

## *The Bush Church Aid Society*

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Port Hedland—the Revd. M. Pennington.

Mt. Newman—the Revd. R. Pether.

Dampier—the Revd. D. Pullar.

Gascoyne-Ashburton (Carnarvon)—the Revd. R. Beard.

The Murchison (Mt. Magnet)—the Revd. W. Smith.

Mullewa—the Revd. B. Viney.

Geraldton (Diocesan Administrator)—Mr. S. Hummerston.

#### DIOCESE OF KALGOORLIE

Kambalda—The Revd. R. Neve.

Norseman—the Revd. B. Grace.

Southern Cross—the Revd. E. Doncaster.

#### DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA

Cook Hospital—Sisters R. Hold and C. Allen.

Tarcoola Hospital—vacant.

Leigh Creek—the Revd. B. Carter.

Cooper Pedy—vacant.

Cooper Pedy Hospital—Sisters P. Darby and A. Dau.

Port Lincoln (Girls' Hostel)—Mr. and Mrs. G. Mantle.

Melrose-Peterborough—Grant-in-Aid.

#### DIOCESE OF RIVERINA

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Wilcannia—the Revd. E. Baldwin.

Broken Hill (Boys' Hostel)—Mr. and Mrs. R. Hastie.

#### DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

Moree (Boys' Hostel)—Mr. and Mrs. R. Brown.

#### DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

Blackwater—the Revd. G. Ezzy.

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## Bush Church Aid Society

# The Real Australian

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# *The Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania*

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**"AUSTRALIA FOR CHRIST"**

THE REAL AUSTRALIAN, MARCH, 1970

# **The Federal Secretary's Letter**



To move from a settled suburban life to a remote and unknown part of Australia can be quite an upheaval. Certainly there is the excitement of a new challenge, but with it as well, problems to be faced and difficult decisions to be made.

For this reason I ask you to remember all those who have recently commenced work for the first time with B.C.A. or have moved to new work within the Society. We warmly welcome them into the team and at the same time assure them of our prayerful concern in the early days of their work.

The Reverend Bill Ross and his wife Jocelyn, with Catherine and Stephen, are now well and truly settled at Kununurra. They

have arrived there at the hottest time of the year, but will find a warm welcome from the Church. The Reverend and Mrs. Eric Baldwin and their daughter, Meredith, are in Wilcannia, living temporarily in the old rectory while a new house is being built, and finding their way round far west N.S.W. They have also had their share of record heat in the last few weeks. Sister Ruth Hold and Sister Carol Allen by now feel they are old time residents of Cook, where they are in charge of the B.C.A. Hospital. The Reverend and Mrs. Greg Ezzy and their family are at present doing some special work in Sydney with the Society while awaiting the completion of their house at Blackwater, the new coal town in the Diocese of Rockhampton. This is a new B.C.A. work and one full of interest and promise. At Southern Cross, in the Diocese of Kalgoorlie, the Reverend Ted Doncaster and his wife Sue, are beginning to come to grips with a large wheat-growing parish, very different from their former work in the Gascoyne-Ashburton. And finally we have just said farewell in Sydney to the Reverend Ron Beard and his wife, Barbara, and their three children, as they have gone to take Ted Don-

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caster's place in the G.A.P. They will be living temporarily at Carnarvon but hope that their house at Exmouth will be finished by the middle of the year.

These people represent new work being undertaken by a Society which is facing unlimited opportunities for service in the Church in Australia. They are all people whom we confidently know will serve in the best traditions of the Church and the Society and we thank God for

them. But we must serve *them* with our prayer and concern.

One thing more: the opening up of these various areas of new work does not mean that we are doing all we could. We have at this moment urgent opportunities for clergy and nurses prepared to go at the call of Christ and serve Him in remote Australia. I would be glad to talk this over with any who are prepared to consider it.

*Gertrude Austin*

## **M.B.E. to Allan Chadwick**

B.C.A. supporters everywhere will have been delighted by the announcement on New Year's Day that Membership of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire has been conferred on Mr. Allan Chadwick, former Chief Pilot of the Society's Flying Medical Services. Mr. Chadwick served the Society in this capacity for a total of thirty years and finally relinquished the post only when the F.M.S. at Ceduna was handed over to the Port Augusta Base of the Royal Flying Doctor Service two years ago.

Mr. Mac Job, member of Council and ex-B.C.A. pilot, has written the article which appears in the latter pages of this magazine. It pays tribute to the contribution Allan Chadwick has made to the work of God in the outback.

# **Heroine Down Mine Shaft**

(Extract from the Adelaide Advertiser 30-12-69. Reprinted by permission.)

Stones and rocks crashed around her as Sister Anne Dau was lowered on a windlass into the darkness of an abandoned mine shaft.

There she tended a man who had been seriously injured in a fall into the 40ft. shaft.

Then she was left at the bottom while the man was winched to the top. More rubble crashed down.

And the Sister had only the light of two torches to guide her.



Sister Anne Dau

The rescue took place at Coober Pedy recently.

And the people of the northern opal mining town want to nominate Sister Dau for a bravery medal.

"I tell you, there wouldn't be too many miners prepared to go down an abandoned shaft at night," Eric Smith, president of the local progress association, said in Adelaide yesterday.

Sister Dau decided to go into the treacherous shaft because of the extent of the man's injuries. She wanted to examine him before he was moved.

And according to Eric Smith, the men at the top who winched her down reckon it was one of the bravest acts on the field in a long time.

Sister Dau, of the Bush Church Aid Society, is one of two Sisters in charge of the hospital at Coober Pedy.

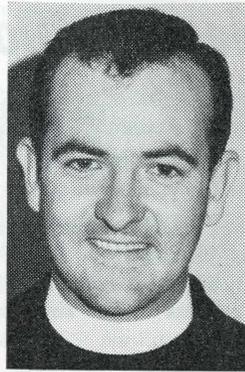
She's been stationed at the mining town for about a year, but the rescue was her first time below.

# NEW STATUS WEST!!

Menindee and Ivanhoe are two towns in the far west of N.S.W. which are on the railway line from Sydney to Broken Hill. 1970 saw these towns get new status. In January big trains like the ones you read about in the mining areas of Western Australia began to roll through the towns. We are now on the Indian-Pacific Trans Continental Railway Line. Prestige! Status! It's terrific.

These two towns are in two "new" B.C.A. Mission Districts. I say "new" because as you well know B.C.A. began working in the Diocese of Riverina fifty years ago. But nevertheless they are new. Instead of a North-South division, the area has been divided East-West. This division was worked out with the help of our Bishop, Right Reverend John Grindrod, and the Federal Secretary of B.C.A., Reverend Ged Muston.

The Reverend Eric Baldwin arrived in January with his wife Joan and daughter Meredith to live in Wilcannia. Wilcannia was the first B.C.A. work. He leaves two other children in Mel-



The Revd. Charlie White

bourne. He is going to look after White Cliffs in the North and Ivanhoe in the South. He has a big job. He has to mould this new area together into a regular parish and give it new status as our hopes are that in five or so years this parish will be self supporting. He will need our prayers very much. Things are off to a good start already — the Education Department has bought the old rectory for future school expansion and work has begun on a new rectory on the Church block.

I have lived in Menindee for a year in fellowship with you in the work. By the time you read this, my wife Wendy will have our third child God willing. We already have David and Paul.

We will look after Tibourra in the North, Pooncarie in the South and Cockburn,

South Australia, in the West. This new district is very exciting indeed. Some more new status. Late in January a small town in South Australia was put on the map. That little settlement, Olary, is in our new area. It had the privilege of having the first derailment on the Indian-Pacific Railway Line! The heat buckled the line a little.

So you see, on every hand we have new status. Yet we know it is only Jesus Christ who can give us real status. He alone can bring people into the exalted status of being "a child of God." That is why we are

here. We want the people to know Christ, and with us and you, to grow together in Him.

Romans 5:1-2 "Since then it is by faith we are justified, let us grasp the fact that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have confidently entered into this new relationship of Grace, and here we take our stand in happy certainty of the glorious things He has for us in the future."

Thank you for supporting us with your gifts and prayers. May we all know that status which He alone can give.

## STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE



Late in January a special conference attended by all W.A. staff was held in Perth. The Bishops of Kalgoorlie and N.W. Australia were also able to be present.

The theme was Christian Stewardship in Remote Areas, and the various sessions were led by Mr. Doug. Goodluck of Melbourne.

Pictured above is the all star cast of B.C.A. work in W.A.!

L. to R.: Blair Grace, Ray Neve, David Pullar, Bill Ross, Bishop Bryant, Doug Goodluck, Brian Viney, Bishop Witt, Ged Muston, Bernard Buckland, Stan Hummerston, Ted Doncaster, Michael Pennington, Bill Smith.

## Bush Nursing on the Line

Sisters Lesley White and Denise McCallum responded to the appeal for nurses in 1969 and worked at Tarcoola from October to December. They wrote this article as they prepared to leave to continue their training. B.C.A. and the people of Tarcoola are indebted to them for their help. We wish them God's blessing for the future.

It's nearly three months since our arrival at Tarcoola which is a camp on the Trans Australian Railway Line. We had been told that "it was the last place on earth viewed from a distance." But we made it our home and enjoyed ourselves.

When we arrived we didn't know where to go or what it would be like when we got there. It was 2 a.m. and pitch black when we stepped off the train; there was someone to meet us, thank goodness! Next morning when we awoke we found we had been deposited in a large brick building with flywire verandahs all the way round. After looking through cupboards and what have you, we realised that the hospital was well equipped for "Mid", minor surgery and any domestic chores that had to be done.

The experiences we have gained in our three months stay are both varied and numerous. We have not only learnt to suture, pull teeth, diagnose Jimmy with the mumps and Susan

with U.R.T.I., but become keen gardeners, economical shoppers and regular picture goers once a fortnight where we share our leg-room with dogs and take soft cushions for the hard chairs.

Even though we are not always busy with nursing, maybe three or four patients a day, we know we are needed here and the people are very eager to make sure we enjoy ourselves. We are invited out to tea, rabbiting, swimming in the quarry and to any socials or dances that might be on.

Our Sunday School has just "broken up", it has been a pleasure teaching these eager Line children about Christ. They've had no Sunday School of any sort for twelve months while the hospital was closed; as the Sisters usually teach Sunday School. Some of the children could remember some of the stories of Jesus, but the only hymn they knew was "Away In a Manger", because it was in their school reader. Needless to say we sang "Away In a Manger" often.

The need is here in Tarcoola and we and the camp folk are both sorry and disappointed to know that when we leave to do our "Mid" training in Brisbane at the end of the month

this hospital will close, and once again the people of Tarcoola and surrounding districts will be left alone to give medical care to themselves.

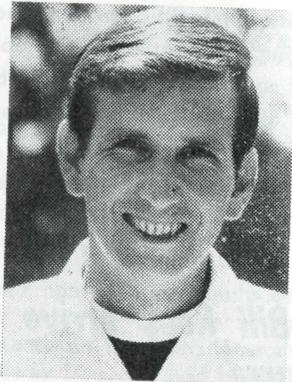
## The Revd. and Mrs. Bill Ross arrive at Kununurra



The only one apparently not impressed with the Ross' arrival at Kununurra was young Stephen. He seems to think that Albury was a pretty good place after all!

Bill, Jocelyn and the children survived their 4000 mile trip in good condition, and are now happily settled. Even the dog and cat now regard Kununurra as home.

It is encouraging to see that the C.E.B.S. of Canberra, Goulburn Diocese have adopted Mr. and Mrs. Ross as a Missionary project.



In May the Revd. Greg Ezzy will pioneer a new mission in the coal development at Blackwater, 140 miles west of Rockhampton. Mr. and Mrs. Ezzy come from Brisbane, and at the moment are living in Sydney, where Mr. Ezzy is doing promotional work for the Society.



- Leigh Creek parishioners can expect even more erudite sermons from the Reverend Brian Carter, who has passed his final Th. Schol. exam.
- Our thanks to the ladies of the Firlie Auxiliary in S.A. who are providing a wheelchair for the Coober Pedy Medical Centre.
- Miss Janis Smith, a trainee nurse from Wentworthville in Sydney, is assisting at Coober Pedy while Sr. Pat Darby is on holidays.
- Congratulations to Miss Beverley Tonkies of the Head office on her marriage this month.

Sister Carol Allen (right) talks to Mrs. Frank Burner (formerly Sister Margaret Troup). Sister Allen was being farewelled from St. Philip's, Caringbah, before joining Sister Ruth Hold at Cook. Twelve years ago Mrs. Burner was farewelled from the same church.

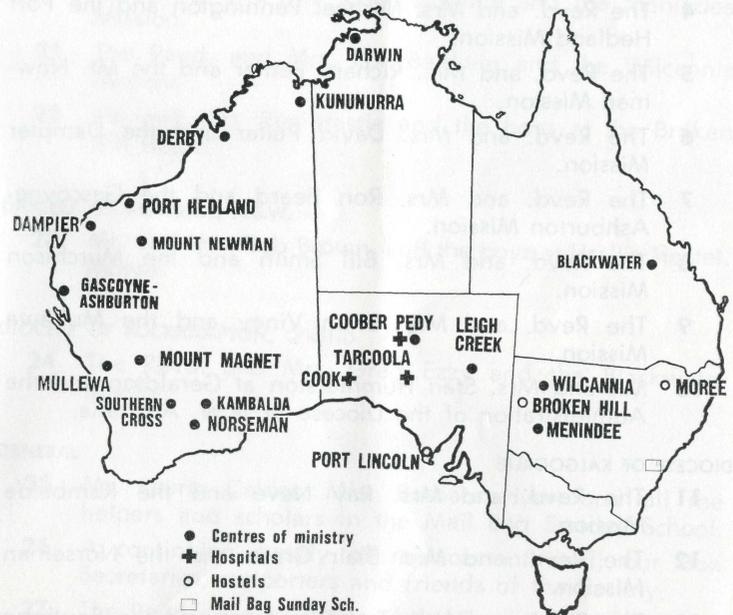


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## The Place of Prayer

### THE B.C.A. PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us ever mindful of those who live in the remote parts of our land. We ask You to bless those whom You have called into the fellowship of the Bush Church Aid Society. Grant that, through the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, through healing, and through caring and instruction of the young, the message of Your redeeming love may thus be proclaimed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### A DAILY PRAYER

O God, we remember before You those whom You have called to Your service. We ask that You would bless ..... assure them of Your presence, and call forth others to stand with them in the task. Grant to them, as to us, the joy of service, the ability to achieve, and the serenity of Your peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## THE PLACE OF PRAYER

### DIOCESE OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

- 1 The Revd. and Mrs. Alan Baker and the Nightcliff Mission.

### DIOCESE OF N.W. AUSTRALIA

- 2 The Revd. and Mrs. Bill Ross and the Ord River Mission.
- 3 The Revd. and Mrs. Bernard Buckland and the Derby Mission.
- 4 The Revd. and Mrs. Michael Pennington and the Port Hedland Mission.
- 5 The Revd. and Mrs. Richard Pether and the Mt. Newman Mission.
- 6 The Revd. and Mrs. David Pullar and the Dampier Mission.
- 7 The Revd. and Mrs. Ron Beard and the Gascoyne-Ashburton Mission.
- 8 The Revd. and Mrs. Bill Smith and the Murchison Mission.
- 9 The Revd. and Mrs. Brian Viney and the Mullewa Mission.
- 10 Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hummerston at Geraldton and the Administration of the Diocese of N.W. Australia.

### DIOCESE OF KALGOORLIE

- 11 The Revd. and Mrs. Ray Neve and the Kambalda Mission.
- 12 The Revd. and Mrs. Blair Grace and the Norseman Mission.
- 13 The Revd. and Mrs. Ted Doncaster and the Southern Cross Mission.

### DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA, S.A.

- 14 Sisters Ruth Hold and Carol Allen at Cook Hospital.
- 15 The need for two D/C nurses at Tarcoola Hospital.
- 16 The Revd. and Mrs. Brian Carter and the Leigh Creek Mission.

## A DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR

- 17 The need for a Missioner at Coober Pedy.
- 18 Sisters Pat Darby and Anne Dau at the Coober Pedy Medical Centre.
- 19 Mr. and Mrs. Graham Mantle and the girls at Port Lincoln Hostel.

### DIOCESE OF RIVERINA, N.S.W.

- 20 The Revd. and Mrs. Charlie White and the Menindee Mission.
- 21 The Revd. and Mrs. Eric Baldwin and the Wilcannia Mission.
- 22 Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hastie and the boys at the Broken Hill Hostel.

### DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE, N.S.W.

- 23 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brown, and the boys at Urallie Hostel, Moree.

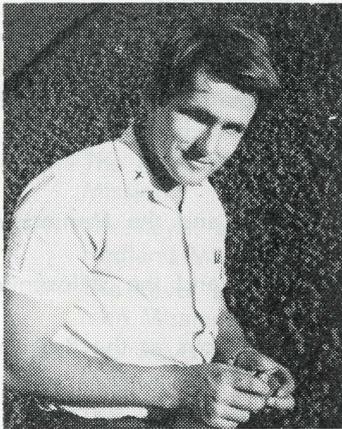
### DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON, Q'LAND

- 24 The Revd. and Mrs. Greg Ezzy and the Blackwater Mission.

### GENERAL

- 25 Mr. Laurie Calder, Miss Barbara Hyett and all the helpers and scholars in the Mail Bag Sunday School.
- 26 A continuing supply of replacement staff, our Box Secretaries, supporters and friends of the Society.
- 27 The Revd. Ged Muston and the Council of the Society.
- 28 The Revd. Barry Huggett, the Broadcasting and Public Relations work of the Society.
- 29 The Revd. Ian Booth, Mrs. Winifred Hughes and the Victorian Committee, and our Representative in South Australia, Mr. Alban Kirkby.
- 30 The Head Office Staff—Mr. Burner, Mrs. O'Neill, Misses Tonkies and Giddins.

# DAMPIER DEVELOPMENTS!



The Revd. David Pullar

Many thanks for your continued prayerful support and interest throughout last year.

It has certainly been an interesting and varied year, and one that we have greatly enjoyed. Life in a company town has taken a little adjusting to and it seems to be a case of mixed blessings. It is wonderful to be able to ring up the township supervisor and have him arrange for someone to come and fix the air conditioner, but to have to seek company approval for this and that is at times frustrating.

The response to the ministry generally has been good — an average of 50 here on Sun-

day mornings and at Roebourne up to 27. Wittenoom attendance and response — rather disappointing but examining past records — this appears to have always been so. Station visiting has been good, but not as often as I had hoped — some stations having only been visited once. The response in the railway camps between here and Tom Price has been good, and I seem to know quite a lot of the men as they move from one camp to the other.

Materially our projects for the aborigines at Roebourne have been blessed and we have achieved what we wanted — second hand clothing, bedding, kitchen ware, a hut, two gas primuses and a pottery kiln and teacher. The next twelve to eighteen months should see a hostel for single natives (who can find employment locally) and a social worker. Ambitious projects, perhaps, but the need for these is there. Restoration work on the Church and visiting has increased the number of whites at services at Roebourne as well as aborigines.

The new church centre has been a tremendous asset to the work here — and the air conditioned office (vestry) there gives us a chapel for smaller

services and meetings. The kindergarten section functions efficiently and we are most impressed with the wonderful job done by Helen McLeod — both in the kindergarten, with the children and parents, and also with all the many varied folk she comes in contact with. The kindergarten side of things has more than proved itself as a very effective part of the Church's ministry in this new town of Dampier.

This year will bring an increase of some 3,500 people in the Hamersley Iron complex. 1,500 construction workers here in Dampier — and a new single men's camp to cater for those working on the new shipping facilities on East Intercourse Island and the other 2,000 at Tom Price and Paraburdoo. This

is apart from those at the new town of Karatha, 15 miles from here — and those at Mount Bruce Mining, 54 miles from Wittenoom — (exploration and development of a new iron ore set up).

All this is apart from Dampier Salt — the salt works six miles from here which will be building its own shipping facilities as well, plus the growth of Roebourne and possible development of other mining leases in the area, especially Whim Creek and Robe River.

Our holidays finished with a Bush Church Aid Stewardship conference and B.C.A. Rally in Perth. Many of the B.C.A. clergy we knew, and were able to meet others from the west we did not know; as well as our Bishop Witt and Bishop Bryant from



A section of the modern Supermarket at Dampier.

Kalgoolie; the conference proved a real blessing, being able to discuss spiritual and practical issues with those of similar needs, trials, tribulations and parishes.

We flew back from Perth Saturday, January 31st, when cyclone Glynis was raging in the North West. Our plane was delayed for over half an hour till the latest satellite picture of the cyclone was available. The trip was uneventful and we arrived in the midst of wind and rain — all the hot air — the Parson and the cyclone arriving together. It was too wet and windy next day for services, and besides we were on a 24 hour cyclone warning when no one is allowed out until the all clear is given. I was able to catch up on some paper work that had

piled up. No damage was done by the cyclone here, except that the roofs of some of the flats started to lift and part of the service wharf was washed away. Exmouth recorded winds of up to 170 miles per hour.

With the changing population, many of our friends and regulars have left, leaving many positions in the parish structure to be filled. At the moment we do not have sufficient teachers to open Sunday School again this year, but trust this will soon be rectified.

So the work goes on, and grows at a rate which means there's never a dull moment. Thank God there are so many B.C.A. friends throughout Australia who are backing us up with prayers and interest.

## The GAP is Filled!



The Money or the Box!

The Revd. and Mrs. Ron Beard are now in the Gascoyne-Ashburton Parish following the Doncasters' move to Southern Cross. The Beards' farewell from Albion Park was an hilarious evening, marked by the large crowd and the wit of the speeches.

Mr. and Mrs. Beard will live in Carnarvon until a Rectory is built at Exmouth.

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## Diocesan Administrator Commissioned

Mr. Stan Hummerston was commissioned by the Bishop of North-West Australia, at a special Service on Sunday, 1st February, in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Geraldton. He has been made a Trustee of the Diocese and a member of the Diocesan Council, as well as being on the Cathedral Chapter.

Mrs. Hummerston is teaching Sunday School and Religious Instruction, and young David is singing in the Cathedral choir. Fortunately the Geraldton people are used to cyclonic disturbances and seem to be taking the Hummerston invasion in their stride.



The Beard's farewell also turned out to be an Old Boys' Reunion! The four clergy taking part in the service all originally came from St. Paul's, Chatswood.

L. to R.: Ged Muston, Barry Huggett, Ron Beard, Wesley Girvan (Rector of Kiama).

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# Allan Chadwick, M.B.E.

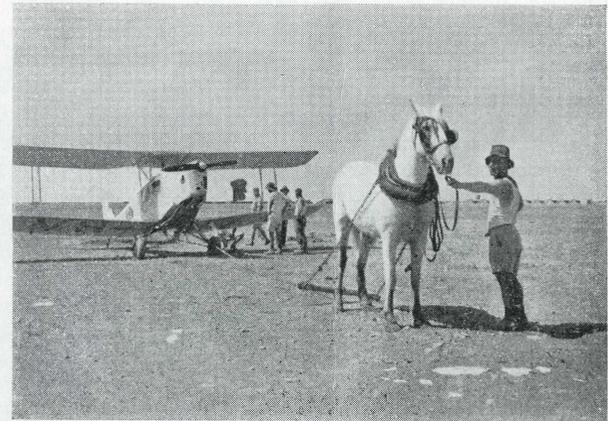
By Mac Job, Member of Council and Ex-B.C.A. Pilot

I first met Allan Chadwick at Evensong in the little old galvanized iron Church of St. Michael and All Angels at Ceduna in March, 1954. The occasion was, I think, the fulfilment of a dream for us both. For Chaddy (as he is affectionately known to all who have worked with him), because he had long been promised another pilot to help him cope with the increasing demands of the steadily expanding F.M.S. network; for me certainly, because it symbolised the beginning of a thrilling vocation to which I had looked forward with eager anticipation since my acceptance by the Society several months before.

Our professional relationship began two days later when we were to take the Organising Missioner to Tarcoola in the Dragon. On this first flight with Chaddy, it was quickly evident that as far as flying was concerned, Chaddy was a perfectionist and that he expected no less a standard of his assistant pilot. It was to be the first of many flights under his intense supervision, before I was finally turned loose with an aeroplane of my own.

Chaddy himself had to do without the advantage of such tutoring when he began flying for the F.M.S. early in 1938. He had been obliged to learn his own way around the South Australian outback using road maps for navigation because no aeronautical maps of the area were available. It was a hard school to be brought up in, but by his careful, systematic methods he successfully met every challenge and established a reputation for flying safety that was to become widely respected in Australian civil aviation. The aerodrome staff at Ceduna could not usually be accused of being "pro-Chadwick" (Chaddy himself was much too demanding professionally for such popularity) but of his safety-consciousness some of them used to say, "If Allan were leaving for the South Pole, we'd go with him!" Such was the regard with which he was held in his profession. But let us turn the clock back for a few moments to the beginning of the Society's Flying Medical Service and see how this reputation came about.

The establishment of the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital on the transcontinental rail-

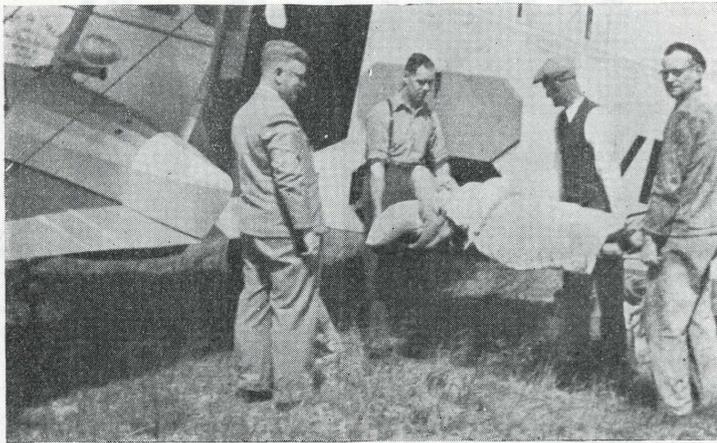


The joys of flying in the early days.

way at Cook in 1937 was the logical extension of the medical work the Society had begun some years before on the west coast of South Australia at Ceduna and later at Penong. But there was one very considerable snag. Whereas Penong was just under fifty miles from Ceduna, Cook, on the Nullarbor Plain, was another three hundred miles further to the west, over what was little more than a stoney track. For one doctor to effectively cover all three medical centres by road was clearly impossible. So at about the same time as the work on the hospital had begun, the Society had boldly placed an order with De Havilland Aircraft in Sydney for a Fox Moth, a new type of single engined aeroplane which could carry three passengers or,

if necessary, a stretcher case and two passengers. The step was taken without any idea of who would eventually be engaged to fly the aircraft. No doubt the Council of the Society, displaying the same confidence as they had shown in ordering the aircraft, felt that "the Lord would provide", but they took the precaution of placing an advertisement for a suitably qualified pilot in several city newspapers.

The Lord did indeed provide, if in a somewhat unorthodox way, for tradition has it that Allan Chadwick eventually saw the advertisement, but only after the newspaper that carried it had been used to wrap some vegetables he had bought at his local greengrocer's in Melbourne! Whether or not this



Loading a stretcher case (A. E. Chadwick in peaked cap).

story is apocryphal I am unable to say, but it somehow typifies the way that significant events in Chaddy's life seemed to be inexorably mapped out for him.

The Fox Moth was ready for delivery to the Society early in 1938 and after being dedicated by the Archbishop of Sydney, it was handed over to the man who was to fly it to South Australia and be responsible for its operation for the next sixteen years.

After refuelling at Adelaide, Allan Chadwick pointed the nose of the Fox Moth westward towards Ceduna. The route for this last lap was via Whyalla, a track that would avoid a long overwater crossing of Spencer's Gulf. So far the delivery flight had been over well settled farming country but beyond Whyalla

lay the frontier of the outback itself. Fifty miles further on, the long shimmering expanse of salt pan that was Lake Gillies provided clear evidence that the frontier had been crossed, a symbolic event that Chaddy would have cause to remember thirty years later. Two hours afterwards, he set the Fox down at Ceduna for the first time and taxied in towards the little group of people who had gathered on this historic occasion to witness the birth of the Church of England Flying Medical Services.

Only eighteen months after the flying work began, World War II broke out, and for a time it seemed that the future of the F.M.S. might be in jeopardy. As an experienced professional pilot, Chaddy was of course earmarked for the R.A.A.F., but

an eloquent plea by the Organising Missioner convinced the powers-that-be, that Allan Chadwick's job in the outback was just as vital to the welfare of the nation as any position he might be called upon to fulfil in the defence of his country. So it was that Allan Chadwick remained at his post and, while his fellow airmen went on to perform deeds that were more exciting and undoubtedly more glamorous, Chaddy faithfully and quietly continued his errands of mercy in the bush, neither seeking nor receiving plaudits that were the lot of so many pilots of the day. Thus, throughout the long years of war, for Chaddy and for the F.M.S., it was simply "business as usual".

As well as flying the Society's different aircraft over the years of the Service's existence, Chaddy was also responsible for their maintenance, employing his skill and ability as an aircraft engineer in between flights to keep the aircraft serviceable and ready at all times to meet any emergency that should arise. To this vital but unsung task, Chaddy applied himself with the same dedication as he had the flying. Even during his "holidays"—taken while his aircraft was undergoing its annual overhaul in Adelaide, Chaddy could not resist making frequent visits to the workshops to supervise

progress himself, his enthusiasm for detail sometimes becoming the despair of the workshop management!

Early in 1960, almost on the 22nd anniversary of the inaugural F.M.S. flight, the esteem with which Allan Chadwick is held in his profession, was given tangible expression when he was named the Oswald Watt Gold Medallist for 1959. This honour, which in years past has been conferred on a number of aviation pioneers whose names are now household words, is awarded each year by the Aero Club Federation of Australia for "the most brilliant performance in the air or the most notable contribution to aviation". The



Presentation of the Oswald Watt Medal.

presentation was made at a special dinner held in Adelaide and attended by leaders of the aviation industry and the Aero Club movement. It was a recognition all the more valued because it came unsolicited from those best qualified to judge the contribution that Allan Chadwick had made to Australian aviation.

In due course, the Lockheed and the Proctor aircraft were replaced by two Cessna 210s. The registration lettering chosen for these two aeroplanes had special significance — one was VH-FMS, the other VH-AEC, the Society's own tribute to its Chief Pilot, Allan Edward Chadwick.

Three years later, in 1965, Chaddy felt that perhaps the time had at last come, if not to relinquish his aviation responsibilities, then at least to take them a little less strenuously. So it was agreed that the pri-

mary responsibility for the flying should be assumed by the second pilot, at this time Mr. John Lindridge, who had already been with the F.M.S. since 1961. Chaddy would still do some flying and would be on call for emergency trips when the other aircraft was absent from Ceduna. Now, far from retiring in the accepted sense of the word, Chaddy took over the important and diplomatic job of operating the Society's base radio station at Ceduna, the nerve centre of the F.M.S. from which all contact with the outstations was maintained. For this work, Chaddy, with his long-established knowledge of the area and its people, was ideally equipped.

Chaddy fulfilled this role with his customary quiet precision until February, 1968. By late 1967, it had become increasingly evident to the Council that

the pioneering work the Society had set out to do in 1937, had now been achieved. The Port Augusta Base of the Royal Flying Doctor Service were able and willing to extend their existing work to cover the area that the F.M.S. had served for so long, and it was clear that the arrangement would bring a number of additional benefits to the people within the network. So, with great reluctance, but convinced that it was doing what was right, the Council made what was perhaps the most difficult decision of its life. On 15th February, 1968, Chaddy conducted the final radio medical session from the Ceduna base station and signed off for the last time. John Lindridge, the younger pilot, left to take up a new flying position in Melbourne, and now only the sad task remained of ferrying the F.M.S. aircraft—by now a modern twin-engined Beech Baron—to Adelaide for delivery to its new owners, the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Appropriately, it was to the evergreen Allan Chadwick, still the mainstay of the F.M.S. after thirty years, that the honour of making this final, nostalgic flight fell. Normally, a flight to Adelaide in the Baron would be made direct, the overwater crossing of the two Gulfs posing no problem to the high performance twin. But as the Chad-

wick's youngest daughter Helen was returning after holidays to her teaching post in Whyalla, Chaddy decided to fly via Whyalla so she could travel back with him. Three quarters of an hour after they had taken off from Ceduna, Helen drew his attention to the shimmering expanse of salt lake that lay across their path ahead. Picking up his map, Chaddy pointed out to his daughter the place where Lake Gillies was marked, mentioning that he had flown over this very spot on his first flight to Ceduna in the Fox Moth. It is typical of the man's humility that only then did the symbolism of this last flight dawn upon him. Here he was, making his last flight for the F.M.S., the exact reverse of the flight which began it all thirty years before. At the beginning he had flown this route in the first aircraft at 86 m.p.h. Now, in the last F.M.S. aircraft, he was flying it at 220 m.p.h. And now, as then, it was he that was making it possible as the Services' only pilot!

The ultimate destiny of all pioneering work is for it to become redundant as the frontiers of development and progress extend. The fulfilment of this destiny is the ultimate proof of the effectiveness of any pioneering effort. Allan Edward Chadwick can take satisfaction that the work to which he made such a unique contribution is finished.



Allan Chadwick operating the radio base at Ceduna.