

**\$2.50**

## “YES CERTAINLY”

B.C.A.'s new Confirmation Manual is selling well. The President of B.C.A. and Primate of the Australian Church, the Most Reverend Sir Marcus Loane, launched “Yes Certainly” at St. Andrew’s House on the 27th September with a generous commendation and hope that it would be found useful throughout the Australian Church. The Society wishes firstly to express appreciation to Dean Lance Shilton for undertaking to write the book in the midst of such a busy life. Our thanks go, too, to Miss Janet Wyatt of Canberra for editorial work, to the Reverend John Littleton of St. Mark’s Library, Canberra, to Canon Alan Langdon of the Board of Education, Sydney, and to the Reverend Kevin Engel of C.M.S. for much helpful advice and guidance in the preparation and publishing of the book.

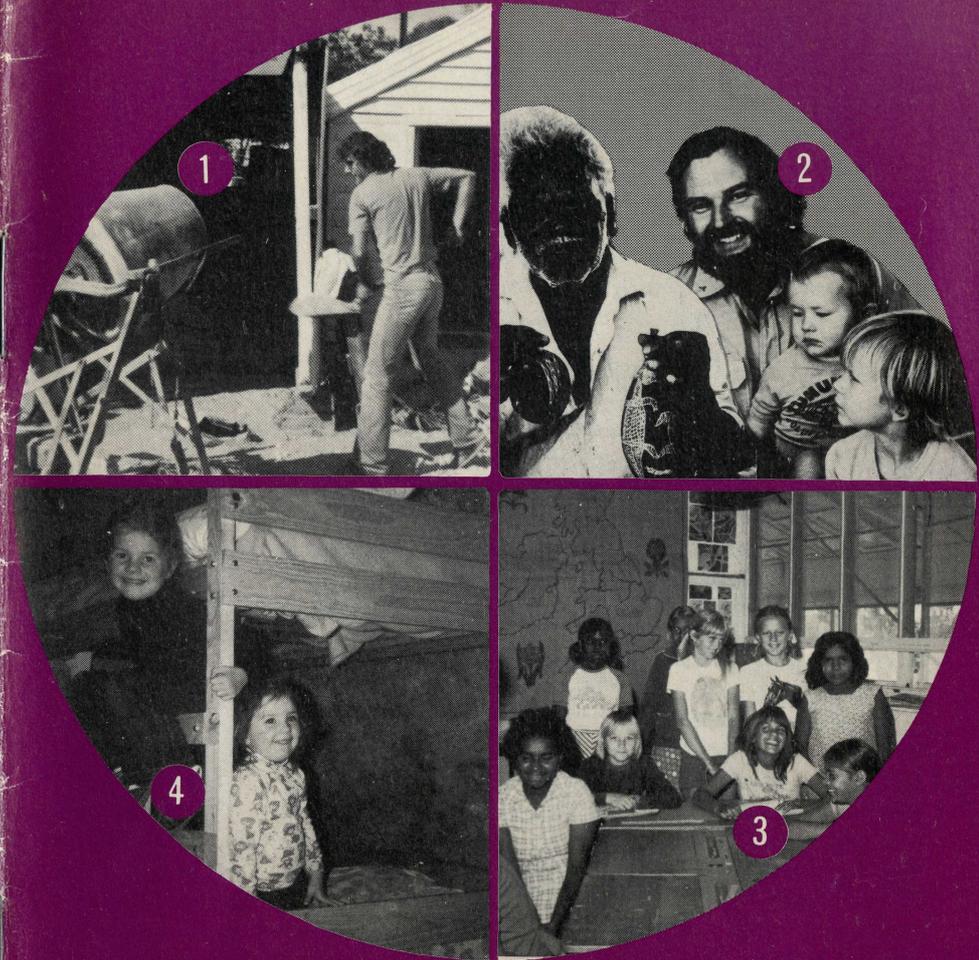
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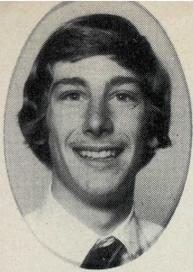
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# THE REAL AUSTRALIAN

**BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY**



# DISCOVERS BCA

by Michael Peterson

Before my trip to Wilcannia mid-way through 1979 I did not really have much of an idea of the work of the Bush Church Aid Society. My mother is a supporter and we received an invitation to attend the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the Society. So on the 25th May I attended and was challenged by the work of the Society. It opened my eyes to the work of the B.C.A.

With my holidays approaching my parents suggested that I might like to go and stay with one of the families working for the B.C.A. This presented me with an opportunity of seeing the work of God being carried out in a completely different atmosphere than the city. So we made some enquiries and I found myself on the train on my way to Wilcannia on the 25th June.

I enjoy travelling and this trip gave me the opportunity of seeing north-western N.S.W. But more importantly God was giving me the opportunity of seeing His work in Wilcannia and the surrounding 40,000 square miles.

Wilcannia. I don't know what that word means to you, but from what I had heard it was almost the end of the earth. Well, it wasn't as bad as that and when it came time to leave I was beginning to get the 'feel' of the town and enjoying being there.

I was very grateful to George and Hazel Fuhrmeister for their hospitality in letting me stay. They have a real ministry to the people there. Something that never ceases to amaze me is that wherever you go you run into Christians, and Wilcannia was no exception. Sometimes living in the city you lose sight of the work of God through the church in other parts of Australia. This trip awakened me to the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men and women who desire to serve Christ, wherever they might be. I had the privilege of attending a weekly Bible Study group which was an encouraging and uplifting time. It was great to be with people who have experienced God's grace in their lives and are seeking to serve Him daily.

I also had the opportunity of seeing another part of the ministry that George has there — visiting the stations. During the course of my stay I was able to accompany George on a trip to White Cliffs and Tibooburra. Along the way we called in at some of the stations. However, in any one trip the amount of people you get to visit is small compared to all the people in the area. The next time you see the people on any one station could be in six months, so the time you spend with them is valuable in getting to know them and seeking opportunities to be presenting the Gospel to them. This is perhaps the hardest part of working out there. There is a need to have more people so that one man doesn't have to cover 40,000 square miles by himself. But while there is still this need God continues to work. So we can thank God for who He is and for the work that He is doing through the church in places like Wilcannia.

# from the Federal Secretary

A branch of mulga or gum could be used at Christmas in some out-back homes or no tree at all. Maybe not much decoration in some homes. Yet there could be a large and homely spread, a party atmosphere for children, who would be sent outside to play while the adults talk.

Christmas will be a simple affair outback. There may be a few presents, not many toys, some new clothes and, for a change, dad will be home or the family will be with the neighbours miles away.

Worship? That may have been weeks ago when the B.C.A. missionary could fit it in. Or maybe, they would travel 200 kilometres or so to attend church on Christmas Day.

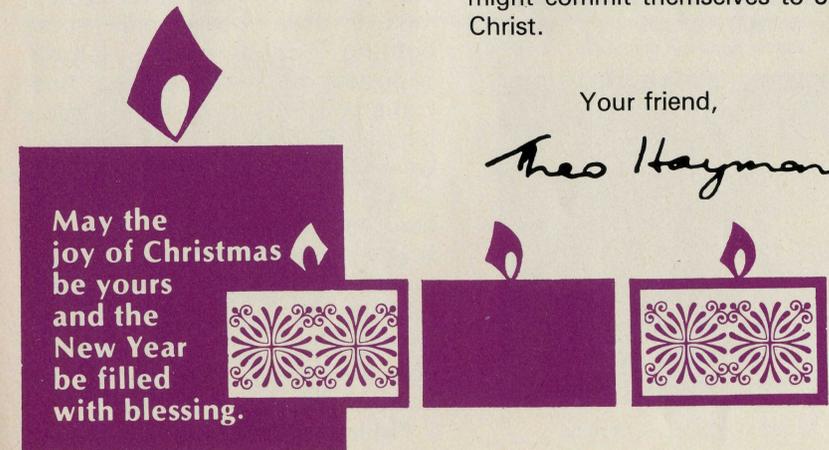
"Care for kids". What children in the outback lack that their city cousins have for Christmas, they don't miss. They readily accept the situation. But of prime importance, children everywhere, above all, should have an opportunity to be brought to our Lord Jesus Christ and to love Him.

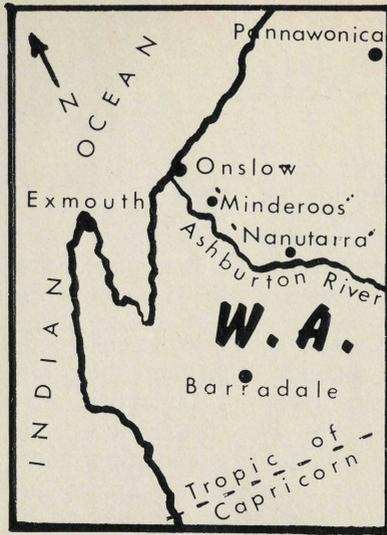
On this sixtieth year we remind ourselves that the theme of the Consecration sermon preached when the first Organising Missioner, S. J. Kirkby, became a Bishop, was the evangelisation of men and women, boys and girls.

We pray for this, we work for this, we give of ourselves and our talents that children and adults might commit themselves to Jesus Christ.

Your friend,

*Theo Hayman*





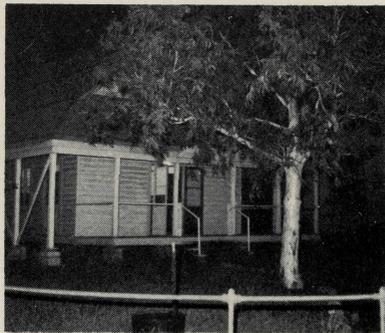
Map of the area

# 'BEYOND THE BLACK STUMP'

The Rev. Peter Mills: Exmouth



Ann and Neil Bates of "Nanutarra", youngest station owners in the parish.



St. Nicholas', Onslow, at night.

One of the main things about the parish of Exmouth/Ashburton is the contrast between the two main towns, Exmouth and Onslow, whereas Exmouth is primarily a military town, Onslow is a sleepy little hamlet seemingly forgotten by the rest of the world.

We have in Exmouth the Communications Station, a Solar Observatory, and two fisheries. It is a modern little town with street lighting, good roads, largely populated by American and Australian servicemen and their families. During the Foundation Day weekend we had R.A.A.F., R.A.N., C.M.F., U.S.A.F., and U.S.N. men here, so you can see that "military" is an appropriate description of the town. We had a church tent in the Lighthouse grounds at that weekend with some pictures and objects of interest from an historical point of view.

Fishing is the main industry at

Onslow. Exmouth can boast a population of about 3,000, Onslow only 300, two thirds of whom would be the Aboriginal people living on the Reserve at the edge of town. Although both towns have hospitals, there is a resident doctor in Exmouth only, the Onslow hospital being run by the Matron-in-Charge.

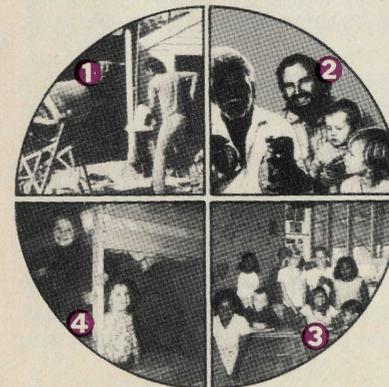
The Anglicans do not have a church building in Exmouth, we hold our services in the A.I.M. hall. There is a small weatherboard church in Onslow where a monthly service is held. At present I am the only clergyman of any denomination regularly visiting Onslow.

Both Exmouth and Onslow do have schools. Scripture is taught in both, in Onslow I have Grade 1 to Grade 7, whilst in Exmouth we have an Ecumenical Team covering Primary and Secondary classes. We have a combined Sunday School in Exmouth at A.I.M. and there has just commenced in Onslow a weekly meeting of the children, only 14 coming so far but it is a start.

The stations are all visited as often as possible, way off on gravel roads, through dust pans and spinifex etc., but it is worth it because they are usually pleased to see me and give me a warm welcome. The first baptism in the area was on the Forrest family property "Minderoos" Station in 1889 long before there was even a church in Onslow, the property remains in the hands of the Forrest family to this day.

One has to exercise care driving on the gravel. We have a new dentist at Exmouth who hit a 44 gallon drum placed there to warn of road subsidence, at about 100 kilometres per hour. His car was a "write off" but as he was being evacuated by helicopter to Onslow, having escaped serious injury, he had plenty of reason to give thanks to the Lord.

We shall shortly have a Confirmation and two baptisms on a station — this is most heartening. It does mean that people do think through some of the deeper issues of life and realise that Jesus Christ can be real to them if they commit themselves to Him even though they do live "beyond the black stump".



## COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Hard at work at Cook helping to renovate the Bishop S. J. Kirkby Memorial Hospital. See the full story in our next issue.
2. Farewell Oombulgurri. The Community Leader, Mr. Robert Roberts with the Reverend Royce Thompson, Rowan and Christina — see page 8.
3. At Onslow School scripture with some young ladies of Grade 7 posing.
4. Naomi and Rebecca Medway playing in their bedroom in the new underground Rectory at Coober Pedy — see page 6 ("Wombat Christianity").

# WOMBAT CHRISTIANITY

The Rev Kerry Medway: Coober Pedy

The encyclopaedia describes a wombat as an Australian marsupial that builds large underground tunnels in which to live.

For six months we have been experiencing the "wombat phenomena", of living underground. Our new Rectory, dug into the ground next to our underground Catacomb Church (opened June 1977, see "R.A." Sept. '77), is proving a great blessing.

With four bedrooms, a large kitchen and lounge area, pantry, underground bathroom, laundry, toilet and a large study/meeting room connecting the Rectory and the church, all this for just \$19,000.

Inside the temperature is ideal around 25C (77F), with only minor variations in summer or winter, whilst outside the temperature soars to 50C (120F) in the heat of summer, and drops to 10C (50F) in our desert winters. Who said wombats were dumb?

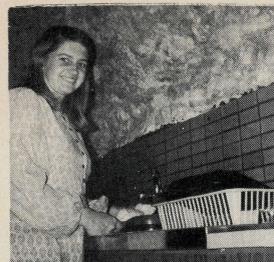
Coober Pedy is continuing to grow, with hundreds of people arriving in the past few months. Many out of work in the current economic recession, have arrived in a desperate attempt to find their fortunes.

Opal is still being found, with millions of dollars dug out of the new opal fields at Mintabie (approx. 350 km north of Coober Pedy). Early this year over \$160,000 in opal was found less than three kilometres from the town centre. But not all find fortunes, the majority of miners are struggling to survive and many have food bills owing at the local stores in excess of \$4,000.

In the midst of this harsh, colourful world, our small Catacomb Church community is blossoming. Eighty Christians from various countries, and church denominations, spend each Sunday morning in fellowship and praise of our Great God. Over 40 children and teens meet for Sunday School. God's love is in action, and thanks to B.C.A.'s support many are finding hope and spiritual happiness of far greater value than millions of dollars in opals.

The Catacomb Church's magazine, "Opal Chips", is fast becoming a town newspaper with 700 copies printed monthly and over 2,000 readers. This paper is proving a valuable means of presenting community news and of communicating God's love in this part of God's world. Many have expressed a renewed interest in Christianity and some have been drawn to our church through this paper.

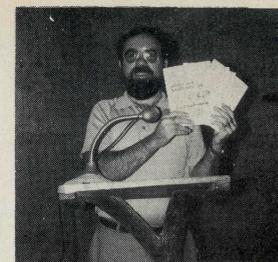
Recently this area received over 50 mm of rain, the best steady rain for years. The desert has sprung to life and is a lush carpet of green. Little winter desert flowers are starting to bloom. We pray that God will pour out His Spirit on the many lost and parched lives in this part of His world and renewal will blossom.



Julianne in her underground kitchen.



The Medway family.



Kerry advertises "Opal Chips" in church.

## STAFF MOVES \* From Derby, W.A.

Ron and Ann Robins and family will be moving at the end of the year right across the Continent. Ron has accepted the invitation of the Bishop of Grafton to be the Rector of the parish of the Lower Macleay (down river from Kempsey to the coast). B.C.A. is appreciative of the loyal and faithful service of the Robins in Zeehan (Tasmania) and Derby and wish them God's blessing in their new area of ministry.

### \* From Darwin, N.T.

We are losing at the end of the year Sister Patsy Dahl the Parish Worker at St. Peter's, Nightcliff from B.C.A. field staff when she returns to Sydney. She made a valuable contribution to the parish, especially in the training of people to better understanding of their Bibles and to communicate its truth, in teaching situations, to others.

### \* From Weipa, QLD.

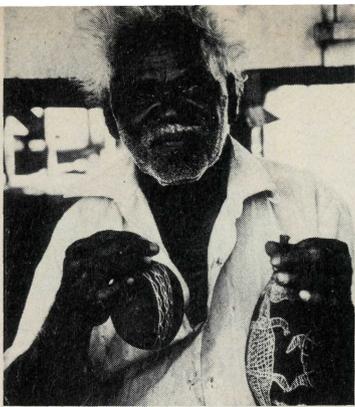
From the beginning of 1980 Malcolm Babbage will be serving as N.S.W Secretary (Youth) operating from Headquarters in Sydney. I am sure that the people of Weipa will miss the ministry of the Babbages, but it is hoped that it will be possible to appoint another B.C.A. Missioner to serve there in the very near future. Malcolm is particularly interested to have an opportunity to speak at youth house parties and young peoples fellowship teas within the parishes throughout the State.



### \* From the West Pilbara, W.A.

We are sorry to be losing from the field staff the Mansfields too. David, Helen and family are returning to Sydney Diocese where David will serve as the Assistant in the thriving parish of St. Luke's, Miranda. David's gifts of ministry among young people were especially appreciated in the North West. We wish him well in this his new sphere of work.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR REPLACEMENTS**



## A VERY PERSONAL

# FAREWELL TO OOMBULGURRI

Revd. Royce Thompson, Kununurra.

On Saturday, 29th September, 1979, St. Michael's Day, I went to Oombulgurri for their St. Michael's Day service. For almost three years I had met with members of the community to worship God and to hear Him guiding us through His Word.

In January 1914 "Djajah" (Father) E. R. Gribble had begun services in one end of an iron hut which had been built as a defensive fort and surrounded by a barbed wire entanglement.

The Mission and services under A.B.M. continued until March 1968 when the Forrest River Mission had to close and the people transported to Wyndham. After some years of struggle in Wyndham, Aboriginal leaders Robert Roberts and Leo Taylor began the work of bringing their people back to Oombulgurri — their homeland — not unlike a mini Exodus. In late 1972 the people returned aided by the Government and some members of the Ecumenical Institute later known as the Institute of Cultural Affairs. After an optimistic beginning the I.C.A. left on the 29th September, 1978, ironically St. Michael's Day.

The history of Oombulgurri has been one of hardship as an aboriginal people struggle to regain their homeland, struggle with alcohol, struggle to recover long forgotten skills and try to recover a badly battered self-respect.

In my three years of going to Oombulgurri, we have been through many things together. I value the time greatly for what the aboriginal people of Oombulgurri have allowed me to share with them and in what they have taught me.

Now the Aboriginal Advisory and Development Services (A.A.D.A.) have replaced the I.C.A. as consultants and things are again looking hopeful.

Today is both a happy day and a sad day. *Happy* because God has answered our prayers; now at long last Oombulgurri has again a Chaplain, the Reverend John Lovejoy, who will live amongst them, both at Oombulgurri and Wyndham.

*Sad* because today is my last visit. I have laughed with them, cried with them and struggled with them. I have baptised their children, visited them in hospital, seen them in prison, married them, been with some of them as they died — buried too many too young.

A highlight came earlier this year when the men and I went to a sacred meeting place and there they shared their law with me, sang me their songs and changed my title from Father to "Djajah".

I have brought my children with me. Long after I am gone there will remain part of my family who will have worshipped with the people of Oombulgurri and walked their land with them.

Who knows the future of Oombulgurri — the people must have their land, not only as a buffer against us but because it is part of them. As the land of Israel is to the Jews, so is the land to the aborigine — and when they find Christ that will be complete and fulfilled in their promised land.

Pray for John Lovejoy as he takes up the Cure of the Souls of the people of Oombulgurri and Wyndham. And praise God that through the support of B.C.A. there has been a faithful ministry for six years to these people that has brought them to this day.

Oombulgurri builds a new day! said the I.C.A. Pray that they build on Christ as the foundation. I believe they really need to if they are going to survive in a world that is all too easily hostile rather than helpful.

Farewell Oombulgurri — God bless you!

■ The Reverend Royce Thompson, B.C.A. Missioner at Kununurra continues to serve there ministering also to Hall's Creek and to the station property folk in that part of the Kimberleys. Sue and Royce Thompson are rejoicing in the birth of their third child and second daughter, Joanna Louise, born on the 4th of September in Kununurra.

### Ceduna gives thanks



Together after the service some people who are very much part of the B.C.A. story. (L. to R. Mrs. Patricia Charlton (nee Darby), Mrs. Julie Flavel (nee Zillman), Mrs. Doris Chadwick, Sister Pat Watts and the Reverend David Eastway.)

Present day Ceduna situated at the north west corner of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia is vastly different from the Ceduna of 1925 when B.C.A.'s ministry began there. Today Ceduna stands as a significant growth township (since 1972 the growth rate has been 43.8% and now the population is over 3,000) but Ceduna did not forget to mark with appreciation the 60th anniversary of the Bush Church Aid Society very conscious of B.C.A.'s ministry there in past days. The present Rector, the Reverend Ken Rogers, organised a very special occasion for church and community to give thanks to God.

# POST & RAILS



## "These Sixty Years"

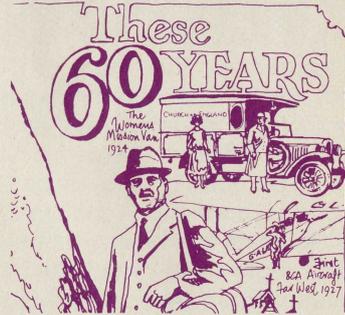
This will not be the title but it will be the scope of the book being written by Adelaide journalist, Miss Helen Caterer, telling in a popular way B.C.A.'s story from 1919 to the present day.

## A.F.S. becomes A.F.W.

B.C.A. Council has resolved that Associate Field Worker would be a more appropriate designation than Associate Field Staff for those people serving Christ in outback Australia meeting the conditions of field staff membership but for whom B.C.A. has no financial commitment. The pledge of the Society is to support these folk by active interest and prayer.

## Welcome help

We have been grateful to have the assistance of Barbara Bluett and Lynne Mitchell at Cook whilst the Anstees were on leave. Our thanks to Mrs. M. Ormsby for her help at Tarcoola whilst Sister Helen Plumb was at Port Augusta doing a special course, and also to Mrs. M. Weightman for some weeks assistance when Lynne McIver returned to Sydney.



## Melbourne's Southern Auxiliary

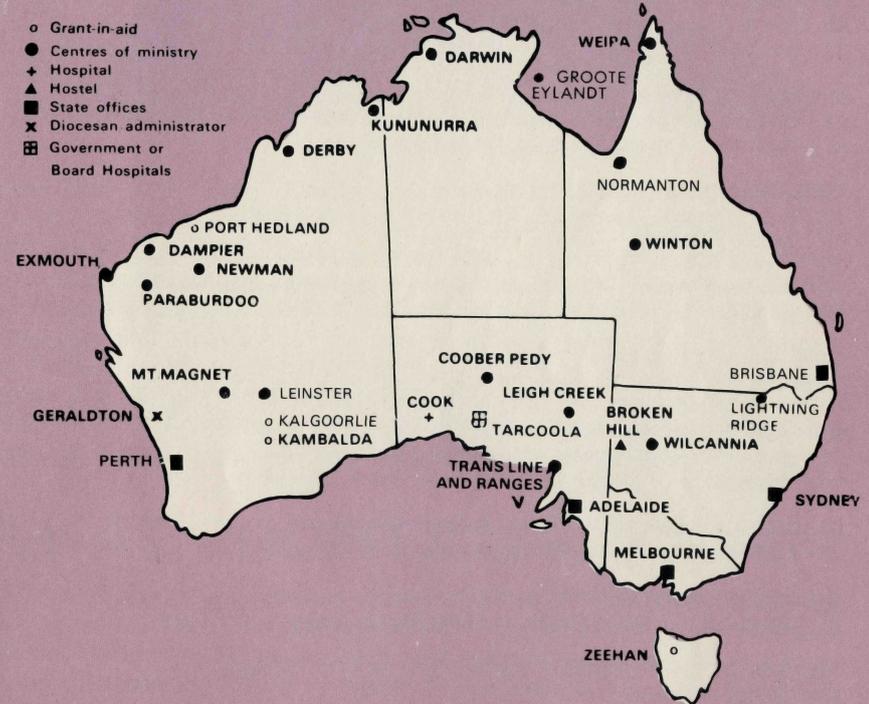
When this group met earlier this year for their 6th Annual Meeting in the Tate home at Elsternwick, the 22 people present gave thanks to God. Six years ago eight people attended the first meeting and during those years \$1,300 has been given toward the work of B.C.A. During his involvement in the Sydney Rally the Victorian Secretary met Mrs. Pat King who was one of the original eight members of the Southern Auxiliary. Her personal greeting from Armidale, N.S.W. was received with joy.

## \* Matters of Praise and Prayer

\* The Missioner at Newman, the Reverend Don Wilson, is having such success with his Youth Group there at present that he badly needs extra assistance with it.

# THE B.C.A. PRAYER

O Lord our God, help us to remember 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 for the young, the message of Your redeeming love may 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 You to bless ..... assure them of Your Presence, and call 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.



B.C.A.'s magazine programme on Sundays will now be on air at 5.21 p.m. Regular listeners in Sydney to this programme please note the change of time.

**DIOCESE OF NORTHERN TERRITORY.** The Rt. Revd. K. B. Mason.

- 1 Darwin — Miss Coryn O'Nians (Nungalinya College).
- 2 Grootte Eylandt — The Revd. Bruce and Mrs. Marcia Hansford.

**DIOCESE OF NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA.** The Rt. Revd. H. A. J. Witt.

- 3 Kununurra — The Revd. Royce and Mrs. Susan Thompson.
- 4 Derby — Vacant
- 5 Newman — The Revd. Don and Mrs. Libby Wilson.
- 6 Port Hedland — grant, The Revd. Peter Thompson.
- 7 Dampier — The Revd. Bill and Mrs. Jocelyn Ross.
- 8 Paraburdoo — The Revd. Tom and Mrs. Carol Williams — Locum Tenens.
- 9 Exmouth — The Revd. Peter and Mrs. Elizabeth Mills.
- 10 The Murchison — The Revd. Bill and Mrs. Joan Hoare.
- 11 Geraldton — Mr. Stan and Mrs. Dorrie Hummerston — Diocesan Administrator.

**DIOCESE OF PERTH.** The Most Revd. G. T. Sambell.

- 12 Kalgoorlie — grant. The Revd. Canon Frank Watts, The Revd. Dennis Reynolds.
- Kambalda — grant. The Revd. David Cockram.

**DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA.** The Rt. Revd. B. S. Rosier.

- 13 Cook Hospital — Nurses Mr. Keith and Mrs. Rhonda Anstee.
- 14 Tarcoola Hospital — Sister Helen Plumb.
- 15 Coober Pedy — The Revd. Kerry and Mrs. Julieanne Medway.
- 16 Mid-West Mission — The Revd. Robert and Mrs. Phyllis McEwin.
- 17 Leigh Creek — The Revd. Chris and Mrs. Marilyn Clerke.

**DIOCESE OF TASMANIA.** The Rt. Revd. R. E. Davies.

- 18 Zeehan — grant. The Revd. Roy Dixon.

**DIOCESE OF RIVERINA.** The Rt. Revd. B. R. Hunter.

- 19 Broken Hill Boys' Hostel — Mr. Ken and Mrs. Pam Young.
- 20 Wilcannia — The Revd. George and Mrs. Hazel Fuhrmeister.

**DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE.** The Rt. Revd. P. Chiswell.

- 21 Lightning Ridge — Captain Les and Mrs. Pat Fernance.

**DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON.** The Rt. Revd. J. B. R. Grindrod.

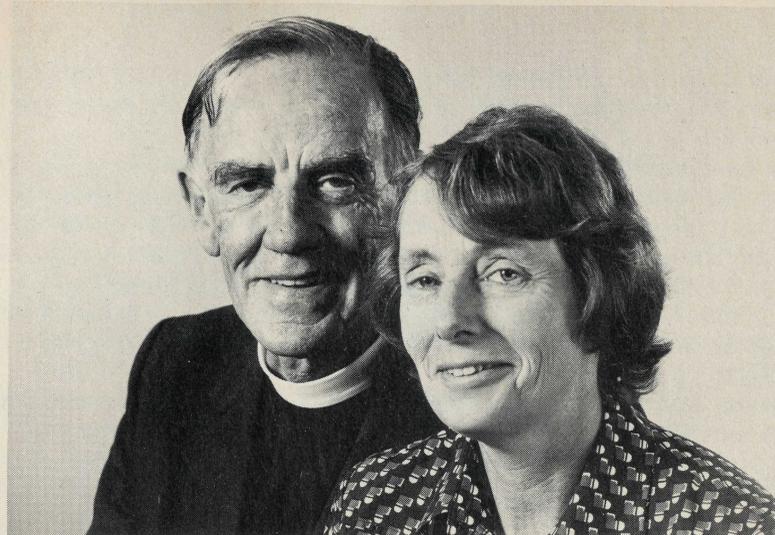
- 22 Winton — The Revd. Robert and Mrs. Rigmor George.

**DIOCESE OF CARPENTARIA.** The Rt. Revd. H. T. U. Jamieson.

- 23 Weipa — Vacant.
- 24 Normanton — The Revd. Jim and Mrs. Margaret Hudson, Miss Anne Watkins. (A.F.W.)

**GENERAL**

- 25 Federal Secretary. The Revd. Theo Hayman.  
N.S.W. The Revd. Wakely Wade, Eric Atkin, Miss Doris Smith, Mesdames Joy O'Neill, Dora Warwick and Nina Allan.
- 26 VICTORIA. The Revd. Ernest Horth, Miss Chris Craig.
- 27 QUEENSLAND. The Revd. R. W. Herbert (Hon. Secretary)
- WESTERN AUSTRALIA. The Revd. Gordon Thomas (Deputationist)
- 28 SOUTH AUSTRALIA. The Revd. David Eastway.
- 29 The President, The Most Revd. Sir Marcus Loane, Chairman, Dean Lance Shilton, Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Richard Stokes, The Council, State Committees.
- 30 Staff Replacements, Box Secretaries, B.C.A. Supporters.
- 31 National Home Mission Fund.



*The Ven. Archdeacon Randal and Mrs. Oenone Deasey.*

The Bishop of North West Australia, the Rt. Reverend Howell Witt, writes: "There has been no lack of wisdom and stability in Paraburdoo-Tom Price in recent months. It was good to have Archdeacon Randal Deasey serving there as locum tenens and we are most grateful to him for his significant contribution to the life of the diocese. His coming has proved once again that today's bush diocese can offer older experienced clergy a worthwhile, exciting and demanding challenge in their ministry." B.C.A. echoes the Bishop in his praise of Archdeacon Deasey's service in the parish of the South Pilbara, and thanks the parish of Essendon (Vic.) for sparing him for this six months of valued missionary service.

## WHAT PROFIT?

by Archdeacon Randal Deasey

Public attention has recently been drawn to the Pilbara by industrial disputes and confrontation between State Government and Union leaders over the rights of public assembly. Events such as these are only to be expected, because the Pilbara in many ways is new, a centre for the great mining developments since the 1960s, which now contribute over 40% to the value of all Australian exports. Our pattern of living is new, and we have our own particular difficulties, including our distance from anywhere else. It affects the cost of living, for instance, exaggerated by lack of competition and heavy freight charges. The social set-up differs from most "ordinary" Australian country towns: there are very few old people, for instance, and no male unemployment. But distance, the "Tyranny of Distance" is the predominant feature of the North West to any newcomer.

When you stand at the top of the hill at the Paraburdoo mine, and look south, there is nothing for 250 miles but low scrub — no house, no hotel,

not even a shed — until you come to Meekatharra. We are only half way up Western Australia, but as far from Perth as Newcastle from Melbourne, or Broken Hill from Sydney.

Life here is affected in many ways by our distance from anywhere else. On the one hand there is the spectacular scenery, and the closeness of the bush. Exploration in four-wheel drive vehicles and family camping are popular. The old bush customs of hospitality still apply, and when sporting teams or school children visit other towns there is a long journey by road or air and then they are "billeted" in homes at the other end. In the same way, if you stop at the side of the road, a passing car will always check to see if you are all right.

But the feeling of distance has its drawbacks. The families who come here frequently feel isolated. A sociological report defined the feeling as "an inability to get away from it all". It is accentuated by the fact that only about 25% of the people come from Western Australia — the remainder even further from other states and overseas. Secondary school children are often sent elsewhere to board, for their schooling, and there is an absence of grand-parents. This all has its effect, principally on the housewife, and it is one of the reasons why the average length of stay is only three to five years.

The question of what gives meaning to life, therefore, is thrown into sharp relief here by "an inability to get away from it all". There is good housing, colour T.V., sport of all kinds, good working conditions. It should be enough to make everyone happy, but still there is restlessness, undefined dissatisfaction.

The church exists to answer this question of what gives meaning to life, as Jesus answered it long ago. "What shall it profit a man. . . .", "I am come that they may have life". In Paraburdoo we meet in the Kindergarten on Sundays: first removing, then replacing, toys, dolls' houses, chairs and other things. There is a good Rectory, still being paid off by the church. Some 85 km away we meet in a new church and community centre every Sunday at Tom Price. We use the centre in co-operation with the Uniting Church, and it too is still to be paid off. Once a month there is a visit to Wittenoom, once a busy asbestos centre and now a ghost town.

Religious Instruction is taken at the High Schools in Paraburdoo and Tom Price, and at four Primary Schools. Bible classes are held weekly at both centres.

To support this work there is a small congregation at both centres. They give regularly, many on the Biblical basis of the tithe, and a stewardship campaign is conducted every two years by Mr. Stan Hummerston, our Diocesan Administrator. The people have taken an increasing share of the expenses, but there is a long way to go before we are self-supporting, and expenses continue to rise as everywhere.

The tyranny of distance throws a financial shadow too. Every time the Rector travels to Tom Price, which he does at least twice a week, it costs \$10 in petrol alone. A visit to Wittenoom (every month) costs some \$25.

Good tyres are important on the Pilbara roads and vulnerable. Last week two had to be replaced, total expense of \$120.

We had a conference recently of the clergy serving in the North West. They are of different ages and backgrounds, vigorous, confident and convinced of the importance of the job they are doing. One man told me his parish was twice the size of Victoria! It is a vital place to be, at the heart of the great mining and other developments which contribute so much to Australia's present prosperity. It may well be a pattern for the new Australia — a land of good wages, good conditions, good housing, everything an Australian is supposed to want. And with all these material things an undefined dissatisfaction; "What shall it profit a man. . . ." Here too is very much a place for the Church at mission in the 1980s.



1980

Two "Go . . . . see for yourself" Tours

- ★ Central Australian Tour — 18 day — Dep. Sydney 25th May visiting B.C.A. Centres of Winton, Coober Pedy, Tarcoola, Port Augusta, Broken Hill, Wilcannia, as well as other centres such as Rockhampton, Mount Isa, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock. Be quick with your booking, this coach is already half full.
- ★ Adelaide and Flinders Ranges Tour — 15 day — Dep. Sydney 23rd September. This is similar to the original "Go. . . . see for yourself" Tour so popular in previous years.

For details and bookings: Mrs. Joy O'Neill, B.C.A. House, 135 Bathurst Street, Sydney, 2000. Phone (02) 26-3164.

## Close Encounters of the BOVINE KIND



Anyone who has driven on Western Queensland roads will appreciate these two incidents about our B.C.A. Missioner at Winton, the Reverend Bob George. Bob wrote: "I did not see the beast in the dark until about ten feet away. It rolled on top of the bonnet and was carried further. At this stage we were looking at each other through the windscreen!" \$2,000 worth of insurance work on the vehicle the result. But Bob gives thanks to God that he didn't swerve when he examined the side of the road afterwards, he would certainly have turned the vehicle over. So it's a month in Winton with only a push-bike for transport. Bob doesn't quite fancy the 400 kilometre ride to Boulia!

Earlier this year on his way to a clergy gathering, Bob, to avoid a collision on a bush road had to drive through the carcass of a dead bullock. Despite every effort he gained the reputation of being quite a "high" churchman.