

### WIND DROUGHT

Recently, Greg Jones, B.C.A. minister at Mt. Magnet, visited an outback sheep station 20 kms from the tiny mining town of Cue. Greg reports that the very hot summer period had just finished.

The Station owner's wife said that it was very hard to grow vegetables because there had been a wind drought. "Did this mean that the wind was so hot and dry that it scorched the plants?" I asked. "No," she laughed, "it means that there has been no wind at all, underneath us lies millions of litres of bore water. Without wind to turn our windmills all that valuable water lies there — unusable."

A few days later it was Pentecost Sunday. The wind drought reminded me that without God's Spirit the church's many resources lie useless or dormant.

B.C.A.'s ministry in remote Australia highlights the Spirit's power to revive and regenerate.

### STAND WITH B.C.A. UPFRONT OUTBACK



please cut off and return

Mr/Mrs  
Miss/Rev \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_



#### I WISH TO:

- ☐ **KNOW** (Receive the Real Australian)
- ☐ **PRAY** (Join the Prayer Fellowship.  
Please send me the Prayer Notes)
- ☐ **GIVE** ☐ (I would like a B.C.A. money box.)  
☐ (Please inform me of needs regularly)
- ☐ **GO** (I am interested in serving God in Outback Australia)

THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY  
NSW 135 Bathurst Street, Sydney, 2000  
Phone: (02) 264 3164

# THE REAL AUSTRALIAN



## UP FRONT OUTBACK



## BIBLE BECOMES A WAY OF LIFE FOR ABORIGINAL TIMOTHY



Timothy Dhurrkay, student at Nungalinga College.

For many years Timothy Dhurrkay lived a life that was a dilemma. He was torn between two beliefs.

His Aboriginal heritage drew him to traditional tribal ceremonies and practices, while the example of his father, a Christian and the tribal leader, drew him another way. But he didn't see how the two could be compatible and for 19 years

lived according to the tribal laws and customs of his native Elcho Island.

Timothy continued to watch his father though and saw the way he helped missionaries and the church.

"When I looked at myself," Timothy said, "I could see the good things my father did. I watched him and started to follow his example.

"I grew up in the Aboriginal culture but began to see how Christianity fitted into my life. My father talked to me about the Christian life.

"I became a Christian when I was 19 and ever since have been growing up in the Lord.

"The Bible was helpful. It became a way of life. I found new things for me.

"The changes that happened to me were new experiences, and I found them very hard work. It was a new way for my living."

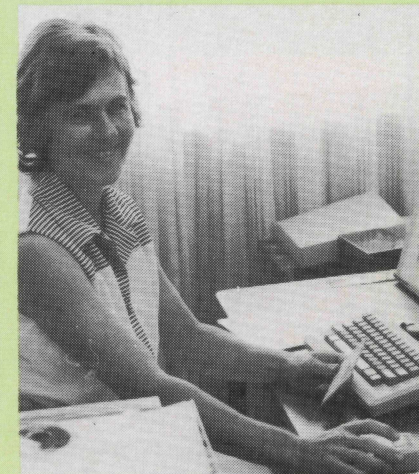
On Elcho Island the Aboriginal people speak Djambarrpuyngu which now has a variety of Scriptures translated, from both Old and New Testament, published by the Bible Society. Timothy reads them regularly.

"They are helpful, meaningful," Timothy says. "They make me feel really good. I feel like God is a friend and he is really close all the time. I am looking forward to the whole New Testament and Bible being translated."

There is continuing evidence that the Lord is working powerfully in Timothy. He played an active part in the Christian revival that swept through Elcho Island in 1979, a renewal that is still having a significant effect on the Aboriginal community. Timothy said, "Aborigines have been sharing their faith with other Aborigines, more people are coming to the Lord, quickly.

"The church is not staying in one place. It is growing and expanding."

So earlier this year, in obedience to our Lord's call, Timothy went to Nungalinga College in Darwin to study the Bible and other subjects so he could be a pastor in his own community. B.C.A. provides the support for two of Nungalinga's staff. Mrs. Sandra Kinslow, mother of three and a wiz with word processors and computers, applies her skills through the ministry of the College.



Mrs. Sandra Kinslow, B.C.A.'s new staff focus at Nungalinga.

Please stand with Nungalinga in prayer as they continue to face the challenges created by the upsurge in the desire to know how to lead and pastor the Aboriginal and Islander people of North Australia.

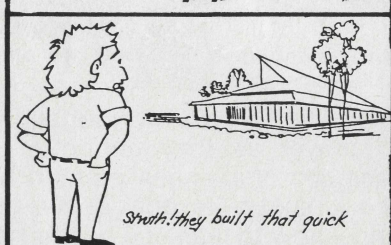
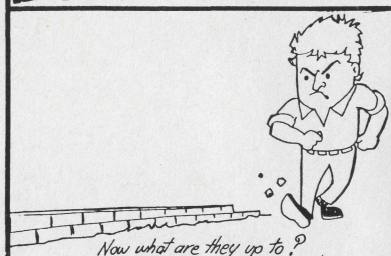
Timothy's story supplied by the Bible Society of Australia.

### FRONT COVER:

Des Arthur, B.C.A. Missioner at Leigh Creek.



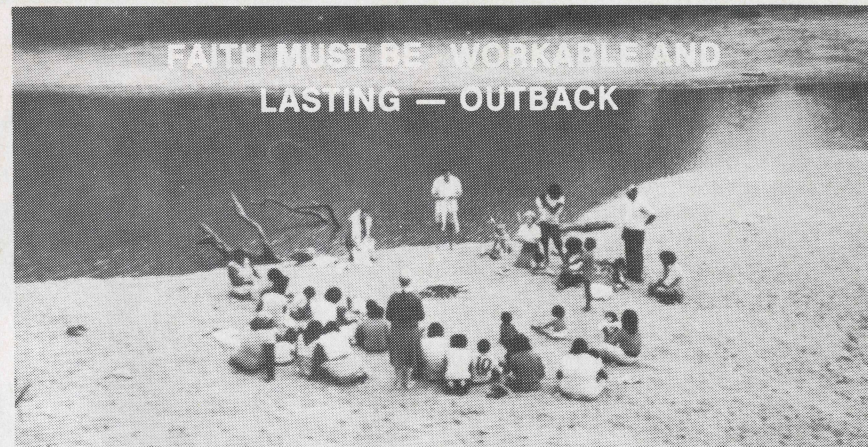
## "We're Up and Running"



Scaffolding, building materials and rubbish were the backdrop to the St. James' Sanderson's first service in their new church building on Whitsunday. Months of planning and hard work have produced a most effective building in Sanderson. Bob George, the B.C.A. Missioner there, says: "It produces the goods and is now fulfilling all expectations. We can now get on with the task more effectively." A task that the Collect for Whitsunday reminds us of, that is, that we are in the business of bringing Christ to the world through the Spirit at work in us.

The witness of the Christians at St. James has been reaching the residents of Sanderson from the day a service was held on the vacant block of ground right through the building stages up to the Dedication Service (it was held on 4 August as part of Diocesan Synod). Up until six months ago the Christian Church in Sanderson was underground but now the local residents no longer can ignore the fact that Christ's church is among them and that it is active in telling of His claims on their lives.

## FAITH MUST BE WORKABLE AND LASTING — OUTBACK



Michael and Libby Birch report from Winton ... "the Parish is big, an hours drive to the first centre, Corfield and then 4½ hours to the next, Boulia (pronounced Bull-ya), with another 2½ hours drive to the remaining centre Bedourie. Distances in the Parish make drives in my previous Parishes seem like a drive to the corner shop. Time takes on a whole new dimension up here, where what doesn't arrive today will come sometime.

An indication of outback life is that Bedourie has its own Shire of about 40,000 square miles but only has 800 people in it. So that the first task of ministry is to find the people. The welcomes are warm, the talk straight and honest, for faith has to be like everything else out here, workable and lasting, otherwise the heat and the dry will cause it to perish. Michael had been praying about how he might make a lasting contact with an aboriginal community in Boudia and on a recent trip they learnt of an aboriginal Christian family that wanted their baby baptised. With the preparation complete, Michael reports "about fifty of us gathered in the sand on the bank of the river, the camp fire was lit and we were all met together, then sat around the fire under the overhanging gum trees — a real cathedral in the bush. There were prayers and readings from the Bible, there was the public naming of each child by the proud parents, the pro-

clamation of faith, followed by prayer to our Father.

I had prayed about opportunities to minister with the aborigines and God had answered. "Ask and you will receive" is the promise, to God be the Glory."

The work of God through B.C.A. in outback Australia means many families have been transformed by the love of Jesus.



Michael Birch



# THE REAL AUSTRALIAN

All enquiries to:

REAL AUSTRALIAN EDITOR  
Brian Roberts

THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY  
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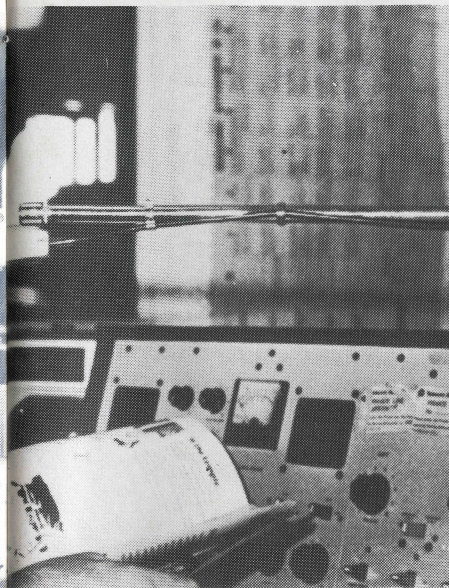
## "Visiting" the remote people of the Pilbara



When one lives many hun-  
dreds of kilometres from the  
nearest church, and for much of  
the year flooded creek-  
crossings make roads im-  
passable anyway, it could well  
be assumed that contact with  
one's "local" minister would be  
spasmodic to say the least.

Not so for many people in the  
Pilbara region of Western  
Australia. Despite the area being  
larger than the state of Victoria,  
and despite the heat and  
cyclonic weather conditions, the  
contact can still be there. When  
one takes the expertise and

From David Sewell,  
Principal — Port Hedland School of the  
Air



enterprise of the Port Hedland  
Rector, Adrian Moore, and com-  
bines it with the radio network  
and other facilities of the Port  
Hedland School of the Air, then  
much can be achieved.

The School of the Air operates  
through the courtesy and co-  
operation of the Western  
Australian Section of the Royal  
Flying Doctor Service. All  
families associated with the  
school are in daily contact using  
two-way high-frequency radio.  
Adrian uses these facilities for a  
weekly Religious Education ses-  
sion where he can talk back and  
forth with his class.

But the story goes further  
than that! These weekly "R.E."  
sessions can of course be  
received by anyone with the ap-  
propriate equipment, which is  
pretty well all "remote" people  
in the Pilbara — people on  
stations, mines, road-  
construction camps,  
roadhouses, boats, etc.

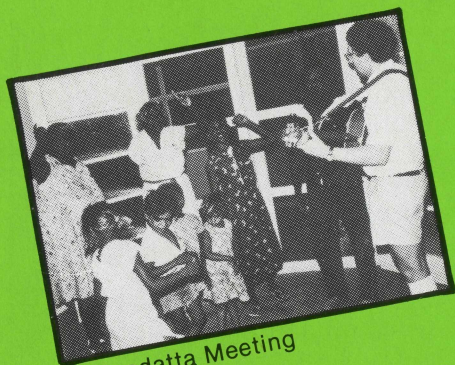
Adrian is therefore well  
known throughout his "parish"  
— by many people he may never  
meet.

Adrian's weekly "R.E." session.





## Outback Odyssey



Oodnadatta Meeting

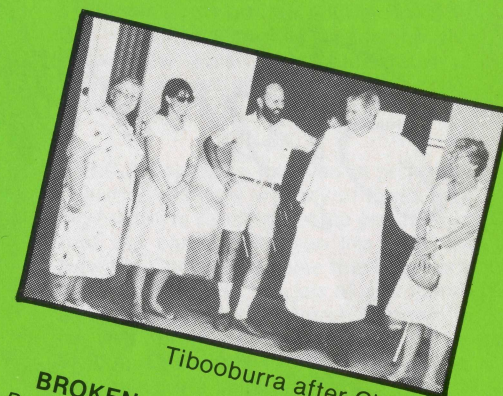
**COOBER PEDY** has become a "town" — so changed from the primitive opal mining camp of the 1950s. And at the underground catacomb church led by Martin and Vivien Bleby there is a joyous Christian community. It rejoices our hearts — of all the outback centres served by B.C.A. in the fifties, Coober Pedy would have been the most Godless. Our itinerary provides also for calls at out-centres in Martin's vast parish. As we set out for Indulkina, an Aboriginal community near the Northern Territory border, a fierce storm finally forces us to divert to Oodnadatta. There we spend the night taking the opportunity to meet with a group of Aboriginal Christians, but the rain continues, turning the countryside into a quagmire. Late the next day we go back to the aerodrome, load the aircraft and wait while the groundsmen inspect the airstrips. He finally pronounces them TOO SOFT — one of his trucks has become bogged where we landed the previous day. There is a small area not affected by rain. "Can we use that?" I tell him. He demurs again, and radios Alice Springs for instructions. The decision is left to me — but if we are to get back to Coober Pedy before dark we must leave at once. We arrived just on dusk.

Highlights from the wanderings of B.C.A. Victorian Secretary Alan Hoskin as told by Macarthur (Mac) Job. Mac, a former B.C.A. Flying Medical Service pilot and Federal Councillor, had the opportunity of revisiting many of the "old" B.C.A. areas as pilot for Alan on a recent field trip. The trip was to take in Port Augusta, Leigh Creek, Coober Pedy, Tarcoola, Cook, Broken Hill and Wilcannia, as well as many of the smaller "outcentres" in between. For Alan the trip gave the opportunity to update his field information and for Mac a trip full of memories of B.C.A.'s faithful work in years gone by.



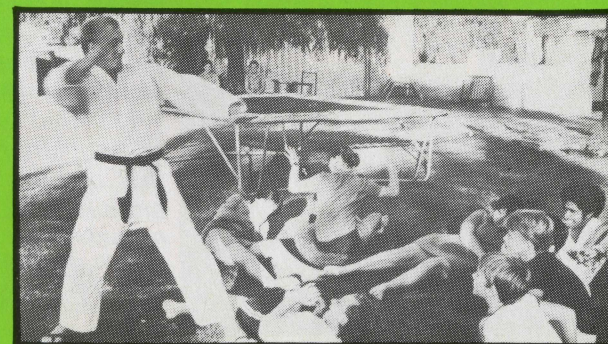
Tarcoola — Anstees, Griffin and Finney

**TARCOOLA** — another overnight stay, this time with Keith and Rhonda Anstee (they have a house full, the R.F.D.S. have also arrived for a clinic). Then off again for the long trip to Broken Hill. We have an extra passenger as far as Port Augusta, an Aboriginal stockman with a seriously injured foot. Because of the clinic, we'll be able to get him to hospital in Port Augusta before the Flying Doctor aircraft.



Tibooburra after Church

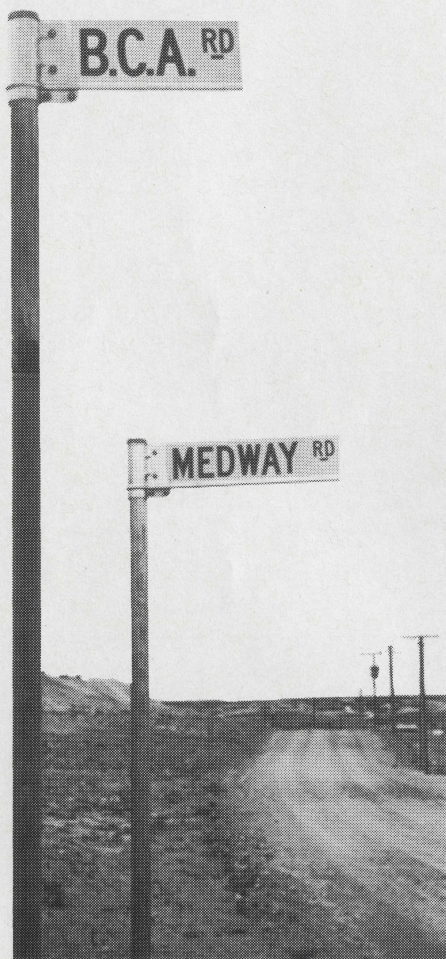
**BROKEN HILL** — while at the Broken Hill Hostel with Tony and Barbara Pickering, their assistant Bob Pearce demonstrated for us the art of hostel discipline. We visit a station property "only" 100 miles out in the bush, then fly on to meet Mapsom and Ruth Williams at Wilcannia — the place where Len Daniels began B.C.A.'s flying work back in 1925. Retracing some of Len Daniel's trips over the next two days took us to Tilpa and the legendary town of Tibooburra in the far north-east corner of N.S.W., White Cliffs another opal settlement and then back to the fine old church of St. James' Wilcannia for the Sunday Evening Service.



Broken Hill Discipline



# Signs of the Times



Coober Pedy is becoming "civilised"! Suburban-type street signs now mark what were formerly meandering dusty tracks.

"Catacomb Road" points people to B.C.A.'s underground Church opened in 1977.

"Medway Road" remembers a former Missioner who left his mark on Church and community. When asked about the sign, a surprised Kerry Medway said, "That's okay as long as it points people to Jesus."

"B.C.A. Road" honours especially the pioneering medical work done by B.C.A.'s Flying Medical Service from Ceduna from 1946 to 1968 and the first hospital and nursing staff from 1965 to 1977.

Not that we need the praises of men, since we have the praise that comes from the only God, but it is good to see that B.C.A.'s ministry in Coober Pedy has been appreciated and recognised by the town in this way.

## Wakely

writes . . .



One reason which has taken the largest number of people to live in the remote areas of Australia is the mining of our mineral resources. This has been the case from our Gold Rush days which began in the middle of the last century. This country owes a tremendous amount to mining and miners.

The mining industry is one which is particularly subject to a number of forces over which it has little or no control. Perhaps the major one is the price of its commodities on the world market. The current difficulties for example of an old and respected Australian company which invested heavily in coal and natural gas in the 1970s show how fickle world markets can be despite the best research for future prospects of overseas sales for such materials.

Notwithstanding the risks we have seen, in Australia since the 1950s, millions of dollars spent to exploit our resources in iron ore, coal, copper, gold, uranium, magnesium, tin, lead, oil and natural gas. To provide the work force people have gone to live in isolated towns built by mining companies in many remote areas of Australia. The reaction of people as single individuals and families to life in these new towns, despite their well-designed homes and adequate public facilities, varies tremendously. The physical isolation, the ever-changing composition of the community, the climate and the often-prevailing materialistic and secular spirit have meant great strains have been put on those seeking to develop stable and wholesome lifestyles in home and community in such places. Of course,

mining towns are neither utopias nor hell-holes. They are the subtle combination of what the mining companies, the unions, the governments and above all what the miners and their families make of them.

B.C.A., by being involved in providing Christian ministry in many of these mining towns, is seeking to help people find that the essence of true life is to be found in Christ. Of course this has many aspects. There is the job of sustaining and developing a vital church community as well as the encouragement of individual Christians to play their part in the town's life and activity and the sensitive counselling and encouragement of individuals and families. This is a demanding task for our missionaries and their families in such towns. They deserve our wholehearted practical and prayerful support.

Let me illustrate. When I visited the Parish of Port Hedland some little time ago, I asked the rector, B.C.A. Missioner Adrian Moore, if I could meet informally some of the members of the parish council and their wives I had met at a rectory barbecue in his predecessor's time three years earlier. I had noted their names in my "little black book". Adrian looked carefully over the list and declared that not one of the people was still in Port Hedland. Most of the parish leadership had moved on within three years. The high rate and constancy of turnover of population in remote areas, particularly in mining towns, is generally recognised, but its reality and unavoidable effects on church life never struck me this hard before. What parish clergyman in suburban Melbourne or Sydney would like to start virtually from scratch with his congregation every year, achieving spiritual growth within the congregation and also retaining parish financial stability.

I was travelling by bus from Adelaide to Port Augusta when we stopped at the bus station in Port Pirie for morning tea. I grabbed my cup of tea and fled the peo-

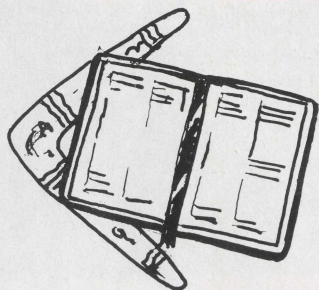
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ple and cigarette smoke, which filled the bus station, into the fresh air and a shady spot behind the building. A woman fellow-passenger had done the same thing and, recognising me as a clergyman, asked where I was going. I explained I was the Federal Secretary of the Bush Church Aid Society and was on my way to visit the B.C.A. Nursing Staff at Cook and Tarcoola. As soon as I mentioned B.C.A., this lady lit up with interest. She told me of her deep appreciation of B.C.A. as a result of the ministry of one of our missionaries to her daughter in an isolated W.A. mining town. It seems the daughter suffered post-natal depression after the birth of her first child and the sensitive pastoral care of the Missioner, together with the loving support of his congregation, played a significant part in her recovery.

Of course, our involvement in mining towns is worthwhile, but this conviction is strengthened when I receive such letters as the one from June and Frank Soul of Karratha, W.A. (Frank is now a member of the Diocesan Council in North West Australia.) They told of their interest and support of B.C.A. since 1962 while parishioners in Bulli, N.S.W., and went on to say "while living in Bulli we never thought we would be living in an area ministered to by a B.C.A. Missioner. We would like you to know just how much we have appreciated the support, both prayerfully and financially, given to parishes such as ours by B.C.A. and its many supporters."

*Wakeley Wade*



## POST & RAILS

### FAREWELLS

Mrs. Chris Hernfield from Victorian Office to family.  
Mrs. Gwen Newell from Nungalinga College.  
Sister Joan Mutimer from Cook Hospital to Tasmania. Joan was our temporary Sister at Cook and was very much appreciated.

### WELCOME

To the Reverend Ron and Mrs. Margaret Bundy to start at Palmerston, Darwin in October.

To Mrs. Sandra Kinslow to Nungalinga College.

To Sister Anne Bolton to Cook Hospital. Anne is married to Jeff who is taking study leave, and no doubt with the building renovations soon to start at the hospital and the sharing of the care of baby Matthew, Jeff will have more than a full program.

### GOD'S SQUAD IN KARRATHA

George Sansom tells of the impact of John Smith and his God Squad in Karratha over the last few weeks.

"There have been good numbers at meetings, stimulating interviews on radio and excellent seminars in the high school. The people of all the churches have been stirred up and have become more confident in witness and outreach."

George asks our prayers that God the Holy Spirit will keep the movement going.

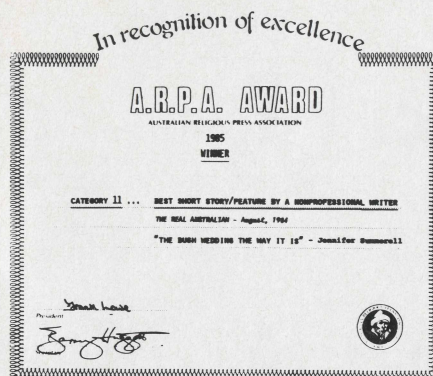
### THANKS CHRIS — WELCOME MARGO

Our Dynamic Victorian Office secretary Mrs. Christine Hernfield, finished work on the August 2 to prepare for the birth of her baby. We wish Ken and Chris and junior well.

Chris has served B.C.A. faithfully over six years and we don't believe that she is fully aware of the great ministry she had to our field staff and to our Victorian and Tasmanian supporters. We will miss her.

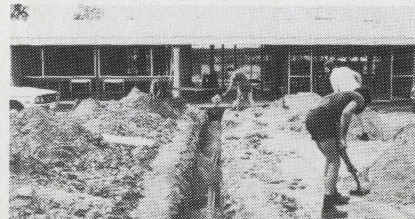
We also welcome as Chris' replacement, Mrs. Margo Bright and pray God's blessing on her ministry with us.

### BUSH WEDDING AWARDED



The Real Australian received an award of recognition of excellence from the Australian Religious Press Association for the best short story. Jennifer Summerell's story, "The Bush Wedding, The Way It Is", captured the judges' attention. Congratulations to Jennifer on a fine story.

### SANDERSON — DARWIN



Thousands of man-hours of voluntary labour have gone into the building of St. James' church building. Sanderson's congregation has just not stopped moving forward for our Lord from the first day it was formed.

### WILCANNIA UPDATE

Mapsom Williams at Wilcannia reports "I praise God for our weekly Bible Study which consists of more men than women; it includes christians of different denominations and has continued to grow proving to be a spiritual oasis in a spiritually parched land. These people also come to the Sunday Services. Praise the Lord."

### B.C.A. IN HIS CARE

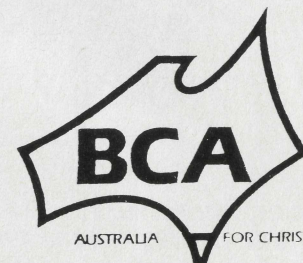
From Normanton to Zeehan, Karratha to Colinsville, B.C.A. is working in His care.

It covers the land  
With the help of God's hand  
To bring the Good News personally there.

Though it may seem in vain  
Yet the seed will remain  
And its growth is the way it's spread.

For each one is of Love  
That's shared from above  
And the message is the truth that's homeward bound.

J.A.K.



## MEET THE SECRETARIES HEAR THE LATEST FIELD NEWS AT THE VICTORIAN RALLY

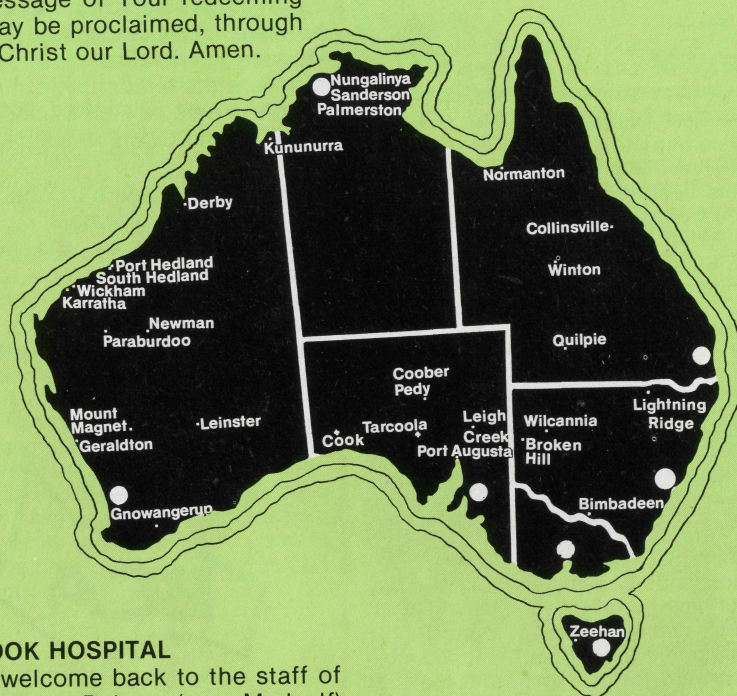
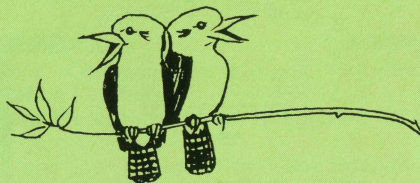
ON FRIDAY, 18TH OCTOBER AT 8.00 P.M.

VENUE UNITING CHURCH CENTRE,  
MINOR HALL, 1st Floor,  
130 Little Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE



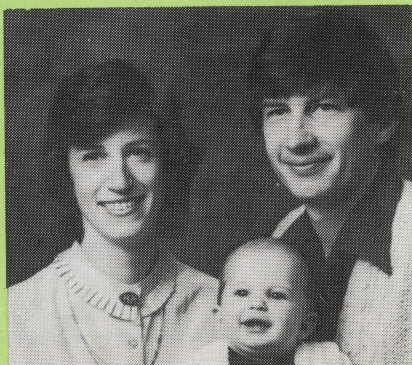
## THE B.C.A. PRAYER

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.



## TO COOK HOSPITAL

We welcome back to the staff of B.C.A. Ann Bolton (nee Medcalf) who returns to Cook as a Sister but this time with her husband Jeffrey and little boy Matthew (six months old). Jeff is taking study leave and will no doubt use the "quiet life" in Cook to get on with his studies. As a refrigeration mechanic his practical skills will no doubt be of great use once the building renovations start at the hospital. Jeff has also indicated his willingness to be involved with Youth Work and Bible Studies that are an integral part of the ministry of Cook Hospital.



## PRAYER CALENDAR

## FIELD STAFF DIRECTORY

### DIOCESE OF NORTHERN TERRITORY. The Rt. Revd. C. Wood.

- 1 Darwin — Sanderson — Revd. Robert and Mrs. Rigmor George.
- 2 Palmerston — The Revd. Ron and Mrs. Margaret Bundy.

### DIOCESE OF NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA. The Rt. Revd. G. B. Muston.

- 3 Kununurra — The Revd. Peter Harradence.
- 4 Derby — The Revd. Errol and Mrs. Anne Sorensen.
- 5 Newman (East Pilbara) — The Revd. Arthur and Mrs. Pat Williams.
- 6 South Hedland — The Revd. Peter and Mrs. Alison Moss.
- 7 Port Hedland — The Revd. Adrian and Mrs. Willemien Moore.
- 8 Karratha (West Pilbara) — The Revd. George and Mrs. Jacqueline Sansom.
- 9 Wickham — The Revd. Angus and Mrs. Anne McDonald.
- 10 Paraburdoo (South Pilbara) — The Revd. Gordon and Mrs. Ann Hargreaves.
- 11 Geraldton — Mr. Martin and Mrs. Kim Weatherston.
- 12 Mt. Magnet (Murchison) — The Revd. Greg and Mrs. Rhi Jones.
- 13 Leinster — The Revd. Don and Mrs. Celia Miller.

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

- 14 Cook Hospital — Sister Margaret and Jack Barnes and Sister Ann Bolton; Sister June English (Relief Sister).
- 15 Tarcoola Hospital — Nurses Mr. Keith and Mrs. Rhonda Anstee. Tentmaker . . . Sister Lynn Pickersgill.
- 16 Coober Pedy — The Revd. Martin and Mrs. Vivien Bleby.
- 17 Mid-West Mission — The Revd. David and Mrs. Margaret Griffin.
- 18 Leigh Creek — The Revd. Des and Mrs. Judi Arthur.

### DIOCESE OF TASMANIA. The Rt. Revd. P. Newell.

- 19 Zeehan — The Revd. Walter and Mrs. Eleanor Wheeldon.

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

- 20 Broken Hill Hostel — Mr. Tony and Mrs. Barbara Pickering, Mr. Bob Pearce.
- 21 Wilcannia — The Revd. Mapson and Mrs. Ruth Williams.

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

- 22 Lightning Ridge — The Revd. Cliff and Mrs. Megan Ainsworth.

### DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON. The Rt. Revd. G. Hearn.

- 23 Winton — The Revd. Michael and Mrs. Elizabeth Birch.

### DIOCESE OF NORTHERN QUEENSLAND. The Rt. Revd. J. Lewis.

- 24 Collinsville — Glendon — The Revd. Rod and Mrs. Hazel Williams.

### DIOCESE OF CARPENTARIA. The Rt. Revd. A. Hall-Matthews.

- 25 Normanton (Southern Gulf) — The Revd. John and Mrs. Jennifer Summerell.

### DIOCESE OF BRISBANE. The Most Revd. J. Grindrod.

- 26 Quilpie — Revd. David and Mrs. Kay Heussler.

### GENERAL

- 27 VICTORIA. The Revd. Alan Hoskin.
- QUEENSLAND. Mr. Allan Sauer (Hon. Secretary).
- 28 SOUTH AUSTRALIA — The Revd. Bruce Cliff, Mrs. Jenny Smith, Mrs. Marilyn Brown.
- WESTERN AUSTRALIA. The Revd. Peter Brain (Hon. Secretary).
- 29 FEDERAL & N.S.W. OFFICE, COUNCIL & SUPPORTERS  
Federal Secretary. The Revd. Wakely Wade. N.S.W. The Revds. Brian Roberts, Eric Atkin, Mr. Peter Oram, Miss Margaret Woolcott, Mesdames Jacqueline Griffiths, Dora Warwick, Nina Allan, Vivien Bentley, Margaret Sadler.
- 30 Nungalinga College — Mrs. Sandra Kinslow.  
Gnowangerup — The Revd. Chris and Mrs. Marilyn Clerke.  
Bimbadeen N.S.W. — Pastor Graham Paulson.