

### "The Gospel in Australia" — A Conference in August

B.C.A.'s role in communicating the Gospel to industrial mining towns, to Aboriginal communities, and to the vast pastoral areas of the outback means that it encompasses the major groups within Australian society. A conference for youth and young couples is planned for the weekend of August 15 to 17 this year at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre (56 kms south of Sydney).

THE REVEREND MURDO McDONALD from the University of Glasgow, and Mal Garvin, well-known broadcaster and worker with young people, will be the key speakers.

Professor McDonald is a world renowned preacher, broadcaster, scholar, and author. His publications include, "The Vitality of Faith", "The Need to Believe", and "The Call to Communicate". Possessed of great personal charm, a keen sense of humour and often hilarious, he is a vivid, exciting and powerful speaker.

MAL GARVIN'S radio ministry has become so popular that it now demands a large portion of his time. Having been involved with outreach to young people through the Coffee House and Community Movement, he is a man who has come to grips with having to communicate the Gospel to the very roots of Australian society. His acceptance as a radio broadcaster has confirmed that not only can he talk about it, but he can do it.

At the time of going to press there are a few vacancies for this conference. Please contact the Rev. Malcolm Babbage.

## State Office Directory . . .

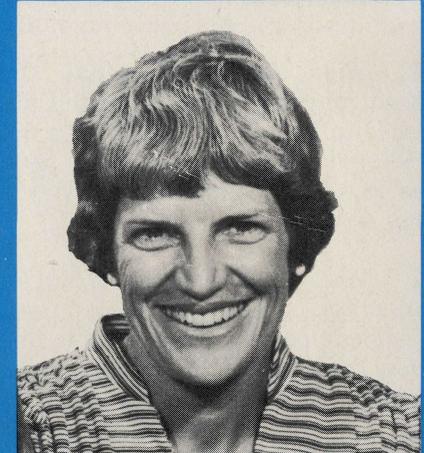
Federal Secretary — The Revd. T. J. Hayman.  
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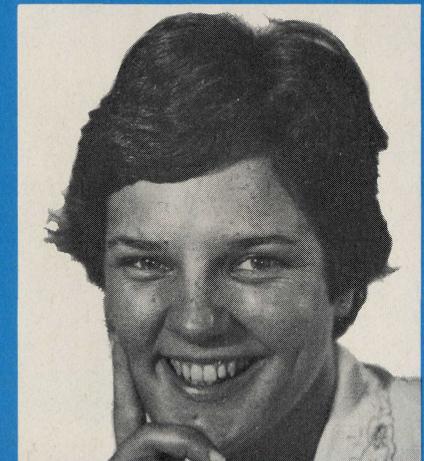
*Patron* — The Most Reverend Sir Frank Woods.  
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\* Sydney Office phone numbers will change in August to (02) 264 3164, 264 3780.

# THE REAL AUSTRALIAN



WOMEN OF B.C.A.



## BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY



## WOMEN OF B.C.A.

Perhaps the front cover photographs should have been entitled "Some of the Women of B.C.A.". Pictured are just those who have articles in this issue of "The Real Australian". The prompting to devote one issue to featuring the stories from women in B.C.A. field staff came from some supporters of the Society in the Parish of Scone, N.S.W. The editor was asked whilst visiting there on deputation, "When are you going to have another 'Real Australian' written by the B.C.A. women folk?"

1. **Miss Anne Watkins:** Director of Carpentaria Pre-School Kindergarten, Normanton, Nth Qld. Anne, who is English, offered her services to B.C.A. as a result of a deputation of the Federal Secretary, the Reverend Theo Hayman, to her parish in Hobart, Tasmania. She has served as an A.F.W. (Associate Field Worker) since January 1979. See page 14 for her article.

2. **Mrs. Jocelyn Ross,** of the Parish of the West Pilbara, North West Australia. Jocelyn, a trained teacher, was teaching deaf children in Canberra before her marriage to the Reverend Bill Ross. She is presently a very busy person, housewife, mother of four, leader of the women's work within this scattered and growing parish. The Ross' have been with B.C.A. for 10 years, serving in Kununurra for 3 years and Dampier 7 years. Jocelyn reports on page 12.

3. **Mrs. Dorrie Hummerston,** of Geraldton, North West Australia. Dorrie tells her story graphically on pages 4, 5

4. **Sister Louise Howard,** of Tarcoola Hospital, South Australia. Louise is a very new member of B.C.A.'s field staff having started at this remote hospital on the Trans Australian Railway Line in January. She describes some of her first impressions on the opposite page.

### *Other important features in this issue:*

- Something really new — Youth Initiatives page 15
- Field News — Comings, Goings and . . . page 5  
New Staff page 10
- Our Chairman writes about the Reverend Theo Hayman's resignation as Federal Secretary. page 7

## LINE UP OF TARCOOLA

Sister Louise Howard

Yes, the Northern Line is now a permanent fixture branching from Tarcoola to just over the S.A.-N.T. border. Other railway towns may fade out of the picture once concrete re-sleepering is completed but Tarcoola will stay as "The Junction" spot of the East-West and North-South Lines. Although petticoats are not often seen at this Junction and white hospital uniforms are only seen fortnightly, the hospital work continues. Many may think "if you're crook go to Cook", but as the recent women's magazine quoted, "Don't let them fool ya' come to Tarcoola!"

The Tarcoola District Hospital is officially a Board Hospital, local station managers and townfolk being the members. B.C.A. remains responsible for staffing and at present the supply is meeting the demand. Other supplies to Tarcoola still come by rail, an Ausrail store providing the groceries, the 'Tea and Sugar' train bringing the weekly meat order.

Hospital work at present involves two clinic sessions daily but most people seem to come at any time other than those designated, the result . . . a 24 hour on call system (fortunately most people sicken only during waking hours to bed time!). The Royal Flying Doctor Service now holds fortnightly clinics at the hospital and a dental service is provided monthly. Apart from these services, treatment is virtually done by the resident Sisters.

Other lines of work attempted (with a mixture of fear and trepidation; a handful of energy; a dash of enthusiasm; and a great deal of prayer support) are the weekly children's Clubs, Sunday School and Ladies' Bible Study Group, and the fortnightly Ladies' Nights and Children's Play-group. These give us many opportunities to speak about Christ and to try and point the locals on to the right track in life. Christian fellowship is a real privilege in this somewhat isolated spot, church meetings are held as often as Rob McEwin passes through, either by rail or car, therefore other opportunities for assisting in our journey with Christ are much appreciated. As Rob McEwin said in his last sermon to us. . . . "We are here to serve, we must be ready to heed God's call, and if in some way God can use us to call others to Him, we too must be ready to assist so that they too may be able to travel in the right direction in life and board The Train before it is too late."





## REFLECTIONS ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Mrs. Dorrie Hummerston

Appearances change — over the twenty-two years we have served in B.C.A. Stan's and mine have. Our shadows wider, lines deeper, hair greyer (and thinner!), but the Lord has also made us wiser and more spiritually mature and is ever presenting new challenges and opportunities of service as we continue to walk with Him.

Twenty-two years ago Stan and I went to Port Lincoln where, with Miss Dorothy Duver's support, we acted as Warden and Matron of the B.C.A. Girls' Hostel there, and what joy we had in seeing many of the girls accept Christ as Saviour and Lord. Of course it wasn't all sunshine, there were clouds too. If you have a couple of teenagers in your family, multiply your troubles by twelve, and a few more, and you'll understand what I mean.

Our four years with the Society's Flying Medical Service in Ceduna involved us in many dramatic and sometimes tragic incidents, however, there were some lighter moments one of which I'll share with you:

The rear entrance to the Ceduna airfield, the one used by F.M.S. staff, was a little tricky to negotiate. If I remember rightly when driving along the dirt track one came to a sharp bend, a rickety bridge and a narrow gateway, all in quick succession. One B.C.A. Nursing Sister left us speechless when she explained why she had no trouble with this section of the track — "I just put my foot down and close my eyes," she announced.

Now we serve in Western Australia. As Administrator of the Diocese of the North West Stan's work is not confined to figures, assessments and insurances. The Lord has used him to minister to clergy and to business men, to lead Bible Studies in several different parishes, to take services and to speak at youth camps. In a recent Commitment Programme in Port Hedland Stan, together with the Rector of the parish, visited sixty families presenting them with our Lord's own challenge — "But who do you say that I am?" There must have been great rejoicing in heaven over the results of that programme!

My own activities are similar to those of many other Christian women. I teach Scripture, visit the hospital, I am a keen member of the Mothers' Union and the Christian Women's Convention Committee, and church organist.

We have always taken seriously the Bible's instruction to be hospitable and have found that as we have opened our home for the Lord to use he has blessed us abundantly. We always invite our guests to share in our family devotions which we usually have after our evening meal which has led some to commence family devotions in their own homes, while others have been challenged to examine their relationship to the Lord.

Over the last eighteen months morning tea parties in our home have been a means of reaching a number of women with the "Good News", two of whom have committed their lives to Christ.

In our Cathedral parish a revival is taking place. Some who believed themselves to be in a spiritual rut are discovering new inspiration and joy in the study of God's Word, are finding a genuine love for people, and are experiencing the strength and unifying power of the Holy Spirit as they learn to pray with their brothers and sisters in Christ. Lives are being changed! Stan and I are grateful to be part of this change and you who pray for us are part of that change also.

Will you persist in your prayers to our loving Heavenly Father who longs to meet all our needs?

"Brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord may speed on and triumph as it did among you." (2 Thess. 3:1)

## Comings, Goings and . . .

★ *The Parish of Port Hedland in North West Australia suffered from a series of cyclones this year, the centres of Goldsworthy, Shey Gap, as well as Port Hedland being badly hit. The Rectory at Hedland was unroofed and the Rectory family lost many irreplaceable personal things such as photograph albums. Hedland parish and its Rector, the Reverend Peter Thompson, give grateful thanks to God for the presence and work in the post-cyclone period of the Reverend Barry Schofield from Picton, N.S.W., in that parish. Barry came across at short notice from the east to help out in the situation. Thanks must go to his wife and home parish for sparing him for those invaluable six weeks and the National Fund in meeting the travelling costs.*

★ *The husband and wife nursing team, Keith and Rhonda Anstee at the S. J. Kirkby Memorial Hospital at Cook, have had to resign. Rhonda is expecting an infant and owing to medical complications needs to be under specialist care. We have greatly valued their service and wish them well, especially Rhonda at this time.*

★ *Although Les and Pat Fernance resigned from the Church Army, at the Bishop's invitation Les is to continue at Lightning Ridge as B.C.A. is happy to continue to support the Fernances in this demanding ministry.*

★ *Port Lincoln Hostel reunion is on 15th June at Port Lincoln. Please contact Mrs. I. Dodd, Private Bag, Yeelanna, S.A.*

# Miss Rose Campbell— a Tribute

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

Those words, addressed by Paul to Timothy, apply equally to Rose Campbell. Not that she would make such a claim herself, but those of us who knew her and worked with her know that they eloquently describe her life.

I met her first when I joined B.C.A. over forty years ago and came to know her well when she came to Streaky Bay in 1941. She was on tour, an ardent, determined missionary, visiting and teaching members of the Mail Bag Sunday School. Rose travelled alone, independent as always, with her own camping gear, constantly looking for children in the spirit of the Good Shepherd looking for the lost sheep. No distance was too far, no road too rough, no expense too much to deter her in her search for children to teach.

Her preparation of the lessons, the teachers she led and inspired, the manifold problems associated with printing, especially in war time, and countless other problems were all undertaken with a remarkable degree of intelligence, cheerfulness and untiring far sighted devotion which never faltered.

Rose Campbell was a joyous, happy person who revelled in her life and work. She was a joy to travel with for I have particularly happy memories of travelling with her more than once on B.C.A. activities.

Her interest in the children was not limited to teaching for she became a counsellor and guide to many outback families assisting with all kinds of problems from personal matters to arranging holidays and shopping for those far from such facilities.

Rose was a great soul, of great courage, great integrity, great devotion because she had a great faith in a great God.

Rose Campbell loved her Lord and committed herself to Him because she realised that He loved her and gave Himself for her — on the Cross. Of this she had a deep earnest conviction. Her's was a confident faith. She was sure of her Lord even in the most trying experiences of her illness. She knew whom she believed. The Cross of Christ, that Cross of Love, Sacrifice and Service, marked the whole of her life and activity.

Now she shares with Him the Crown of Glory, and so shall we as we follow her splendid example of complete dedication to her Lord.

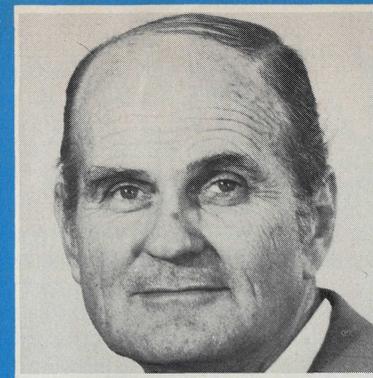
Revd. David Livingstone: Former N.S.W. Secretary of B.C.A.

## New Audio Visual

*"Scars are Healed"* is the title of a new audio visual based on the work of B.C.A. in Weipa. The audio visual touches upon the work of communicating the Gospel both to Aborigines and to residents of the many now booming mining towns.

## "Instant Australia"

A small pamphlet illustrating the work in various parts of Australia is being produced by B.C.A. on a regular basis suitable for including in weekly news bulletins or for putting on book stalls or other locations where handouts can be taken.



The Rev. Theo. Hayman

## From our Council Chairman

*After nine years of outstanding service to the Church in Australia, the Reverend Theo Hayman will resign as Federal Secretary of the Bush Church Aid at the end of October.*

*Theo Hayman has been a member of the B.C.A. family over many years, having served at Streaky Bay from 1947 to 1950 and at Ceduna from 1950 to 1957. He was the Representative of the Society in South Australia while Rector of St. Matthew's, Kensington, from 1960 to 1966, after which he became Rector of St. Paul's, West Tamworth, and was elected Canon of St. Peter's Cathedral in 1968. In 1971 he was appointed Federal Secretary of the B.C.A., one of the most responsible positions in the Anglican Church in Australia.*

*Mr. Hayman has always given unstinted service to the Church. He has travelled the length and breadth of Australia, encouraging B.C.A.*

*personnel, promoting goodwill with the Dioceses and stimulating the pioneering work of the Church in remote and yet strategic areas.*

*His emphasis upon prayer has strengthened the faith of all who have worked with him. Coincidences have taken on new spiritual meaning because God has been in them. The Society has moved from strength to strength.*

*The Australian Church as a whole is grateful to him for his energetic promotion of the National Home Mission Fund which has brought new initiatives in ministry and mission.*

*I am confident that I express on behalf of a great number in the Australian Church our gratitude for inspiring leadership, pastoral care and an evangelistic concern which have been so characteristic of the service of Theo Hayman.*

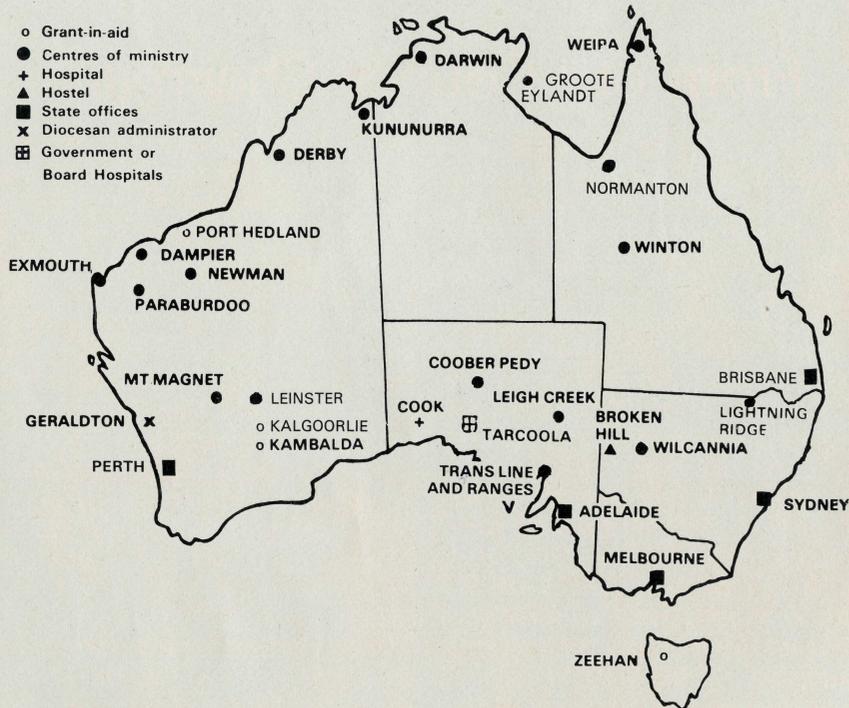
*We pray that God will continue to bless his ministry in a new challenging opportunity.*

*Rene A. Shilton*

# THE B.C.A. PRAYER

O Lord our God, help us to remember the people 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, and call others to stand with them in the task. 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.

- Grant-in-aid
- Centres of ministry
- + Hospital
- ▲ Hostel
- State offices
- x Diocesan administrator
- ⊞ Government or Board Hospitals



O God, we remember before You those whom You have called to Your service. We ask You to Bless . . . . ., and assure them of Your Presence. Grant to them, as to us, the joy of service, the ability to achieve, and the serenity of Your peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

# A DAILY PRAYER



**DIocese of Northern Territory.** The Rt. Revd. K. B. Mason.

- 1 Darwin — Sister Pauline Clements (Nightcliff). Vacant (Nungalinga College).
- 2 Groote 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 — The Revd. Peter and Mrs. Betty Mills.
- 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, The Revd. Tom and Mrs. Carol Williams (Wickham).
- 8 Paraburdoo — The Revd. Adrian and Mrs. Willemien Moore.
- 9 Exmouth — The Revd. Ken and Mrs. Madge Prentice.
- 10 The Murchison — Vacant.
- 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. S. B. Rosier.

- 13 Cook Hospital — Mr. Jock and Mrs. Marjorie (Sister) Dickson.
- 14 Tarcoola Hospital — Sisters Helen Plumb and Louise Howard.
- 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 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 — Les and Mrs. Pat Fernance.

**DIocese of Rockhampton.** The Rt. Revd. J. B. R. Grindrod.

- 22 Winton — The Revd. Robert and Mrs. Rigmor George.
- 23 Gladstone — The Revd. Clyde and Mrs. Janice Andrews, Blackwater — Grant.

**DIocese of Carpentaria.** The Rt. Revd. H. T. U. Jamieson.

- 24 Weipa — The Revd. Lex and Mrs. Rhonda Carey.
- 25 Normanton — The Revd. Jim and Mrs. Margaret Hudson, Miss Anne Watkins. (A.F.W.)

**GENERAL**

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



The Reverend Clyde and Mrs. Janice Andrews

The Andrews have been accepted by the Society to exercise a pastoral ministry in the outer areas of the fast expanding industrial centre of Gladstone, Queensland. Clyde has served for many years as a Missionary teacher with the South Seas Evangelical Mission in the Solomons, then more recently has worked in the Capricorn Advanced Education Centre of the Anglican Diocese of Rockhampton. Jan has two children of a former marriage, Wendy, soon to be married, and Murray just finishing high school. After the death of her first husband Jan did twelve months in Deaconess House, Sydney, to fit herself for whatever service for the Lord might lay ahead. Church leaders in Rockhampton speak very warmly of Jan's obvious spiritual gifts of ministry. Both Clyde and Jan were blessed as young people in the Parish of St. Alban's, Belmore.

THE B.C.A. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY  
invites you to attend the

## Annual Flair

to be held in the  
Chapter House of St. Andrew's Cathedral  
George Street, Sydney

FRIDAY, JULY 18th  
from 10.00 a.m.

**Features:**

Great variety of Stalls — everything from produce to potholders.  
Revive your drooping spirits at the TEA and COFFEE BAR.  
Refreshments — Hot Luncheon \$2.00.  
Sandwiches with sweet \$1.20.

*Don't miss the B.C.A. Audio Visuals*

# POST & RAILS

## Bishopscourt invaded

On Thursday 20th March, four hundred people attended a "Morning Coffee at Bishopscourt" by the very kind invitation of Archbishop and Mrs. R. W. Dann. It was a beautiful day and those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The invitation was extended to all B.C.A. supporters and friends in Melbourne. B.C.A. Central Women's Auxiliary, assisted by the Pakenham Auxiliary, were responsible for the arrangements on the day. Cooking for 400 people was a sizeable task for an Auxiliary of approximately twenty members.

Mrs. Dann opened nine rooms of Bishopscourt for inspection. In each room a member of the Central Auxiliary explained the history and contents of the room from a prepared script provided by Mrs. Dann.

Morning Tea was enjoyed in the gardens of Bishopscourt and people were able to inspect the vast grounds, even the Archbishop's vegetable garden.

A wonderful morning. Our thanks to Archbishop and Mrs. Dann for making it possible.

Donations received and proceeds from goods sold on a stall amounted to just over \$1,000.00.

## Make it a B.C.A. Weekend

Start thinking now about House Parties for 1981. House Party bookings for B.C.A.'s Youth Secretary, Malcolm Babbage, have been heavy and his ministry well received during 1980. The calendar for this year is already full and organisations desiring to have a B.C.A. speaker for a House Party in 1981 should start to think now.

## They now have their wings

The Reverend Bob George, Missioner at Winton, Qld., and the Reverend Royce Thompson of Kununurra, have earlier this year qualified for their pilot's licences. They are grateful to those who helped make it possible for them.

## Remember we had a dilemma

The editor thanks those who took the trouble to write and make helpful suggestions about this problem. It seems there's no easy answer unless we increase the size of "The Real Australian" and especially the Prayer Calendar and map pages. This month as a feature we have made those vital pages the middle spread as the result of one member's thoughtful prompting.

- Lately a visitor to Cook Hospital was interested to see the dentist's room, a memorial to Mrs. Clare Cameron. Her widower, Canon Ernest Cameron, formerly B.C.A. Chairman, has recently moved to Nuffield Village, Castle Hill, from the Parish of Dee Why.

- It was great to have over fifty enthusiastic B.C.A. supporters from the Mowll and Nuffield Villages at the Sydney Rally on April 18th.

- From the Federal Secretary's Staff Letter in January, 1980, this little paragraph — "A child in a Sunday School was puzzled why the teacher should finish each class by saying 'we will now join in the prairie tortoise'. She pictured this immense creature with its shell, head, tail and legs. And wondered what connection it could ever have with the Lord's Prayer!"

## "HAND IT OVER"



Jocelyn Ross — Dampier, W.A.

"Seems to me," said the social worker to my friend, "that you are talking about doing what God wants you to do, but all the time you are doing what you want. What does that leave for God to do?"

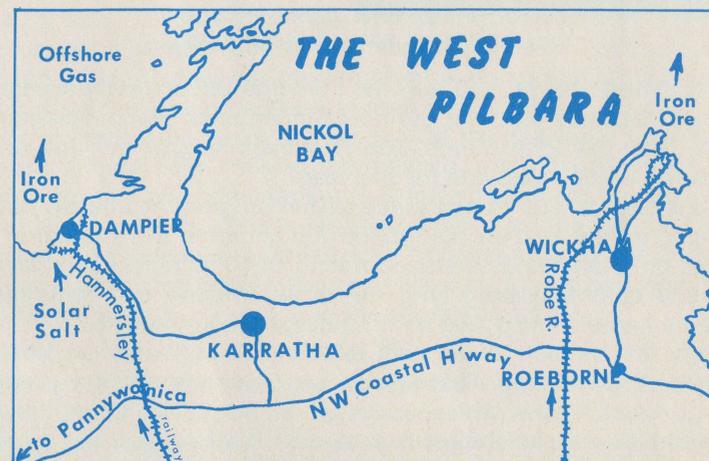
My friend and I were discussing this and to our minds came the phrase — "hand it over to God" — and my friend and I stood amazed as we saw Him work. He closed her lips over a whole weekend so that she could only listen to her husband as he poured out his anger, his outrage and his hurt. Never before had she been able to sit and listen . . . and that was all her husband wanted and needed, then, no interruption, no advising, no interjections.

"Hand it over" — another friend had learned to stand by and support her husband more. At Christmas she listened with amazement as she heard him say, "My wife stood by me all the time" . . . it was all he needed. She had handed over situations to God and seen Him work.

"Hand it over" — daily I have seen miracles this year. Going to school each day I try to pray for all the families in our little church group in Dampier, and particularly try to feel as I do so that I am handing them to Jesus each day. Some of them have had bigger than usual problems and I call on one or two friends, or pass them on to the convenor of our prayer chain.

Either way as we "hand" people or problems to Jesus, he has acted — time and again. The little church group in Dampier has been given three, no four, new Christians to nurture, and we think it started from the time early last year when the group decided to commit themselves to praying for each other every day if possible. I know that I have fallen down often on that commitment but God must still work despite our infrequencies, as we "hand it over".

To our astonishment Bill and I realised that we have been in the far North and North West of W.A. for ten years — they have gone quickly — and we have loved most minutes of all that time. At all times the sense that the B.C.A. family has been praying for us has been quite real. As we have turned to Jesus, as we have handed things over to Him we have had that sense of being loved and cared, even though there are so many of you that we do not know.



Our towns, Dampier — 3,000; Karratha — 6,000; Roebourne — 2,000; Wickham — 3,000 and Pannawonica — 1,000, where Bill has been ministering to people, are mostly like suburbia, only 1,600 kms from Perth and up to 15, 50 or 170 kms apart. There is all that we need in the shops here, maybe not ALL that we DESIRE; at a price that would be similar to the corner shops in Perth, rather than the big competitive supermarkets; we have day-care centres, kindergartens, pre-primary centres (equivalent to the kindergarten at the Infant school in N.S.W.) — lovely new, well-equipped schools, with class numbers in the high 20s or low 30s; all sports are available; a very good high school, and looking to a second one being established at Wickham; lots of technical classes using talents of many men and women living in this area.

Our new Bank Manager said "It's different here . . . people don't expect things to be done yesterday!" As we have waited for our purchases to be brought up from Perth, as we have lost them and had to chase them by letter or phone, I guess that is a lesson we have learnt. Tom and Carol Williams now oversee Wickham, Roebourne and Pannawonica leaving Karratha and Dampier as Bill's responsibility. Less travelling time brings more opportunities to visit and meet and minister to people, as he "hands over" his day and trusts Our Lord to use him in the right place at the right time. We thank you all for sending us out and supporting us in the Parish of the West Pilbara.



## Carpentaria KINDER Goes 'Bush'

Anne Watkins (A.F.W.), Normanton, Qld.

I begin writing this at 5.30 a.m. as I emerge rather bleary-eyed after a Friday night birthday party for our new Kindergarten Junior Assistant.

Today, Saturday 29th March, sees the beginning of our first monthly Kindergarten Station sessions for the year.

This extension to our normal Kindergarten programme I began last June after seeing a little Station boy attend Kindergarten in Normanton while Mum was on a shopping spree and noting the difficulties he experienced playing and communicating with the other children and how little experience he had obviously had with Kindergarten equipment.

Our very first session began with ten children at Wondoola Station 80 miles south of Normanton. That session was made memorable by the killing of a large black snake which appeared in our midst during the after kindergarten leisurely lunch time chat session. My new gun was thrust into bush life and so, I think from that point, was I.

My little Suzuki four-wheel drive and I were reunited only a short while before this and have been inseparable ever since.

This extension to the normal Kindergarten programme is really a pleasure to me as I enjoy driving and thoroughly enjoy the experience of staying on the various stations as I am invariably invited to go out on a Friday night.

Our new Junior Assistant has shown some interest in this field of work also and is to accompany me today on our first session for 1980.

Some interest has been shown in holding sessions at Croydon, 100 miles east of Normanton, a small town with no Kindergarten facilities. In fact I can see a need in this and possibly other areas for a travelling Kindergarten teacher whose sole job is to complement the Pre-School Correspondence Course and minister to under Pre-School age children in isolated areas. Maybe I will see this ambition of mine fulfilled one day! To equip a Toyota and just "go bush".

As well as these monthly sessions being valuable for the children, the mothers obviously gain a tremendous amount from them too, as they get a rare chance to talk to other mothers and a teacher interested specifically in their young children.

We were lucky enough last year to be able to take our visiting Speech Therapist and Remedial teacher out for our November session and they were able to assess all children from three years upwards and give a tremendous amount of help and practical advice to the mothers.

## YOUTH INITIATIVES



### Winton Mission

There is no Sunday School in Winton. In an effort to reach out to children and young people the church at Winton holds Wednesday School.

The need to have some concentrated thrust amongst this age group has prompted B.C.A., in association with Scripture Union, to hold a Mission in Winton for young people. Modelled on the lines of beach missions, twenty young people from Sydney will travel to Winton during the August vacation to reach out to the young people and their families there.

Initiated in part by the desire for members of the Peakhurst Fellowship to become more involved in mission this exciting new initiative indicates the depth of dedication and commitment to Our Lord amongst Christian young people today. In an effort to remove any burden from the Winton Church, the members of the team are undertaking to cover virtually the entire cost of travel, materials, and other resources necessary for the two week period that will be involved in travel and in the Mission itself.

### Explo '80

In the May vacation thousands of young people gathered at the Brisbane Exhibition Centres for a conference on evangelism in Australia.

B.C.A.'s Youth Secretary, was there with a display and information about the work of B.C.A. In the vast Exhibition Buildings many Societies set up displays concerning their particular aspect of God's work. Each evening prior to the main meeting, young people were encouraged to find out for themselves about the work of various Missions and other Christian organisations. B.C.A.'s display was well received, it was a significant initiative putting the work of B.C.A. before a wide group of young people.

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### Kinder Goes "Bush" – Continued

December, our last session of 1979, was a special one when a Christmas Bush in the garden was decorated with the children's creative activities during Kindergarten session and each child found a little present on the tree for them. Fathers were invited for a lunch time barbeque afterwards and the Reverend Malcolm Babbage who was visiting Normanton at the time was able to accompany me on this session and see a little of what went on.

Although essentially designed for three to five year olds, I have catered for one to eleven year olds at varying times and we would probably qualify for the most unusual Kindergarten in Queensland.

I would say that is one of the first things I discovered when I began teaching in this area that there was a need for flexibility, dedication, and above all patience, understanding and being able to put our trust completely in the Lord.