

The Real **Australian**



Engaging with Indigenous culture through play 5
Living out servant-heartedness in Roxby Downs 6

BCA Directory

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Front Cover: Grace Hurley with one of the Indigenous
Miniland dolls purchased with a BCA NAIDOC Week grant

As I write this editorial, I am surrounded by packing boxes here in the BCA National Office. What is going on I hear you ask? Are we leaving? Are we shutting up shop? May it never be!

The reason for all the packing is a good thing and revolves around BCA having such a long history. If you didn't know, the National Office moved to where it currently is in the 1980's. Thirty plus years later almost nothing has changed in the office. *[Fun Fact #1 – The York Street floor used to be owned by an accounting firm and most of the current furniture is what was left behind when the accountants walked out!]*

With no changes in all that time, and the growth of BCA's ministry, the current fit out of the office is no longer an effective workspace and is also not very welcoming for visitors. *[Fun Fact #2 – the office toilets have the original plumbing and cubicles. Besides the occasional washer, nothing has changed since the 1960's when the building was constructed!]*

So, we are moving out temporarily in order that the National and NSW Office can be refurbished. This has been made possible through God's grace and wise stewardship over a number of years. *[Fun Fact #3 – the office carpet, and most of the stains, were here in the 1980's when we moved in!]*

All of which is in keeping with the mission of BCA for over 100 years – let me explain. Since our beginning one thing has NOT changed, namely sharing the “old, old story of Jesus and His love”. Yet BCA has had to make changes throughout the years; we have had to adapt, begin new things, and even conclude others.

Our Field Staff need to do this on a regular basis, adapting to the local context and societal changes, without ever losing sight of the main goal – sharing the “old,



old story”. Consider those serving in mining towns that often face boom and bust, or those in towns where the biggest export is young people. The hope of the Gospel never changes but the means and the delivery may need to. It is what the Apostle Paul was referring to in 1 Corinthians 9:20–22.

I trust that you will be encouraged by reading the stories in this edition of *The Real Australian* on how our Field Staff are being all things to all people to share the “old, old story”. Please continue to pray they will have wisdom and discernment on how to adapt as necessary.

Which brings me full circle to the packing boxes. This office layout has served BCA well for many decades, but it needs to change. We will return to a new office layout soon but what this office is about will never change like the “old, old story”. Each day we will begin in prayer and seek to serve and support those in the field as they go the distance without a packing box in sight.

Greg Harris
National Director

First Nations Ministry Training Initiative



Valda & Dennis

The First Nations Ministry Training Initiative seeks to develop the biblical and theological understanding of Indigenous Christians in churches across Australia and then identify and facilitate the training of potential ministry leaders

BCA has begun a new partnership with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Australia Incorporated in supporting Dennis Taylor as the Principal of the First Nations Ministry Training Initiative (FNMT).

Dennis and his wife Valda have worked in a ministry context for over 30 years, first as lay preachers and then following theological training, in Indigenous churches in Victoria and Western Australia.

The First Nations Ministry Training Initiative seeks to develop the biblical and theological understanding of Indigenous Christians in churches across Australia and then identify and facilitate the training of potential ministry leaders.

Dennis brings to this role his gifts in administration and helping others. "I believe that I have used my gifts and education for God's glory, praise and honour. God has also given me the special ability to bring peace into a room that may be filled with tension. This was especially needed during my time working in child protection. God has imputed this peace to me by His Grace."

Dennis' responsibilities as the Principal of the FNMT are to establish a new Bible training strategy which includes developing teaching materials, resources, strong networks, partnerships with register training organisations and other likeminded organisations.

Some major goals include the development of a Bible strategy website, establishing a prayer support group across Australia, selecting and developing lecturer and volunteer personnel, as well as planning & actioning deputation and workshop information sessions for prospective students.

Dennis looks forward to working together with BCA to achieve our mission of reaching First Nations people in rural, regional and remote Australia with the good news of Christ. Please pray for him and Valda as they work to find and train new Indigenous leaders.

Engaging with Indigenous culture through play



Geraldton's youngest children can now enjoy engaging with Indigenous culture through play with the addition of four Indigenous dolls that have been added to the toy collection at St George's Anglican Church in Bluff Point. The dolls were purchased in celebration of NAIDOC week, thanks to funding made available to BCA Field Staff to provide opportunities to engage with Indigenous culture and community.

Brendan and I were so excited about the opportunity to refresh the toy collection at St George's to be more reflective of Geraldton's cultural diversity, and the dolls have already proven to be a valuable resource.

It's been a delight to see boys and girls in our church community using these Indigenous Miniland Dolls as a starting point to explore and role-play important biblical concepts such as God's love for all nations and demonstrating a Christ-like care to others regardless of whether they share our own cultural heritage.

The dolls will continue to be used at St George's, both

in a free-play context and as visual aids to assist in some exciting future projects. These include an annual NAIDOC week Kids' Church lesson where children will learn songs and Bible verses in the Yamatji language and participate in Aboriginal art and craft projects. This will reinforce the biblical truths they have been focusing on throughout the year.

In celebration of NAIDOC Week, a specially themed Sunday School lesson has been planned which will feature a guest presentation from an Indigenous woman in the St George's congregation who will share her testimony with the children.

"I was delighted to see such good use of the resources which were provided to Bluff Point in the purchase of these Indigenous Dolls," says National Director Greg Harris. "I look forward to seeing the creative ways that more Field Staff may use this offer to commemorate and celebrate either Reconciliation Week or NAIDOC Week this year."

Laura Hurley

It's been a delight to see boys and girls in our church community using these Indigenous Miniland Dolls as a starting point to explore and role-play important biblical concepts

Living out servant-heartedness in Roxby Downs



One of Trinity Church's convictions is that we are involved in God's mission to all nations; Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). And for us, one of our practical ways of expressing this is through partnerships with mission organisations, including Bush Church Aid. As the Youth Pastor at Trinity Church Adelaide, I've been eager to see our youth engaged in this partnership and exposed to life in a different part of God's world.

Together with a fellow pastor from Trinity Church Modbury and two lay leaders, we took 11 youth from our church network to Roxby Downs to partner with Glen & Beth McDonald in the September school holidays.

Our partnership with the Roxby Downs Christian Community Church was all about supporting them in their mission to their local community, and by God's grace

we saw families connect, who previously had little or no link to the church. On the Monday, we helped run *It's Music Time* for pre-schoolers (and their families) – a regular outreach program run by the church. From Tuesday to Thursday, our team ran *Epic Explorers* – the Christianity Explored kids' program, and on Friday night we ran a youth program for those from the church and community. We also did a bunch of stuff in their church services over a couple of Sundays, connected with the local community, heard from church members about life in the bush and shared meals in the homes of church members.

One church family gave up their home so that our girls had a house to stay in. Many families pitched in to provide us with amazing meals throughout the week. Some families also financially contributed towards the mission trip. Many of our youth reflected how much the locals welcomed them and how people seemed really happy

that they were in the church. Zac, a local youth member, shared how thankful he was to spend time hanging out with a group of Christians his own age – many of his mates in Roxby aren't Christians, and it's easy to feel isolated. Since our visit, Zac's family has come to Adelaide, and he came along to our youth groups to hang out again!

Other locals who aren't involved in the church were pretty blown away that a group of teenagers would give up a week of their school holidays to run a program for their kids! We started with about 18 kids in the program and finished with 25 by the end of the week. One family who had only been in Australia for three weeks came along and even though their child hadn't learned much English yet, was fully embraced by everyone.

One of the kids shared that his parents didn't like church but was planning to ask them to bring him along that week. Kids in the *Epic Explorers* program asked questions like, "So Jesus really died for me?" and "You mean Jesus was a real guy?" – there were kids who had never heard about Jesus before who came and met Him for the first time.

God was at work as we connected with the local church community and saw how even separated by 600 kms, God is building His church together

God was at work as we connected with the local church community and saw how even separated by 600 kms, God is building His church together.

Our memory verse for the week in *Epic Explorers* was Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many". And it was a true privilege to watch as teenagers lived out

this servant-heartedness for themselves, following in our Saviour's footsteps. Youth who hadn't led a small group discussion at church were given opportunities to lead kids from 4–11 years old through conversations about who Jesus is and what He has done for them through dying on the cross. It was incredible! So many youth stepped out of their comfort zones to love and care for kids who they had never met before.

God willing, we will return to Roxby Downs this Easter for another mission week but this time a bit more deliberately Easter themed!

Tim Blagg
Youth Pastor, Trinity Church Adelaide



No strangers to Cloncurry



The Owen family



Simon outside Cloncurry Anglican



In God's good grace a new Field Staff family are moving to Cloncurry in early April. Simon & Angela Owen, together with their daughters Grace and Esther will commence their service at Cloncurry Anglican on Palm Sunday 2022.

The Owens are no strangers to Cloncurry, having organised a short-term mission to the North Queensland Parish from their current church, Eagle Vale Anglican, in 2016. "Without knowing at the time, we feel God used this short-term mission to help plant a seed and prepare us for ministry in Cloncurry five years later," says Simon. "In addition to this, having a relationship with Rod & Chris Oldfield (Former BCA Field Staff) and other Cloncurry Anglican folk, has really helped us maintain strong personal and church connections."

Simon came to know Jesus as his Saviour at a church camp at the age of 18. "I was at a crossroads in my life and making unwise decisions in an attempt to live life to the full," he explains. "However,

on this camp I was convicted of my sin and God enabled me to put my faith in Jesus through the help of a leader who pointed me to the truth."

Angela grew up in a Christian family and has always known and loved Jesus. "I was confirmed at age 12 in the Uniting Church my family attended, and when I was 19 years old, I moved to Menai Anglican where I continued to grow in my faith and developed a love for ministry," she says.

"I spent the next eight years leading young women in youth Bible studies and coaching Bible study leaders."

After finishing high school Simon worked for four years as an apprentice builder, in what was a predominantly non-Christian environment. Simon believes God used this time to refine his character. "I felt early on that I could not sit on the fence as a Christian; therefore, being open about the fact that

I was a believer and went to church was a great way for me to grow in my faith and this also meant that I had lots of fruitful conversations with the other builders."

Without knowing at the time, we feel God used this short-term mission to help plant a seed and prepare us for ministry in Cloncurry five years later



Simon running Kids' Club

The team from the 2016 Eagle Vale Anglican Mission Trip with Rod & Christene Oldfield

During this time Simon also volunteered as a youth leader at Menai Anglican and towards the end of his apprenticeship his Minister planted a seed, suggesting Bible College. "I began study at Youthworks soon after my apprenticeship with a passion and desire to invest my life in gospel ministry, particularly to young people. Bible College further strengthened my faith, increased my knowledge of God's word, increased my passion for lost people to be saved and gave me confidence to disciple those I was leading," says Simon. "After completing college God graciously gave us the opportunity to serve him in south-west Sydney, where He has continued to grow me and give me opportunities and experiences in different ministry contexts."

As the Next Generation Pastor at Eagle Vale Anglican since 2012, Simon's role has primarily been with children's, youth, young adults', and families' ministries, but he also works in ministry to adults of all ages. "This means that during a typical week I could be leading creche and then a Bible Study that includes great-grandparents," he says.

Angela has spent the past decade involved in leading youth group, young women's Bible studies, pastoral care

and mentoring of young women, women's ministry, playgroup, and church communications.

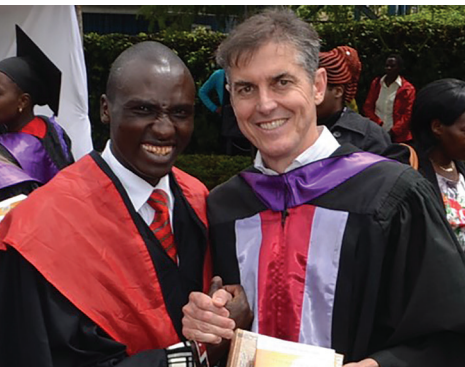
"I also completed a Certificate of Theology and Pastoral Care at Mary Andrews College which really helped increase my love for God's word and skills in sharing it with others," she says. "I believe God has taught me a lot about ministering in hard places during our time in Eagle Vale and used this experience, as well as the training I received at Bible College, to prepare me for our next season of ministry in Cloncurry."

Simon & Angela are inspired by BCA's ministry over nearly 103 years and look forward to playing their part in it. "We are excited about BCA's mission to reach people in the outermost parts of our country with the message of Christ, to establish them in the faith and to see communities transformed."

Simon was ordained a Deacon in Sydney on Saturday 19 February. Greg Harris along with Bishop Keith Joseph hope to commission Simon & Angela in early April.

Janine van den Tillaart

New Regional Officer for NSW and the A



From top:
Paul with Carlile College students at Graduation

Opposite:
Cathy & Geneva helping at Angel Kindergarten

A boy originally from Gunnedah in country New South Wales, who has lived in the big smoke of Sydney, in Sweden, the United States, and in Kenya, is Bush Church Aid's newest recruit to the position of NSW/ACT Regional Officer. Paul Sampson, and his wife Cathy, commenced with BCA in February.

Paul became a Christian in his early twenties after being invited along to church in Wollongong, where he heard the Gospel clearly preached. Cathy grew up in a missionary family and has had a heart for mission all her life.

After completing a degree majoring in human resources and industrial relations, and working in the field for many years, Paul was invited to undertake a two-year ministry apprenticeship program (MTS) at St Matthias' Paddington and Campus Bible Study (University of NSW). He proceeded to study at Moore Theological College, graduating with a Bachelor of Divinity and Diploma of Missions in 2001, was ordained a Deacon in 2002, and a Presbyterian in 2004.

Most recently Paul & Cathy served at St Swithun's Anglican Church in the Sydney suburb of Pymble. Prior to that Paul was the Senior Minister of All Saints North Epping, a role he took on after returning to Australia following nearly seven years in Kenya with the Church Missionary Society (CMS).

While in Nairobi, Paul lectured at Carlile Bible College to young men and women from 14 different African nations. It was while working at the College that Paul saw the importance of supporting the ongoing training and equipping of ministers and the great need for well-trained ministers in regional and rural areas.

Paul went on to become the Director of Academic Affairs and Vice Principal of the College but continued lecturing as well. "It

was a privilege for me to teach the Bible to students from all across Africa,” says Paul. “We had about 70 theological students in each year over three years. The language of education in Kenya is English, from preschool all the way through to university. This allows Kenyans to access quality books, materials, and educators from around the world. My ministry was very much cross-cultural, but I didn’t have to learn one of the local languages to work in my role.”

While in Kenya Cathy worked in a teaching role at an international Christian school where their now adult children Marsden, Anastasia and Geneva attended. Paul & Cathy decided to return to Australia when Marsden moved back to start university. “When we left for Kenya our kids were 11, 9 & 7. When we returned Geneva had spent half her lifetime in Kenya. We came home because we didn’t like the thought of having our family spread over two continents.”

Paul learned about the work of BCA whilst at Moore College, then as the rector of Sylvania Anglican Church there were a number of people in his congregation who were part of the BCA Nomads program. “If we are ministry minded, we will always be thinking ‘how can I use the gifts, experiences and skills that God has given me to support and encourage ministry and share the gospel?’,” says Paul. “This is why I’m so excited about my new role with BCA which is facilitating, encouraging and building up those who are on the front line in regional and remote Australia who are reaching people for Christ.”

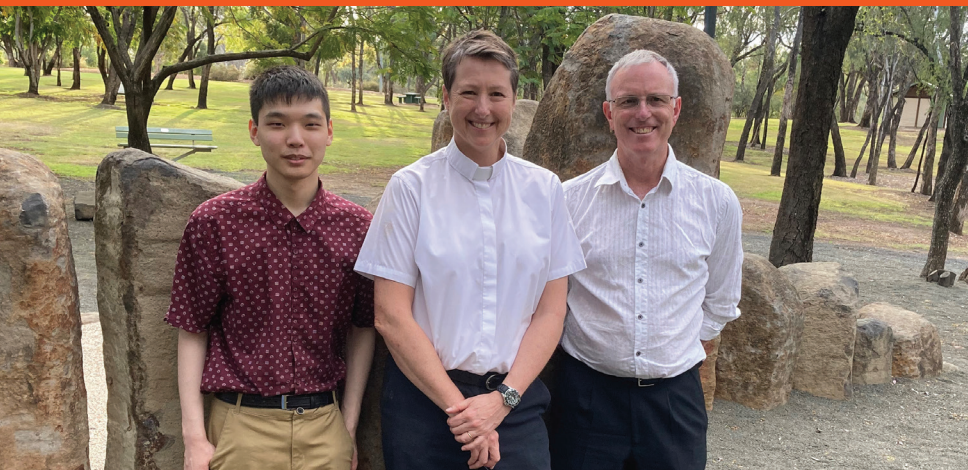
“I think for a long time I’ve had a mission heart,” says Paul. “There are some real parallels between what CMS and BCA does and I think I can resonate with some of the challenges that BCA Field Staff face working in isolation with inadequate resources. I also take the great commission statement of the Lord Jesus very seriously – Go and make disciples of all nations, and take the gospel to the ends of the earth. In some ways regional and rural Australia is the ‘ends of the earth’. There is a whole continent of people who need to hear and respond to the Gospel. What a privilege to be involved in this work!”

Janine van den Tillaart



I’m so excited about my new role with BCA which is facilitating, encouraging and building up those who are on the front line in regional and remote Australia who are reaching people for Christ

Unifying the churches in Central Queensland



Lachlan, Jen &
Colin Hercott

Jen Hercott, who has been acting in the role of Registrar for the Diocese of Central Queensland for the past year alongside her ministry in the Parish of Emerald, has been formally appointed to the role, with BCA providing financial support.

The role of Registrar in our Diocese is a strategic ministry role. It includes looking after property, people and finance, but my role over the next few years is to try and enhance training and embed systems within the Diocese to equip and enable sound gospel ministry across our region.

Central Queensland is a 'small' Diocese, but in terms of land mass we're one of the largest in Australia. We have a population of around 220,000 people spread across approximately 57 million hectares through the Centre of Queensland, boasting regions of agriculture, coal, gemstones, dinosaur fossils and the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef.

I came to faith as a young adult in north-eastern Victoria. I was challenged as to why Anglican, why Christian, why here and why now? I became Anglican by choice and conviction. I entered a period of discernment under the mentoring and support of some retired clergy however women were not being ordained in that region at that time, however the call to serve God in ordained ministry never went away. Over the next 20 odd years I enjoyed worshipping in local church, leading bible studies and working with families and youth. I did correspondence theology courses through Manchester University, Christian Counselling, alongside a raft of secular management and leadership training.

I've worked as a nurse, in manufacturing, in agriculture, in vocational education, and as an advisor to government in vocational education and industry. I entered full time ministry whilst living and working in Tasmania. I did a Graduate Diploma of Divinity at that point, was then ordained, and worked as a curate at Bellerive, and as the children's chaplain at Royal Hobart Hospital. I've since also completed a Master of Religion, Theology and Ethics, and am working towards a Doctor of Ministry. I truly believe that through all this God has been building the skill, experience and resilience required to follow His lead through this next chapter.

Both my husband (Colin) and I are rural people having grown up in rural Victoria. We know firsthand the joys and struggles of living in the bush and of reaching people with the gospel in a rural context. We have always loved and supported the mission and work of Bush Church Aid, and both felt the pull to serve with BCA from the first deputation visit we encountered. My Mum too is a supporter of BCA having spent time as a BCA Nomad, and now as a prayer warrior.

I feel truly blessed by those who have mentored and supported me on my ministry journey. Dennis Quinn (former Regional Officer and Field Staff) was one of my mentors as a Deacon. Without his patient support and guidance (alongside others) I don't believe I would be half the minister I am today. Colin and I became close with Dennis and Lois, and their friendship and

support has left an abiding impression. I also enjoyed the mentoring and support of other retired and active clergy in Tasmania, and this is one of the things that I miss most about ministering in Tasmania. I served at St Mark's Bellerive and Northside Anglican, before moving to Central Queensland in 2017 on health advice from our son's doctor.

I served on the BCA QLD/NNSW committee for a couple of years, however needed to step down from outside commitments to manage the workload of parish ministry and the role of Registrar. After a year of commuting and spending the working week in Rockhampton and the weekends in Emerald, my husband Colin and son Lachie are really looking forward to being a regular family again. Colin is commencing work at Rockhampton Grammar School and, whilst Lachie is still navigating health issues, we hope that he will be well enough to start university.

We are thrilled to be part of the BCA family serving God in Central Queensland. I'm looking forward to the challenges of enabling the parishes of Central Queensland to prosper. I would appreciate your prayers for Colin, Lachie and I as we settle into life and work in Rockhampton; and for all the Parishes of Central Queensland as they seek to reach their communities for Christ.

Jen Hercott

**I truly believe
that through all
this God has been
building the skill,
experience and
resilience required
to follow His lead
through this next
chapter**

Retired, but not done for yet!



What a wonderful opportunity to change step, to move out of the proverbial 'rut' in the concrete and hit the 'red dust' of Australia; to have a direction of purpose, to go the distance and reach Australia for Christ. Heading bush is an experience that grows you in Christ, humbles you, enriches one's understanding and experience in this wonderful country of Australia. There's no need to go overseas and see history of the past but to look forward and be part of history in this great country. Australia has a variety of people, places, climate, landscape and you can increase your understanding of the country in which you live and are so thankful to be living in! We are so blessed.

Heading bush is an experience that grows you in Christ, humbles you, enriches one's understanding and experience in this wonderful country of Australia

If you retire in your 60's we believe there are at least 15–20 years of good service in you! There are many parishes in remote areas where to have mature and committed Christian support is wonderful. One doesn't need to run the parish but to give support and encouragement in whatever form that takes. Just being there, helping with a Bible study group, getting involved in the community, using the gifts you didn't know you had until you made yourself available to be used by God.

Technically not living in the city is so much better these days from a point of communication and with open borders there isn't usually too much of an issue visiting the cities! Forget COVID and lockdowns!

Wondering about missing family and quality time with them? By heading bush you provide a destination for them and memorable 24x7 holiday time which may be more than you have when you live 'next door' in all the busyness of city life! Friends can also enjoy your Bed and Breakfast!

We write as these were part of our own life experiencesa wonderful time of 10 years which now in our 80's brings back great and enriching memories of people, places and purpose in Christ. We do hope this encourages you to consider what you will do with the rest of your life for Christ.

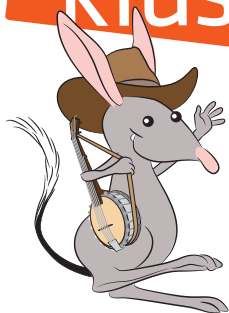
BCA's mission is to reach Australia for Christ...to go the distance! There are many others who have done the same in the past, why not be the ones for the future? Give it serious thought!

Joan & Michael Maude

Happy Birthday

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

bca
for
kids



March

Matilda L
Nathan R
Isobel L
Genevieve M
Hamish C

April

Lara T
Archie N
Gem T
Dustin F
Jane S

Get to know Ethan Hurley, Bluff Point, Western Australia



Hi my name is Ethan and I'm eight years old and in Year 3 at school. My family and I live in Bluff Point which is a suburb of Geraldton. It has many beautiful beaches, fantastic parks to play in and some cool sites to see. We have an awesome lighthouse, a really cool museum and many great places to eat. It also gets very, very windy here. We often see ships coming into the port and kite surfers on the ocean.

Some of my favourite things about living here are my school where I've made lots of great friends and our church and the people there. Kids Club on Fridays is always a lot of fun. Another great thing about living in Geraldton is that there are so many fantastic places to go bike riding. Our family loves to ride past the ocean to AJ's cafe where we go and get milkshakes and chips.

The funniest thing that has happened to me since we have lived here is when we were at a park playing hide and seek. My brother Jake couldn't find me, but the bird above me did. He pooped all over my shirt. Then I knew it was time to go home!

One of the things I find challenging about living here is that I really miss my friends, family and church back in Perth. There are also things in Perth that we'd sometimes do that we can't do in Geraldton. In Geraldton I can't go to Timezone with my Uncle Pete or go ten-

pin bowling with my friends, or go to a big shopping centre.

One of the ways I am growing in my relationship with God is through reading the Bible at night and praying to God, going to St George's Kids and Splash Kids club, and we also get to learn about God at my school.

At the moment I am reading about Solomon's temple in my kids' Bible and learning that God has come to us in Jesus so that we could live forever with Him.

If you visited us, I'd love to take you to the Geraldton Museum. It has lots of fun activities and movies about the ships that sunk near Geraldton. You can also see other really cool animals, canons and coins in the museum.

Please pray that our family would grow in our trust in God, that the baby in mum's tummy would be born safely and that more people (especially other kids) would come to know and love Jesus.

Ethan Hurley



Ethan and his siblings

Bible Easter Trivia

1. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during His Triumphal Entry, what was He riding on?

- A. Horse
- B. Camel
- C. Donkey
- D. Chariot

2. How many times did Peter deny Christ?

- A. Two times
- B. Three times
- C. One time
- D. Four times

3. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple Peter?

- A. Malchus
- B. Alexander
- C. Matthew
- D. Rufus

4. What was the Jewish feast being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?

- A. Pentecost
- B. Passover
- C. Firstfruits
- D. Unleavened Bread

5. What did the soldiers offer Jesus to drink while on the cross?

- A. Fruit juice
- B. Water
- C. Vinegar
- D. Wine

6. For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Jesus Christ?

- A. 10
- B. 20
- C. 30
- D. 40

7. Who carried the cross for Christ?

- A. Simeon
- B. Simon Peter
- C. Simon of Cyrene
- D. Thomas

8. What colour was the robe that the Romans placed upon Jesus?

- A. Purple
- B. Green
- C. Yellow
- D. Brown

9. In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried?

- A. Sheep skin
- B. Linen cloths
- C. Golden robes
- D. Goat skin

10. Who rolled away the tomb stone?

- A. Soldiers
- B. God
- C. Jesus
- D. Angel

11. What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial?

- A. Tito
- B. Nicodemus
- C. Jonathan
- D. Joseph

12. For how long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven?

- A. 7 days
- B. 14 days
- C. 40 days
- D. 49 days

The first member of BCA for Kids to send through the correct answers to the Bible Easter Trivia via email will receive a great prize!

Email us at BCA4Kids@bushchurchaid.com.au

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: _____

Parent/Caregiver: _____

Age: _____ Birthday: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Boy or Girl: _____

Email: _____

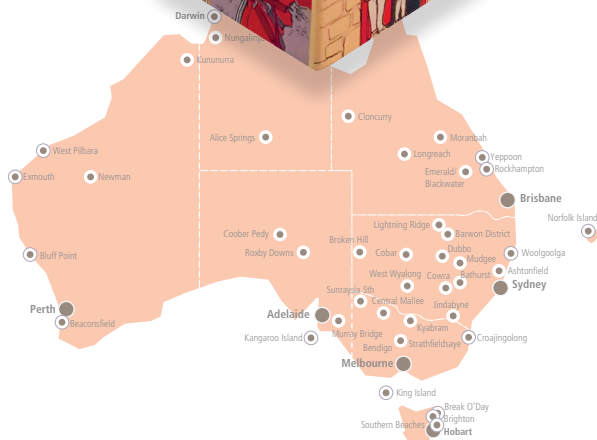
Which church do you go to? _____

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!



**bca
for
kids**



Sign up to hear more from our Field Staff



Did you know that you can sign up to receive regular updates and prayer points from our Field Staff? *The Real Australian* is a good first stop to hear what is going on in the field each quarter but with 30+ Field Staff stretched across our nation it's not possible to give you news and information from each one of them on a regular basis. That's where our e-newsletters come in.

Our Field Staff write quarterly newsletters to keep supporters informed and provide up-to-date prayer points. Some of our Field Staff even produce video updates. So how can you sign up to receive these newsletters? It's a simple process. Visit bushchurchaid.com.au and either click on the Our People tab found on the top of the homepage, or the map found in the middle of the homepage. There you can select

which Field Staff you would like to hear from more regularly.

Newsletters are emailed out to supporters and are available in a PDF format if you wish to print them and provide them to your church or mission supporter group. Current newsletters are also available on each Field Staff page on the website. Recent newsletters have come from the Nicols in Karratha, the Fergusons in Walgett, the Langmeads in Lightning Ridge and the Hornes on the Southern Beaches of Tassie (see above).

The website is also a great resource which tells you how you can best support BCA, whether it be by serving, praying, going or donating. The Real Australian Archive also has all the available issues of *The Real Australian* dating back to 1920.

Visit bushchurchaid.com.au

Hit the road with Christian Fellowship Tours



Have you ever thought about touring around Australia and meeting BCA Field Staff? Many of our BCA Nomads do just that on their travels but if you are looking for a guided holiday, then a Christian Fellowship Tour (CFT) is for you.

CFT have been running BCA tours since 1976 following a deputation at CFT Director John Cronshaw's church. After hearing about the work of BCA, John came up with the idea of taking BCA supporters on tour so they could meet the Field Staff that they encouraged through donation and prayer.

"After praying on the concept and offering to help organise the first coach tour in 1976, a unique form of outback ministry support was born – the BCA Outback Tour," says John. "That first BCA tour, travelling through Western NSW and the Flinders Ranges, met with such a positive response that two trips had to be operated to cope with demand."

Forty-six years later, BCA supporters as well as other CFT passengers continue to book annual outback tours for the

unique opportunities they offer to travel our beautiful country and meet with local Christians in remote and rural Australia.

In 2022, tours will be running to North West Australia in August, Tasmania in October and Norfolk Island in November.

Long-time BCA supporter and volunteer Joan Lester (pictured above) has been going on CFT tours since 2007. "My husband died in 2006 and about six months on I decided I needed to travel and the way to do it was on a BCA tour," says Joan. "I thought if I can't travel with Christians who can I travel with? That was a turning point for me."

Joan's first trip was a three-week adventure which took her through Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia and New South Wales.

"What really struck me doing CFT/BCA tours is that the Field Staff get so involved in the town," says Joan. "We visited Winton in Queensland where Dennis & Lois Quinn were at the time, and I got talking to Lois who was working in the museum shop."

That first trip Joan also met BCA Field Staff in Alice Springs, Coober Pedy, Roxby





Downs, Broken Hill and Lightning Ridge. It was in Broken Hill that she met Neville & Kathie Naden who were in their first year serving with BCA.

"Wherever you go on a CFT/BCA tour you have an evening meal with Field Staff," says Joan. "It is great to get to know the Field Staff and see the conditions that they work in, and the isolation of bush ministry. The seven tours I've been on have really informed my prayers."

It was CFT Director John Cronshaw who led Joan's first tour and she has not looked back. "There were 18 of us on my first tour and John told us we could sit wherever we wanted on the bus," says Joan. "At the time I was still grieving so I went up the back and made a nest for myself. Everybody was so caring and made sure I was alright. I made several long-term friends from that tour."

Over the past 15 years Joan has also gone on tours to the Cook Islands, China, Mongolia and Russia as well as a tour to Oberammergau and in the Steps of St Paul. "But mostly I've done BCA tours,"

she says. "The best part of a BCA tour is meeting the Field Staff and members of the congregations who keep those churches going when the locations are vacant. It is just so amazing."

Another bonus of going on a CFT tour according to Joan is the time of prayer and worship. "When you get on the bus in the morning, the first thing they have is a devotion time and when it's a BCA tour they pray for the person of the day in the Prayer Notes. You also say grace at lunch and dinner, and you always go to church on Sunday. I cannot recommend a CFT/BCA tour more highly."

If you would like to know more about CFT tours visit their website: christianfellowshiptours.com or call **1300 635 358**.

Janine van den Tillaart



National/NSW Office renovation



As you may have read in Greg Harris' editorial on page 3, the National and NSW/ACT Office is currently undergoing a renovation. During this time all staff are working from home, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff are already in a good pattern of ensuring that the work of BCA still goes ahead on a national and state level.

The BCA head office has been in York Street since the 1980s and in this time every other level of the building has been renovated except Level 7, in fact BCA still had the original bathrooms from the 1960s! The renovations are being carried out by Vestra Workspace who have created new office spaces for institutions such as the Uniting Church and Uniland Real Estate.

The new office will include a foyer area, an incorporated board room, a lunch room/ breakout room and a variety of new offices and workspaces. Indigenous designs are being incorporated throughout the floor.

It is anticipated that the renovation will take about three months which will see the team back in the York Street offices sometime in late May/early June.

For those who regularly drop in to visit, purchase books or cards, or donate stamps, we look forward to welcoming you back to the office in the middle of 2022. If you need to send us anything in the meantime, please mail correspondence to GPO Box 5389 Sydney NSW 2001. You can still contact us by phone (02 9262 5017) or via our regular email addresses.

Pictured at left are images from the National and NSW office over the years. Including a pic just before renovation commenced (middle).



Councillor's Column

The Australian outback is a place of remarkable beauty and profound isolation and it, like so many dry and dusty places, is a place where God is ever present, calling and speaking to His people in unexpected ways and places. I encountered BCA in such a place many years ago as a young Christian struggling with the spiritual isolation of a remote mining town. Years later it is obvious the need for proclaiming the good news of salvation across all of Australia is as urgent as ever. It is a joy and privilege to return to BCA and support it in this special and vital mission.

I'm a Perth boy having grown up in Queens Park. I attended, into adulthood, St Alban's Highgate where my parents had met and married, and grew up in the Anglican Church and Christian faith. After university I became a teacher, and my first post was Leinster in the north-eastern goldfields. It was there I met the then Bishop of North West Australia, Tony Nichols and his wife Judith. At the start of my last term in 1992 the Gaulton family arrived with the support of BCA. As a young Christian it's also the place where I truly began to comprehend the wonder of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Not long after returning to Perth I married my wife Alison who grew up on a WA farm, and two years later we went to Sydney where I studied at Moore College. We then moved back to Western Australia, and I was ordained in North West Australia serving at Holy Cross Cathedral Geraldton for two years and at St George's in Carnarvon for five years. We also went from being a couple to a family with William and Elliott born in Geraldton and Carnarvon respectively.

I was then asked by the National Director of the time to consider the position of BCA Ministry Development Officer and we went to Sydney for two years before returning to Western Australia where I became the first full-time WA Regional Officer. After that we went back into parish ministry in Karrinyup in the Diocese of Perth. I have served on the WA Committee for the last few years and am thrilled at the prospect of retuning and serving on the National Council as we proclaim Jesus across rural Australia.

Michael Stuart

BCA WA & National Council Member



**It is obvious
the need for
proclaiming the
good news of
salvation across all
of Australia is as
urgent as ever**

Post & Rails



CONGRATULATIONS

Steven & Caitlin Klouth welcomed baby Hannah Grace on Wednesday 29 December 2021 at 6.46pm at Bathurst Base Hospital. Hannah weighed 3.35 kilograms. Congratulations to Steven & Caitlin as well to happy grandparents former WA Regional Officer Rob and his wife Kaye.



WELCOME

Jen & Colin Hercott, together with their son Lachlan have moved to Rockhampton where Jen has taken on the role of Registrar of the Diocese of Central Queensland. Jen had been acting in the role alongside her position of Priest in Charge in the Parish of Emerald/Blackwater. The role of Registrar has become full time with BCA providing financial support.



BCA is partnering with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Australia Inc in supporting **Dennis Taylor** as the Principal of the First Nations Ministry Training Initiative. Dennis & Valda have worked in a ministry context for over 30 years, first as lay preachers and then following theological training, in Indigenous churches in Victoria and Western Australia.



Paul & Cathy Sampson have joined the BCA family with Paul taking on the role of NSW/ACT Regional Officer. Since commencing in ministry, Paul has worked as a Rector of two parishes, CMS Missionary in Kenya (2010–2016) and most recently as Senior Assistant Minister at St Swithun's Anglican Church in Pymble.



Simon & Angela Owen, together with their daughters Grace and Esther will commence their service in Cloncurry on Palm Sunday 2022. Simon has worked at Eagle Vale Anglican for the past 10 years and helped organise a short-term mission to their BCA link church of Cloncurry in 2016. Simon & Angela have maintained contacts in the community and are looking forward to moving there.

ON THE MOVE

Jim & Natalie Watson, together with Jesse, Matthew, Luke and Isabel are on the move. They've concluded their time at Nungalinga College, but are not leaving the Top End. The Watsons will continue serving in the NT with Jim taking on a trade/training role at Northern Territory Christian Schools.



FAREWELL

Trevor & Cindy Bell have finished their term as BCA affiliates. Trevor will concentrate solely on his role as the Senior Minister at South East Bendigo Anglican.



After a year in the role of Schools Ministry Coordinator in Darwin, **David Pohlmann and his wife Margaret** have concluded their time with Scripture Union and BCA.

VALE

Betty Lou Molyneux (16 March 1941 –10 December 2021) and her husband The Revd Raymond Molyneux served with BCA in Newman (1990–95) and Broome (1995–2000). After they retired to Perth, Ray served as the honorary BCA Regional Officer for WA. Betty Lou is survived by Raymond, stepchildren Deborah & Nigel and step grandchildren Daniel & Andrew.



Verlie Withington (3 January 1927 – 2 January 2022) served as a missionary with husband Ernest (deceased) in Timboon, Victoria from 1960–1963. She is survived by children Anne & Kevin, Jane & Andrew and Vicki as well as grandchildren Carissa, Rick, Beth, Latham, Mel, Jarryd, Jordan & Cody, and great grandchildren Vivienne, Sienna, Juniper, Arielle & Frejya.



Michele Peacock (29 December 1944 – 9 January 2022) worked for Bush Church Aid from 1986 until 2002. From 1986–1988 she served as Brian Roberts' secretary following which she took on the role of NSW Database Officer. Michele is remembered for her wonderful pastoral care and her cheerfulness. Michele was married to David (deceased) and is survived by her daughter Megan, son Christopher and their families.

From the Archives – What am I?



Our town is used as an overnight stopover for people travelling in the Northern Territory. Last year, over a thousand people received refreshment, enjoyed a meal or slept at our establishment...**so I am a motel manager!**

In the last six months alone, five churches and groups have come through town and requested a guided tour of the district...**so I am a tour operator!**

Quite often I find myself in the role of song-leader, as I am considered to have a reasonable singing voice. This year, the RSL asked me to record a number of hymns which were then distributed through the Northern Territory for use on Anzac Day...**so I am a recording artist!**

I have found my way onto some eight committees in the town over the past few years. I am called upon to chair AGM's and public meetings. This year, I am the President of the Lions Club...**so I am a professional M.C. and committee person!**

Since September 1990, Peko Mines have been winding down their operation in this district. At approximately three-monthly intervals, some 50 people or so have been retrenched. Many of these people have come to me to discuss their future...**so I am a retrenchment counsellor!**

Two years ago I helped to build an extension onto the Preschool. Last year I

built an extension onto the Rectory and early this year I completed building a verandah onto the DayCare Centre...**so I am a builder!**

I was teaching basic house painting skills to Aboriginal trainees at the local TAFE in the second half of 1990...**so I am a teacher!**

Teachers having problems at school have sought me out as a sounding board. I am the coordinator of Religious Education for the four schools in the district. I teach four scripture classes each week...**so I am a school chaplain!**

Since the beginning of this year I have been working on a Diploma of Education through the University of the Northern Territory, where I am **enrolled as a 'full-time' student!**

On several occasions I have been asked to perform marriage ceremonies for couples who know me as an identity about the town, but who are not churchgoers...**so I am a marriage celebrant!**

Within our Ministers' Fraternal are clergy of quite contrasting colours of Christianity. These people would have no natural inclination to relate to each other and very little even as fellow ministers! As the current president of the fraternal, much effort goes into smoothing troubled waters...**so I am a diplomat!**

What am I? I am a BCA Missioner!

I am the Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Tennant Creek. **I am Tim Brownscombe.** Of all the roles played by a parish minister, the one I most enjoy is spiritual mentor. As a Christian priest, some people will look towards me as a spiritual father. One such person was David, who has spent a number of stints in Tennant Creek on secondment from Alice Springs with a government department. David first came to Tennant Creek for just six weeks as a relief. He would probably admit that he thought being a 'Christmas and Easter' Christian was enough. He came to the Easter Sunday Service. Not long after that, David returned to Tennant Creek for another 18 months. During that time, we saw David's commitment grow from occasional to regular attender and his faith become more real to him. I would like to tell the story of David's growing understanding of prayer: It was the beginning of a new year. There was an influx of toddlers and pre schoolers, who were a little distracting to their Mums and Dads who were trying to worship. After the service, I stood and talked with David over a cup of tea. We looked out the side door of the church and David said "I can see a swing set, right there". On Wednesday of that week, I was given some play equipment by a member of another church, who had found it at the dump. It was in very good condition and I installed it the following day. When David came the next Sunday, he was beside himself with excitement exclaiming "That's what I saw! That's exactly what I saw last week!". This was David's first experience of God's provision and answer of prayer. Shortly after this, David announced that he was going to pray that we would get proper accommodation, as it wasn't right for the family to put up with such cramped

quarters. We tried to moderate him, but he insisted that God answers prayer. About a year later, on yet another six-week sojourn to Tennant Creek, David was one of the men who joined in the working bee to pour the cement for the slab for the extensions to the Rectory. He felt it was right that he had been present, as his prayers had made it happen. Nine months later, about a week before the dedication of the completed extensions, David was leaving Tennant Creek for the last time: he was moving to South Australia. As we sat down to have coffee in the new loungeroom in the extension, tears came to his eyes as he saw the final fruit of his prayers. He said, "He just didn't know it could be this good". He is more than a pew warmer in his new parish!

First published in the September 1991 edition of *The Real Australian*. Tim Brownscombe was called home the following year after he contracted encephalitis. He was remembered for his community involvement, mine chaplaincy, training of Indigenous youth and providing spiritual growth. He was survived by wife Kerrie and his children Beth, Ann, Philip and Catherine (now deceased).

Annual General Meetings 2022

Notice of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 25 May 2022 from 9.30am

The Branksome Hotel
60 Robey Street, Mascot NSW

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia will hold its Annual General Meeting for the purpose of adopting the audited accounts for the Society for the financial year ended 31 December 2021 and to elect councillors.

Queensland/NNSW

Saturday 5 March 2022 at 9 am

In Person: St John's Wishart,
10 Greenwood Street, Wishart
Online: BCA YouTube page

Incl Bush & Bible Day
Guest Speakers: The Rt Rev Peter Grice,
Bishop of Central Queensland;
George & Carmel Ferguson,
Barwon District

Jen & Colin Hercott will also be
commissioned as BCA Field Staff

For more information or to register
please call 07 3349 9081 or email
qld@bushchurchaid.com.au

South Australia/Northern Territory Tuesday 29 March 2022

Christ Church North Adelaide
35 Palmer Close, North Adelaide

Bible for the Bush Supporters Evening
with AGM

For more information or to register
please call 08 8221 5444 or email
sa@bushchurchaid.com.au

Western Australia

Saturday 2 April 2022 at 12 noon

St Alban's Anglican Church
Beaufort Street, Highgate

A light lunch will follow.
Guest Speakers: Pastor Dennis and
Mrs Valda Taylor
Cost for lunch \$20, Concession \$10
Please pay on the day

RSVP to BCA WA Chair – The Revd Neil
Walthew neil.stpeters@inet.net.au

New South Wales/ACT

Thursday 21 April 2022 at 11am

St Philip's Anglican Church
3 York Street, Sydney

Bible teaching by new NSW/ACT
Regional Officer Paul Sampson
Guest Speaker:
James Daymond, Field Staff Mudgee

For more information or to register
please call 02 9262 5017 or email
nsw@bushchurchaid.com.au

Victoria

Saturday 30 April 2022, 5:30 for 6pm

Glen Waverley Anglican Church
800 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley

AGM and Dinner
Guest Speaker: Bishop Mark Calder
(Bathurst Diocese)

For more information or to register
please call 03 9457 7556 or email
vic@bushchurchaid.com.au

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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.**

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☐ Information about how I can support BCA through my Will

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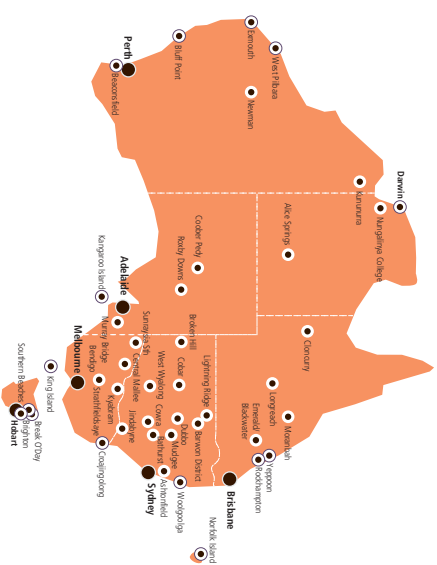
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