lots of dreams and lots going on, so some mature believers would be amazing for us as a church family and really important to consolidate our ministries."

This year has been about consolidation and growth amidst the chaos of life in a mining town where people move in and out, and connections are tenuous

Janine van den Tillaart

A great passion to preach the gospel

During June, Field Staff Jack & Lill Harradine travelled to Sydney, the Central Coast and Southern Highlands visiting their link churches. The following is part of Jack's presentation to an evening gathering of around 100 people at St Stephen's Normanhurst.

I'd like to start by acknowledging BCA, and I'd like to thank you for supporting BCA which enables us to minister in Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menindee and Tibooburra.

I'm going to talk a little bit about our work and our passion. Our passion is to preach the gospel. Someone once asked, 'Why do you do it? Why do you leave your family, friends, and community to go out into places where no one else wants to go, to preach to people who don't listen?'. Well God calls us to go to these places.

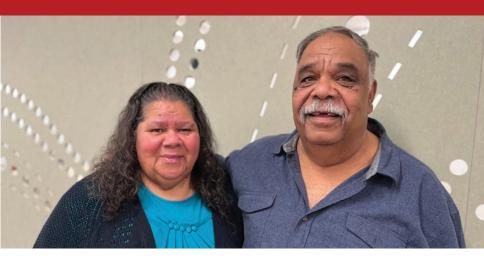
We arrived in Broken Hill in September 2016, two days after we buried our 30-year-old son Terrence. We had made a commitment to the church and the people, and we had made a commitment to God. Before he passed I told Terrence, 'we have taught you about the Lord all your life, you've gone your own way, you now have a choice where you're going to spend eternity.' I had the joy and pleasure of leading my son to Christ on his death bed. We haven't grieved like others grieve because we will see him again one day.

I was an alcoholic from before I was eighteen, I would use a gun to steal drugs and then use them to self-medicate. I spent time in juvenile prison. My big problem was anger. I had a real hatred for everyone. Back in the mid-eighties my life was a real mess. We had three kids and Lill told me to get help or she'd leave me.

I ended up in an Aboriginal rehab centre. The people there were friends and family, but they were acting strange. I thought there was a scheme. But I was told they were Christians. I had no idea what a Christian was. I started reading the Bible, but I put it in the middle of a magazine so people couldn't see. But every time I read the Bible I felt peace. I was happy to give Jesus a little bit of my life. I stopped drinking, I was working regularly, I was alive.

Sometime later we went to a funeral and as the preacher was trying to bury the man, Lill's Aunty Dot comes over -'Hey you two, are you still living over at Point Pearce? We're coming over to do outreach and we're going to come to your house, and we'll stay there.' She's yelling out like a

We became believers, because someone brought the gospel to us and sowed the word of God in our hearts and the **Holy Spirit touched** us and blessed us



Jack & Lill Harradine on their recent visit to Sydney

megaphone. I guickly agreed so she'd be guiet. After the funeral I asked Lill, 'what's outreach?'.

A few weeks later I walk in the back gate and there's a tribal meeting in my yard, and there were tons of ladies in my house. I immediately told Lill I was going to Adelaide, I just wanted to get away. We had a feed and when it was time to do outreach, I told them, 'Fellas go ahead, I'll do the dishes, tidy up and come later.' One of the men offered to wait for me. So, I decided to go. I thought I am not doing the dishes and going to church on the same night!

That man was one of the greatest evangelists this country has ever seen. God spoke to me and said that one day I would do what that old man was doing. I knew nothing about being born again, nothing about a personal relationship with Jesus. I'd never heard the voice of God before. I became mesmerised by this man and when he did an altar call, I thought, this is for me. I go up and turn around to find Lill standing right beside me. We became believers, because someone brought the gospel to us and sowed the word of God in our hearts and the Holy Spirit touched us and blessed us.

God asks us to be faithful in proclaiming the gospel so that's what we do. Where there is no hope, the gospel brings hope. I visit people in the Broken Hill prison. The prisoners are glad to see me because they know I was locked up in juvenile prisons for years. God takes the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. In the eyes of the world I was considered a fool but God has taken us and given us places of honour, to share the gospel. So we encourage you to share the gospel with your own family, with your own friends and in your own community.

Jack Harradine

What does a Generate Field Development Manager do?









Top to bottom: Peter, Josiah, and Jonathan; at the SU Australia Conference: Kim (teacher). Katy (chaplain), Sam (chaplain), Rachael and David (teacher); SRE teacher Jonathan, teaching Kindergarten songs about Jesus; Rachael at Bellevue Lookout - Cowra

So, what does a Generate Field Development Manager (FDM) do? Rachael Bell explains what her BCA-supported role looks like in practical terms.

My role as FDM of the Central West sees me looking after a network of 14 SRE (Scripture) Boards, 10 Chaplains and 10 SRE Teachers across an area that spans from Lithgow to Trangle and Dubbo to Narrandera. It is filled with wonderful. faithful people in many different places!

I really enjoy supporting my network of Christian workers and volunteers, providing pastoral care, admin support, and training. We aim to meet both in person and over Zoom once a term. I also travel to complete lesson observations for my teachers, chaplaincy reviews with my chaplains and schools, as well as pastoral care visits, board meetings, and commissioning services as needed.

Another reason I travel is to meet people and seek out candidates for vacant positions. I always enjoy any excuse for a coffee and a chat with new people, and all the more when it's to talk about schools ministry! When someone applies for a position in my area with Generate, the approved applications come through to me, and it is then my responsibility to call their referees and determine if they'll be a good fit for the role. I then send those applications to the SRE Board (for teachers) or school (for chaplains), and we set up interviews and work through the recruitment process.

Of my ten SRE teachers, eight of them teach in multiple schools, some of them across more than one SRE Board or town. Some of my SRE teachers and chaplains drive long distances (over an hour) from where they live to get to the schools they serve in.

Former BCA Field Staff Peter Volkovsky holds the current record for the most schools and furthest travelled in the Central West. He teaches at two high schools in Dubbo where he lives and also drives to Narromine, Baradine, Coonamble, Gilgandra and Coonabarabran. He is passionate about introducing



I really enjoy

network of

care, admin

support, and

training

supporting my

Christian workers

providing pastoral

and volunteers,

young people to God through the Bible and has a wealth of experience under his belt, which he is happy to share with newer teachers

Josiah Clarke recently moved to Dubbo to take up a primary SRE teaching role, working alongside Jonathan Luckensmeyer who has been faithfully teaching SRE in

Dubbo for 15 years! Both Jonathan and Josiah are qualified teachers who have recognised the importance of teaching children the good news of Jesus. Josiah said it beautifully, comparing his time as a classroom teacher to being an SRE teacher: "I know what I do in the classroom, and through the connection with families, that it can have an extraordinary impact on children

for their whole lives. But now I have a job that can have an eternal impact."

Our high school SRE teachers often face challenging classroom dynamics and some schools are less warm towards SRE. But they continue to faithfully turn up every week and find joy in the small things, like students enthusiastically asking a question that shows they are thinking, or even just actively participating in activities. But some days it can be hard and discouraging. Please pray for them; that they will continue to shine the light of Jesus in these places.

And that as students read the Bible. they would embrace the opportunity to understand the forgiveness and peace available to them through a relationship with God through Jesus.

School Chaplains working in public schools have a wonderful opportunity in their wellbeing role to love their school

> communities and care for them. just as Jesus did for people he met. The thing that sets them apart from other employed school staff is that they are able to offer to care for the spiritual needs of the school community as well as practical and physical needs. Their role description is to care not just for the students but for staff and parents as well.

I could tell you so many stories of the positive impact my chaplains have in their schools – from calming anger issues to linking families to support services, to starting a community playgroup on school grounds, to supporting school communities who are grieving the loss of a student or staff member.

I am exceedingly grateful for your faithful prayers. I constantly see God answer them in mighty ways!

Rachael Bell

Celebrating God's delightfully different family



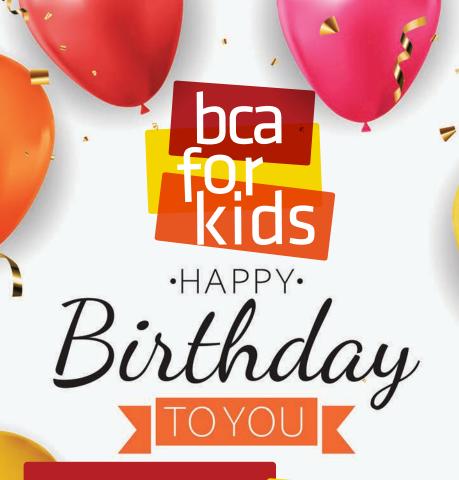
This year's NAIDOC week celebrations at St George's Anglican Church, Bluff Point included a special NAIDOC Week kids' talk and Sunday School lesson.

Our children (and adults!) enjoyed Story Time with Assistant Minister and BCA Field Staff Brendan Hurley, who read God's Very Good Idea by Trillia Newbell. This book tells the story of God's big family made up of people with all sorts of skin colours, languages and ways of living, but who are all made in His image. The story shows us that even though we ruined God's very good idea by failing to love Him and love others, Jesus' death on the cross means that we have a way to be part of God's delightfully different family again. It's a family made up of people from every tribe, nation and language, and because of Jesus we get to enjoy loving God and one another together forever!

Thanks to the generous support of BCA's grant funding program, we were also able to purchase a beautiful collection of craft supplies specifically chosen for their ability to represent different skin tones and nationalities. Our children had a great time using paper dolls, multicultural clay figurines and Indigenous artwork. They created their own depiction of God's delightfully different family gathered together before the Lamb, which we learnt about from Revelation 7:9.

It was very exciting to be able to engage with NAIDOC Week at St George's. We are thankful for the opportunity to celebrate how much Jesus loves Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people as we look forward to the day when First Nations Christians will join with every other nation in worshipping King Jesus forever.

Laura Hurley



Happy Birthday to everyone born in Spring! All of us at BCA for Kids wish you God's richest blessings on your special day.

> September Matthew H Sarah C Wesley H

October

Annika C Annabelle N Edward C Caitlin B Josh D Luke P Lottie N Sophie N Mia N

November

Lami N 7oe L Cameron A Samuel M Fllie R Jordan M



Otto (9) and Corin (7). We live in Yeppoon, Oueensland, Yeppoon is a place with lots of beaches (at least nine) which are waveless. There are also hills which are great for looking over at the Keppel Islands – Conomie and Woppaburra, in the sparkling waters. There is also lots of bushland. There is one big primary school and a few smaller ones, and one large high school and two Catholic high schools where kids from inland can board

Our favourite things about living in Yeppoon are varied. We love that there are more exciting things to do in rural areas than cities. For example, behind our backyard we like to spot kangaroos bouncing around, looking for and eating wild passionfruit and looking at native birds in the trees. We love seeing our friends each day and how we always manage to run into someone we know at the shops. Otto loves exercising and going jogging with Dad. Corin loves that we get to go to church and worship our Father, especially at our Saturday night services.

Since moving here there are a lot of funny things that have happened. Some of these are:

When we had friends over after church and a green tree snake was in the

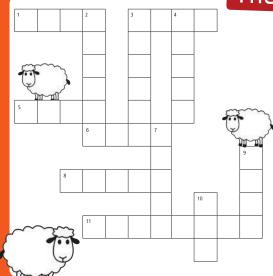
and watched the snake go to the neighbour's house.

- Having fun at our friend's house with a kayak in their pool.
- The time one of the kids at youth group brought their kitten along and then the next few weeks everyone brought their pets in - we had a cat, a dog and a chicken.

If you were to come to Yeppoon there are lots of things we would introduce you to: a special toy; our pets Elaine and Terry; the Yeppoon Lagoon for when you get tired and hot at the beach; our good friend Georgie (and her family). Corin would also like to take you on a tour of Central Oueensland – he thinks the long drives to Emerald, Moranbah, Tannum Sands and Gladstone are the best. You do get to see a lot of countryside.

There are great things about moving to Yeppoon but there are also challenges – it is hard to love Jesus and God, it is hard to find courage to tell our friends about Jesus and we are a long way from family. It is also very hot and humid which is exhausting and there are snakes around all the time.

We are growing in our relationships with God as we read the Bible and



The Good Shepherd

Across

- 1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
- 3. The period from birth to death
- 5. A strong feeling of affection
- 6. They are scored by cricketers
- 9. I sing with my loud...
- 11. One who takes care of sheep

Down

- 2. The male parent
- 3. To hear or pay attention to something
- 4. A group of sheep herded together
- 7. Wooly animals which are similar to goats
- 8. The opposite of bad
- 10. A small place where animals are kept

pray. We are trying to make sense of it as we read it for ourselves. Jasper says he knows God is gracious and forgiving, which gives him hope so he will keep enthusiastically living His way rather than becoming a moody teenager. Otto says he is also growing through the Catch Kids ministry and Tabitha is growing through the encouragement of Christian friends at school and church. Every week we go out with either Mum or Dad to read the Bible.

Jasper is reading Acts and is learning the lessons God wants to teach Christians, the challenges the apostles and Paul experienced and how they taught them about God as it teaches us today. God has His own plan for everyone to help see His name glorified in Australia and all around the globe.

Tabitha is reading Genesis and learning how God punishes those who do evil and also that God rewards those who are obedient to his law.

Otto is reading Exodus and is seeing how God brings the Israelites out of captivity and to the promised land.

Corin is also reading Exodus and has seen how God saved His people through

the blood of the lamb as the Spirit passed over their houses, but the firstborn of Egypt were killed during the first Passover.

We are grateful you pray for us. We would like you to pray that we would keep trusting in Jesus, that we would have courage to tell our friends the gospel and they would trust in Jesus. Please pray we will live well in God, and we will not give up on Jesus. Please also pray for our children's and youth groups, that we will see more people come and hear the good news of Jesus, to repent and have life in His name.



I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF BCA FOR KIDS

If you are between the ages of 8 & 12, simply fill out the slip below and return to:

BCA FOR KIDS GPO Box 5389 Sydney NSW 2001 OR Email your info to: BCA4Kids@bushchurchaid.com.au

Every member receives a welcome letter, a welcome certificate and a cap.

Name:	
	Birthday:
Address:	
	Boy or Girl:
Email:	
Which church do you go to?	

BCA MONEY BOXES

Kids give great support to BCA, and every dollar you put in the box is a dollar which goes to help tell people about Jesus! Thanks to our wonderful young supporters!





Around the country

From Luke Collings, Field Staff

Moranbah: Crazy thing happened this afternoon. Julia and I were in Rockhampton for some meetings and errands. We got out of our car at the Stocklands Centre and immediately ran into George & Carmel Ferguson who were in town on holidays. We caught up over coffee. A most unexpected blessing!



Field Staff Rachael Bell attended the SU Conference in Maroochydore in early July. While chatting with a fellow delegate at Brisbane airport, they both realized that the other's face and name was familiar. Rachael was chatting with Jessica van't Spyker from Yeppoon. Both look forward to meeting up again at our Field Staff Conference in October.

Indigenous Ministry Officer Neville Naden conducted an Indigenous Ministry Workshop at Trinity Church in Adelaide in mid-July.

From the Grafton Synod: This Synod acknowledges with grateful thanks the generous financial support of the Bush Church Aid Society for the Parish of Lismore after it was affected by the catastrophic floods of February 2022. The Synod notes that these funds directly assisted the parish to deliver strategic and effective aid and relief within and beyond the city of Lismore. Below: Christian Ford, Rector of Lismore,

Greg Harris & Bishop Murray Harvey.



Rod Morris (BCA Executive), Adrian Lane (Victorian Regional Officer) and Kristan Slack (ex BCA Field Staff, Katherine) are pictured at the Ridley College Graduation on 9 April 2022, where both Kristan and Rod graduated with a Master of Arts (Theology). Photo by Wayne Chan, Ridley College.

A big celebration in Roebourne



The first of July is a significant day in the lives of the Aboriginal people of Roebourne, and also its Torres Strait Islander community.

Each year a celebration is held to commemorate Old People's Birthday and the Coming of the Light. This year BCA West Pilbara Field Staff Frank Nicol had the privilege of being asked to participate.

Old People's Birthday is celebrated on 1 July as it was the day many elderly Aboriginal people were given as their birth date. The Coming of the Light holiday, celebrated by Torres Strait Islanders on 1 July, recognises the adoption of Christianity during the late nineteenth century.

"It was an awesome privilege to attend and work alongside members of the Pilbara Aboriginal Church who organise the event," says Frank. "This year they allowed myself as well as Matt & Naomi Warth to be part of the food team. We served alongside the Aboriginal people in cooking

roo tails and stews. I love cooking around a fire but here I was a novice."

Frank was involved in cooking 50 roo tails on an open fire, as well as beef and roo stew in 10 camp ovens.

"The tails are done on a fire big enough to singe the hair off. We then wrapped the tails in aluminium foil, buried them. put coals on top and then lit a fire on top of the coals! It took all morning, but they were warmly received by everyone. The roo in particular is very sought after, even more than beef. It's a real treat for them."

While being part of the cook up was really enjoyable, for Frank the most important thing was the time to speak with others. "On the day I was able to continue forming relationships with the Indigenous people of Roebourne many of whom are Christians. It was a joy to relate to them and hear their stories."

While it is a day of celebration. Frank recognises the day holds a mix of emotions. "In some regards the reserve where it is



held is a sad place where the Aboriginal people were forced to live. It's also sad because they had a birthday thrust on them, but there is joy getting together as a community. I am really encouraged that the church can love and serve the community in this way."

Janine van den Tillaart

Clockwise from left:

Beth Smith from Pilbara Aboriginal Church; Frank Nicol cooking roo tail; roo tails; beef and roo stew; serving up the meals

Credit: Ngaarda Media Roebourne & Naomi Warth



An intentional investment in kids' ministry





Never too far, never too few is the heartbeat of BCA and the line that most appeals to me as a gospel partner. It's a compelling vision that all people would hear the loving call of Jesus and have the opportunity to respond to His

message of grace. Whether they are gathered in groups of two or three or even 11 all across the wide-open spaces of the great land down under.

It has been a vision compelling gospel ministers to travel the far reaches of our land with the support of BCA. As with many other gospel ministries they need to contend with the breadth of generations to which they minister, set with the task of equipping the saints for the works of service applies to even the youngest or perhaps especially for the youngest.

We have ministers who work tirelessly in their contexts to serve a wide range of people and create ministry opportunities in rural and remote areas. All of these locations have children to minister to. whether it is their own or those within their communities.

This year I've had the opportunity to walk alongside some of our Field Staff and offer training for their kids' ministry teams. It began in the Southern Beaches of Tasmania, a glorious town on the outskirts of Hobart, which as their name suggests

has plenty of beautiful coastline. Who wouldn't want to move here and share the gospel? I spent a few hours sharing with the team about how to create engaging kids' programs and navigated with them the effectiveness of good small groups for children.

I also spent time with leaders of the Figtree and Jindabyne Easter Camp working through how to engage kids with the Bible. We particularly considered Deuteronomy 6:4-12: how do we walk and talk the gospel in our everyday lives with kids.

When we conduct programs how can we use each element to deepen the teaching of the word? Things like craft, games, small groups, teaching time, singing, even morning tea and pick up time.

On the other side of Australia, thanks to the technology we became so accustomed to during COVID, I was able to lead a

Creating genuine pathways for children to engage in mission and ministry right where they are, without waiting to grow up is integral to developing intergenerational discipleship and equipping the next generation



training event for Kununurra while I sat at home in Wollongong (the joys of the modern world). It was hosted by Bec Faricy and was a fantastic time growing in our knowledge of discipleship and the significant impact of ministering to children at an important time of their development.

However, one of the most exciting things for me this year was developing a program* used by Figtree Anglican's Kids ministry, that enabled children to consider what it meant to be a gospel partner. Over a term leading up to the Figtree/Jindabyne mission, the children were able to consider theologically what it really means for them to be involved in gospel ministry. This was not just about their own circle, but about what it means to be someone who supports, equips and engages with ministry in a place beyond their region.

Thinking beyond our regions has been a difficult journey over the past couple of years when it seemed that everything was reduced to our Local Government Areas (LGA's). This I think was particularly challenging for children growing up in a world restricted by radiuses and mandates. For young ones (as for any of us) the added blessing of praying and considering needs beyond our immediate concerns has the beautiful consequence of lifting our eyes

to Jesus and all He is doing in the world; it compels us to think bigger. This type of thinking, this posture of being led by Jesus and delighting in His sovereignty, is just as important for children as it is for adults. Creating genuine pathways for children to engage in mission and ministry right where they are, without waiting to grow up, is integral to developing intergenerational discipleship and equipping the next generation of Christians.

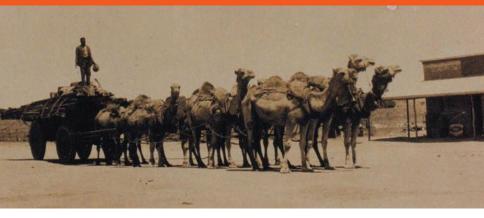
The combined work of Figtree Kids and Jindabyne's Easter camp was a wonderful time of coming alongside one another to create a safe and fun space for kids to hear and grow in the gospel. It was an honor to be part of such a wonderful team, to see ministries come together for the sake of the gospel and to know that there were many kids praying for the event.

This work of creating support and intentional investment in kids' ministry is something that I am deeply looking forward to growing and developing over the years.

Rachel Dirks

*This program is available for country churches to use or even for city churches doing a country mission. Please contact me if you'd like to know more rachel.dirks@bushchurchaid.com.au

From the Archives



A ministry reflection written in September 1996 by Gladys Redding (nee Moody) who served in Ceduna and Wudinna

I was born in Ceduna into a farming family of nine children. Food and provisions for our daily needs were of course produced from the farm. Money was scarce, jobs were not there for my brothers so they just laboured at home with dad, who finally started a milk round. One day he came home with a letter from Sister Dowling, Matron of the hospital. I was the

one especially asked for. I knew Sister Hitchcock as my guide captain, loved her and I was delighted when mum packed my bag and next morning I was off with Dad at the tender age of 14 years to start work at the second BCA Hospital at Ceduna for a month's trial. I stayed five years! It was a little cottage hospital on East Terrace. I look back now (1996) and I think how terribly primitive it was, no sewerage, no deep drainage for waste material from the back yard toilets. It

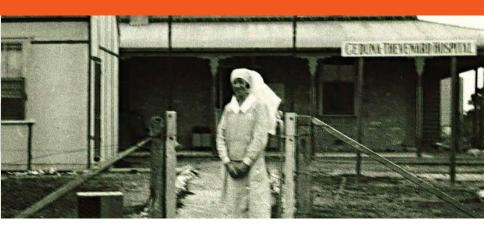
One of the most treasured things about my BCA experience was that at 15 years I was brought to a personal, loving relationship with God and I heard for the first time His plan of salvation for me through the Lord Jesus Christ

was taken away by the 'nightman' every day. Sterilisation was only a big steam heater put on the stove and left to steam for hours. Washing was done in our outside laundry, under a wood fire copper, rubbed and scrubbed by the laundress.

When the sisters were busy I was taught to handle the babes and take them to their mothers for feeding. No disposable napkins and I had the arduous task of washing babies clothes and napkins. The sisters worked hard, long hours. Every evening about 8pm when patients were settled for the night, one of the sisters would appear

> at the back door with her rolled up mattress and bed clothes to take her place on night duty on the passage floor after she'd worked all day. They were strong, tough, committed people, giving tremendous Christian service to the community.

One of the most treasured things about my BCA experience was that at 15 years I was brought to a personal, loving relationship with God and I heard for the first time His plan of salvation for me through the Lord Jesus Christ. Family Bible reading followed by singing of



favourite hymns was a daily routine after breakfast and tea and there was always a weekly Bible study. I was taught to read my Bible and to pray, and later took up a position in my own church as a leader of our kindergarten.

In 1937 the new hospital was opened and I was there for the 'move in'. What a day and what a wonderful new hospital. Whilst the patients were being moved another lass and myself were sent to the kitchen for the evening meal. The phone rang to say "get the boiler going" and stoke up the fire – we have an operation at 7pm. Well we were stunned, but all was in readiness and the operation was performed successfully. It was a joy to work in that hospital, more trained staff arrived and hours were more evenly rostered and staff did start to take regular time off.

One day Sister Dowling asked me if I'd like to train as a nurse! But how impossible I thought, as I only had a grade seven qualifying certificate. How could I make it? You could do an entrance exam she said, if you are prepared to do a bit of study. So under my mentor, Mr Broadly, BCA Minister, I took up the challenge. He was excellent, a great encourager as he coached me in English, maths and some physiology. I passed the exam and in August 1937 I

received a call to commence training at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. It was sad to leave BCA but I had a whole 4–5 years of happy memories and great thankfulness to God for what they had done for me. Their love, their support and their encouragement was something I will always hold close to my heart and very dear.

I went on from general nursing to obstetrics and child welfare and after five years of training I went back to offer my services to BCA as a fully qualified triple certificate nurse. During my training I had some nasty chest conditions and I was not a strong physical person and I'm afraid I cracked up after 12 months and had to take sick leave and resign from BCA. After many months I finally returned to nursing. I did relief at Wudinna a few months before going to WA, Gawler, Streaky Bay and guite a few other hospitals. I finally became Matron of Streaky Bay Hospital where I met my husband. We had two lovely boys and nine grandchildren.

Gladys Redding

Photos: Scenes from Ceduna Hospital and surrounds

Post & Rails

CONGRATULATIONS

Jeremy & Claire Morgan welcomed Eden Theresa Lay on Saturday 14 May.

Roger & Amanda Kyngdon welcomed Abigail Fay on Friday 20 May, a much-loved sibling of Ada, Eliza, Ben and Emily.

We officially welcomed **Dennis & Valda Taylor** to BCA, commissioning them to serve on Sunday 22 May at Balga Evangelical Aboriginal Church, Perth.







FAREWELL

Chris, Naomi, Joshua, Isabelle, Ruby & Charlize **Duff** who moved to plant a church in Brighton, Tasmania in 2017, have moved back to the mainland. We pray that our gracious God will continue to lead them in His plans.

New BCA Head Office officially opened

Archbishop of Sydney The Most Revd Kanishka Raffel officially opened the newly renovated BCA National and NSW Office on Tuesday 24 May. Members of the BCA National Council, Senior Officers and Sydney based teams were all in attendance. The entire floor, which had not been renovated since it was bought in the 1980s, also had the original 1960s bathrooms. Staff are now back at York Street, having worked from home for most of the past two years. If you ever travel into the Sydney CBD, we invite you to come and visit.





Greg Harris, Archbishop Kanishka Raffel & BCA Chairman Fred Chilton at the opening

Councillor's Column

As anyone who has spoken to me will know. I'm not from around here!

I moved to Melbourne from Ireland to marry Suia in 2010, and since then we have had three beautiful children: Jacob, aged 9, Caleb, aged 7, and Talitha, aged 3.

I have been a Christian since my teenage years, having grown up in a loving Christian home. In God's kindness my faith grew exponentially at university, through the challenges posed by my new-found freedom and independence. To this point I never had to own my faith as an individual in a new city far from home's comforts. I spent a lot of time wrestling with the Bible

My passion

in life and in

as Christians

of the Bible in

various contexts.

confident in the

Spirit enabling

gospel

power of the Holy

people to receive

and rejoice in the

ministry is to see

under faithful and

engaging teaching

people flourish

one-to-one, with a minister from my local church, and I began to see that living publicly as a Christian would come at a cost. The experience of intentional, costly discipleship and seeing the impact of God's living word in my life have shaped the kind of ministry I have valued since.

I have been in some form of full-time ministry for about 12 years, split between Ireland and Melbourne. I have been an ordained Anglican minister for four years, in the Melbourne Diocese. I now serve at City on a Hill, Melbourne, with responsibilities for youth and university ministries, as well as preparing to plant a church in the coming years.

My passion in life and in ministry is to see people flourish as Christians under faithful and engaging teaching of the Bible in various contexts, confident in the power of the Holy Spirit enabling people to receive and rejoice in the gospel. I love people;



I love that God has called me to serve His church, and to play my part in the building up of His body.

> My relationship with BCA began some years ago as a youth minister in suburban Melbourne. We took a group of teens to Port Augusta on a mission exposure trip, to be part of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship's conference. I wanted our young people to see that God was at work in a community a long way from our comfortable suburban lives! BCA sponsored that first trip, and as a result I was invited to share our experiences for the Victorian Council. Following this, I was invited to be part of the council and have served as a member for several years. I find BCA's commitment to

reaching Australia for Christ an incredibly compelling cause, and so it's a joy to play some small part in that mission.

Ben Hewitt

Order for Christmas

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER

Christmas Puddings

Newcastle Pudding Lady Traditional Christmas Pudding Suitable for microwave

BCA 312 500g Pudding \$31 BCA 313 1kg Pudding \$48.50



Wrapped in calico and suitable for diabetics/coeliacs in controlled portions; gluten free

BCA 314 500g \$33

Newcastle Pudding Lady Christmas Cake

BCA 315

700g Cake \$43





Christmas Cards

BCA 016 New Designs for 2022

Pack of 6 - 2 each of 3 designs \$5/pack



BCA 138

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 its first 100 years. \$20 each



Order form

Please complete this merchandise order form

Your purchase helps gospel work across Australia

BCA Code	Description		Qty	\$	Total
				Sub-Total	
	Pac	ckaging and delive	ry \$10	per order	
				Total	
Credit of Name of Expires	e/Money Order	Mastercard An	nerican		
Please deli	ver to:				
Revd / Mr / N	Mrs / Miss / Ms	First nan	ne		
Last name					
Address					
		Postcode	9		
Email		Telephor	ne		
Supporter nu	umber* (if available)				

We will be pleased to deliver your order to any number of destinations but ask that you include \$10 per delivery address.

 $\mbox{\ensuremath{\not{\lambda}}}$ Orders can also be placed by visiting our website <code>bushchurchaid.com.au</code>

^{*}Supporter number (can be found above your name on the back cover of this magazine)

Distance Giving Program

BCA Field Staff make Christ known across the length and breadth of our country, but they can't do it alone. Bush Church Aid's Distance Giving Program is your opportunity to walk alongside them.

The Distance Giving Program gives you the opportunity to support our Field Staff on a regular basis. You will share their journey through monthly giving & prayer, and receive special updates on how your support is making a difference.

Yes, I would like to partner with our Field Staff through BCA's Distance Giving Program with a monthly donation.

Ways to give:

Online bushchurchaid.com.au/donate • Phone 02 9262 5017

BPay Biller Code 88203

Reference number is your supporter number which can be found on the back of this magazine above your name and address.



Please process my donation on the day of each month.		
□ \$20 □ \$30 □ \$50 □ \$100 □ Other:		
Credit card		
□Visa □ Mastercard □ American Express		
Credit card number		
Name on credit card		
Expires on Signature		
My details		
Revd / Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms First name		
Last name		
Address		
Postcode		
ail Telephone		
Supporter number* (if available)		
*Supporter number (can be found above your name on the back cover of this magazine)		

Donation Form

Yes, I would like to help share the gospel and provide care to reach Australia for Christ.

Ways to give:

Online bushchurchaid.com.au/donate • Phone 02 9262 5017

BPay Biller Code 88203

Reference number is your supporter number which can be found on the back of this magazine above your name and address.



Enclosed is my gift of \$	to BCA's ministry			
☐ 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 m	inistry areas)			
I would like to give by: ☐ Cheque/Money Order ☐ Credit card — please complete ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ America				
Credit card number				
Name on credit card				
Expires on Signature				
My details				
Revd / Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms First name				
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				

The Bush Church Aid Society

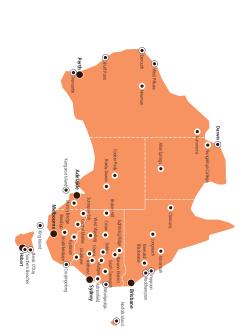
CM 22600437 SYDNEY NSW 2001 GPO Box 5389



POSTAGE PAID

AUSTRALIA

Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919









Facebook, Instagram and Twitter Search for **Bush Church Aid** Connect with us on