

the real australian

autumn 2003



Christmas cards and Greeting cards



BCA 016

BCA's own special Christmas Card

Produced by BCA from a photograph by our own Robyn Williams. The message inside reads: "May His Peace be with you this Christmas" and the Bible verse is Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

DL size. In packs of 6 with envelopes

BCA 016 BCA Christmas cards (pack of 6) \$12.00

SAVE Order at least 3 packs and pay \$10.00 per pack

BCA 015

Assorted Christmas Cards

3 cards of each of four designs in packs of 12 cards with envelopes.

BCA 015 Christmas cards (assorted pack of 12) \$9.00

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New scenes, Post Office preferred size

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BCA 12 Pack of 6 cards with envelopes \$7.70

BCA directory

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As I write this editorial I have been thinking about a coming operation upon my throat with a laser to remove the flapping noise as I sleep for the comfort of others. This recalls my mortality and what may happen if things go wrong. I also recall how I detest the idea of 'Death Notices' in the paper.

These 'death notices' make me ask "Do we as Christians not really believe that Jesus rose from the dead?" Why don't we take to heart His words that we will never die if we entrust ourselves to Him?" (John 11:26 "whoever lives and believes in me will never die").

We should strive to impact our society more with the truths we hold dear. Let's not allow papers to place our loved ones who die in the Lord as 'Death Notices'.

The Apostle Paul took every occasion to bring Jesus' truth to impact upon others. As he wrote letters he filled the salutations with the revealed truths of the Lord.

Holding firm then to the resurrection of Jesus, let's ask for a new notice column to appear in the local paper – 'Immortality Notices'. For Paul says in 1 Cor 15:53-54 "The perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

When are we clothed? Are we lying in limbo somewhere until the Lord



returns? If that were true how could Paul say (Phil 1:21) "to live is Christ and to die is gain." It must be as outlined in 2 Cor 5:1-4, that when this body/tent passes we are immediately clothed. "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked."

So let's claim Jesus' victory over death in the practices we employ to pass on the news of those we love who have entered into His glorious presence.

Paul Dew

'Better than a keg down at the Council'



Thanksgiving table showing symbols of hope: Soil, Ashes, 000 ph., Banksia & Hakia seeds sprung by fire, The Cross, Fruit, Flowering gum.

This comment was overheard after the thanksgiving service following the fires on Flinders Island in January this year.

It all started with a lightening strike. Parks and Wildlife officers were quickly on the job and had it "out"...but it wasn't. The next day was the beginning of three weeks of intensive fire fighting and the mopping up still continues and it will until there is a bit fall of rain.

Every available tanker on the island was going 24 hours a day in 12 hourly shifts. Tankers were ferried to the island as well as professional fire fighters. Nearly every 'ute' had a tank of some kind on it plus a pump and hose to deal with spot fires. There was a huge band of people making and delivering food and drinks to the fighters. There was hardly an able bodied person not fighting – and they were keeping essential services going. In all about a quarter of the island's bush and grassland was burnt.

Our part in all this was to be many things – Sue at the hospital and on the telephone at the Control centre when she 'knocked off'. Bob's part was some fire fighting, counselling duties, some fuel delivery, lots of 'gophering' and doing shifts at night on the radio at fire control where he became known as the 'Roving Rector'.

Bob also found himself in the firing line as his "Boss' was accused of starting the fire. Yet, most agreed it was the fire we had to have because of the massive build up of (peat) fuel. Every day Bob was asked if he was praying for rain, to which his answer was the fire still had much work to do, but that we had Christians all over the island praying for protection of people and property. As a consequence of the Lord's faithfulness in answering that prayer not one occupied house was lost and there were no major casualties. There were a few minor



The Flinders Island Thanksgiving service

casualties towards the end, as people became tired. The island is littered with miracles as a consequence of answered prayer.

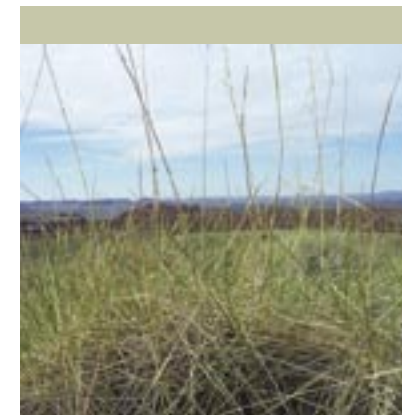
The thanksgiving service involved many people – all the fire chiefs, the mayor and many others. There was a power point presentation of the fire photos and reminders of new life springing from the fire. The sermon focused on four key Christian words – thanks, sorry, change and joy – the people were encouraged to get up immediately and say these to people they needed to, and many took the opportunity to do so.

It was a special and emotional service of thanks, repentance and joy. Someone said that Bob had earned the right to have such a service because he and Sue had shared the fire with the Islanders.

Bob and Sue are on the Island because of you – supporters of the Bush Church Aid Society. Thank you from all on the Island and from Bob and Sue for enabling ministry here.

Thank you for your prayers and your giving – both have been used to bring blessing through the graciousness of our great God.

Bob Witten



Spinifex

Ponder for a moment,
These cushions on the hill
With their flaxen – coloured tresses,
Are they nature's veiled rejection?
Is their beauty quiet perfection?
Shapely, tufted spinifex,
With its air of soft deception,
Hides its in-built strong defence,
Which, on close by-touch
inspection,
Sends its message sharp all day –
"View from far, but keep away!"

Margaret Dodds

'If Hell's like that I don't want to go there!'

During the recent fires on Flinders Island I was patrolling up and down a fire break with another bloke. Our job was to keep an eye out for any spot fires that may have started on the wrong side of the firebreak.

The fire was about 400 metres away and it was in Tea Tree with flames probably three times the height of the trees. It was both awe inspiring and very frightening. We watched the ring tailed possums and the wallabies make a bewildered bolt for life.

It was then that this statement was made, 'I think I will have to make a real change around in my life.' When questioned he made the classic statement. 'If hell's like that I don't want to go there!' Time will tell if he is prepared to carry his statement through.

The fires on Flinders Island didn't



seem to get too much coverage on the mainland but for the people here it was a three-week battle for their very survival. About one quarter of the island has been burnt but in answer to prayers God spared all residential buildings and personnel. He has also granted many people enough grass to get them through the summer providing it rains soon. We are constantly finding more miracles in answer to prayer.

Many opportunities for ministry have opened up because we were able to stand with the people here. This has been made possible through the work of the Bush Church Aid Society and all the people who give both money and their prayers to support this work. Thank you to all in God's family.

Bob Witten



Harvest Festival at Adaminaby

Summertime on the Monara is usually dry, hot and at times windy. This year, like many other regions we experienced drought conditions but we were well aware that many others were considerably worse off than we were.

Yes water restrictions were in force, but at least we did have some water for bathroom and kitchen use and our slight inconvenience heightened our awareness of the hardship being endured by others further out west. The awareness helped to muster support for our biannual Harvest Festival, proceeds, which were

designated to assist with the Bush Church Aid Society drought appeal.

Our small church community were busy nurturing garden produce with 'grey water' for many weeks prior to the day. Cakes and handicrafts were being prepared, but no-one was prepared for the frost which hit during the night preceding the festival. One day it was 30c the next was sleet, some snow and really very chilly. However, the atmosphere within St John's Anglican Church was warm and friendly as Brian Roberts gave us the Gospel message.

The auction bidding of Harvest produce in response to Brian Roberts and Kevin Stone was brisk, helping raise \$857.50 for BCA. Praise God for this wonderful provision of funds to help BCA help others in this long drought.

Hope in the Desert

Four years ago when Jeanette and I came up to Paraburdoo/Tom Price the countryside was lush, creeks were running and the Shire had to mow the road edges fortnightly. Travelling at night was a slow journey with kangaroos and owls in the road. Sometimes whole herds of the healthiest cattle would be meandering across the road and one dark wet night I even had a horse trotting along side of me near the Wukathuni Aboriginal Community.

Then came the fires. The Station workers told me they had lost 60% of the stock feed in those first fires. The land was dry and the fires continued, some suspected lightening, others vandals. Over the past three years it's been hot and dry. From a distance there were still the colour contrasts, but up close I wondered how any creature could exist in the barrenness – this is truly desert. The sight of so much barren desolation was sobering, depressing. It was as if the fire and drought had snuffed out all hope of life and vitality.

When the prophet Isaiah addressed the Israelites in Isaiah 43:18-25, it was as if they were living in the



desert. Actually, they were living in Babylon, whose military powers had overwhelmed them some years previous, its might whipping through like wild fire driving them off to live in a land of exile. Their homes and temple had been destroyed, reduced to rubble, their nation laid ruin, and they were a captive people with little to hope for. It appeared to them that God had deserted them totally. Their future looked as bleak and devastated as the black grey ash land of the stations.

Why hope at all? It's not an uncommon question in our world, today. Hope can be extinguished by drought and the sight of the sad weary bones of the stock on the stations. Hope is also extinguished through a famine of the spirit – a slow starvation of all sense of meaning and purpose. Hope is threatened when all sense of joy has been stripped from the simple performance of basic work tasks. Constant injustices cause good people to lose heart and get worn down.

Now, this is all pretty bleak

– you could say it's a bit of a desert experience. It is into this kind of bleak situation and circumstances the prophet Isaiah appears with a word from the Lord of heaven and earth. The word is one of hope. God is about to do a new thing. He will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah is holding out a hope. God can deal with your desert experience no matter how devastating it has been. God will MAKE a way through your wilderness. Even though you have ignored God failing to give him due honour, yet he will forgive your failings – such is his desire for you.

Interestingly, when the Hebrew people got back to the Promised Land there was still a lot to do. The city wall had to be restored, the temple had to be rebuilt, but in the slow step forward hope was restored.

The recent rains have not caused

our rivers to flow. Yet there is food for the stock, they are looking healthy again, the kangaroos are coming back and water holes are no longer dry. The signs of life and hope are returning even as new faces appear in town and some in church. In His service, we are like those summer showers, individually we can bring short-term refreshment – together we can bring refreshing life to a spiritual desert.

Things are not perfect. We are a bit like the Hebrews – there is much to be done – as we work out our salvation in hope, for hope grows as we serve the Lord. Ultimately we need always remember that the way is not a plan – it's a man – the man Jesus, who died and rose again that we might live for all eternity – our hope, always, is founded in our living relationship with him.

Joe Sullivan



From the Swedish Press

(Johan Almblad (photographer) & Caroline Engvall (reporter) visited Coober Pedy from Sweden and on their return they wrote two articles in Swedish with pictures. My son Peter translated and the photos are mine. Ed.)

When the desert heat becomes too much the city slickers seek refuge in the church beneath the earth. "Welcome to the biggest culture shock on earth", says minister Rod Oldfield to his curious visitors in Australia's strangest church this Sunday.

The desert heat shimmers unmoving over the red dirt road. In the distance the road grows smaller and then disappears, it is 400km's to the next town.

Coober Pedy is one of the world's strangest places. On the bus here, a 12 hour journey from the closest city, Adelaide in S.A., we have for company some tough desert-men and an aboriginal family returning home, – and a couple of curious backpackers – like ourselves. Everyone draws breath at the town's UFO remains of space movies in the moon like landscape, as well as being fascinated by the underground church, Catacomb Church.

It is a sleepy small town we meet this particular Sunday morning, the temperature holds itself around 50 degrees in December. In the Catacomb



Church the faithful visitors gather half an hour before the service is due to begin. It is here that they find their nearest friends, the ones that they can trust. It can otherwise be difficult to know what to do in a place that in part embraces loneliness, in part in the world's opal capital, and where some residents try their best to kill each other.

Coober Pedy is a hard place for those with no friends. Many will be fooled/tricked, but Jesus has come to heal the wounds in your hearts and souls, – says the minister of the day Rod Oldfield, and receives murmurs of agreement from his small audience. One or two tourists have popped in, and all newcomers introduce themselves – afterwards they are warmly welcomed with Helen's homemade strawberry tarts and tea, after the first half of the service filled with psalms. Also the children have a central role (at least until the video in

the corner becomes more interesting). Furthestmost in from the church there stands four cornerstones and Rod explains the difficult words in the psalms by laying out these 4 stones:

1. God loves me.
2. I have sinned.
3. Jesus died for me.
4. I have to make the choice to live with God.

Little Max has soon learnt all 4 by heart – with a little help from his mum, Lisa.

With the warm tea spreading through our veins, it feels good for Swedes that are used to the cold that the underground church holds a constant temperature of 22 degrees – all year round. The church room is drilled straight into the rock and spreads a soft light over Rod as he begins his sermon and the second half of the service.

"Many people live in a self made slavery and are forced to do things that they do not want to do. I myself lived a life like this until I found Jesus. Some of the things I did earlier in life are so rotten that I am too ashamed to tell even my wife about them. I know that I am not a wonderful person, but I was chosen and I know now that God understands.

Quiet spreads through the church. Everyone digests Rod's words and

thinks of their own lives. And afterwards the congregation is ready to go out and try to make the world a little better – even here, in one of the world's strangest places.

Interviews:

"What does Coober Pedy's underground church mean to you?"

Lisa Hunt, Homemaker,

"The church has helped me to get over my worst fears. While we were without a minister for 15 months everyone in the congregation helped to keep the church going, this was particularly scary for me as I was not used to praying out loud. But it has now helped me to be stronger in my faith".

Peter Butler, opal miner.

"I was not a Christian when I came to Coober Pedy, but now the church is my family. It is a very special church, and it feels great that God is also living with us in the middle of the wilderness".

Helen McCormack

"The church means everything to me. Every time I come in here I feel God surrounding me. I have been a member of this congregation for 38 years and I know that many need help here. It is especially hard to live in a desert."

Caroline Engvall

My Lawns are Green



I tuned to country radio and listened to the news –
'there's still no rain in sight,' they said.
I guess I could excuse
the many living on the land who gaze
up to the sky
for wondering where the clouds have
gone, how could it be so dry?
While those like me, now city based,
enjoy each sunny day,
wish selfishly that cloudless skies
would never go away
with little thought for country folk
and their enormous need –
the starving stock, diminished crops,
no water and no feed.
And then I focused on the calls that
came to Macca's show
that Sunday morning, and I learnt
some things I didn't know.
I sensed the desperation as they talked
of wind and dust –
one lady said she'd leave the farm, she
felt she'd not adjust

to threats of further choking grit,
she'd rather live in town
than let the stress of cleaning up
return and get her down.
The grassless paddocks, empty dams
and stock routes closed as well –
decisions of great magnitude, what
stock to keep or sell.
I also heard a farmer speak – he too
owned land out west,
"I'd like to talk of drought," he said,
"we thought we'd done our best
by having sheds well stacked with hay
and silos full of grain,
enough to conquer any drought, but
still we've felt the pain
as now for months we've fed our
sheep until the sheds are bare –
we do not know which way to turn,
we don't know how or where.
We're feeding stock it seems all day,
there's just the wife and me,
you understand how tired we are – it's
endless, can't you see?"

I heard the sadness in his voice, how
thoughtless I had been
as I ignored the country plight because
my lawns are green
while he has non-existent crops, and
others fear they'll lose
their meagre stalks to emu hordes and
mobs of kangaroos.
Agistment that is hard to get, the
shocking price of hay
and other feed, while stock when sold
are almost given away.
But gratitude is truly there for
governmental aid,
assistance too that others give, the
part that they have played.
There's been a little rain since then,
again the phones ran hot
as puddles formed: 'and inch or two,'
they said 'was not a lot
nor would it break this long term
drought but still it gives us hope
for we know now it still can rain, so
maybe we can cope.'
I may feel insulation from the
heartache to be found
in the bush that at the moment is a
parched and thirsty ground
but now I know that I can show I care,
that I can give
and maybe help a sheep, a cow, a
farmer's hope to live.

Joyce Alchin

**Have you considered
how BCA will be
'Activating the vision'
in 2050 and beyond?**

**Over the years supporters have left
that 'precious' gift through their Will
which has helped the Society to
meet a critical need at a vital time.
Whether small or large, the Society
has used bequests wisely to ensure
the continuing ministry to those in
remote and rural Australia.**

The lasting help of BCA is
borne out in thousands of lives
that have been reached with the
love of Christ—from bush children
who were able to hear of Jesus
for the first time, outback parents
who found the comfort of Christ
in their grief, to miners isolated
from their families who received
the fellowship of Christians. All
because of the lifelong contribution
of people who desired to make a
difference.

For more information on how
you can make your bequest to
BCA contact your local office or
complete the form on the last page
of this magazine.

By supporting BCA in your Will,
you will be helping with Activating
the vision into the future...

Activating the vision...

ANGLICANS REEL IN 100 YEARS IN BROOME

Anglicans or Angler-cans? Rector David O'Mara and Catechist Geoff Thompson from Broome Anglican Church take a lead from the 'Big Fisherman' and bag a couple of nice barra off the Jetty.

The line from Jesus goes "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men..." but last Tuesday night Rev David O'Mara and Geoff Thompson were simply fishing for regular type fish and relaxing on the jetty. "Among other things we were discussing the forthcoming 100 years celebrations for Broome Anglican Church. The fact that the fishing was also productive was an added bonus."

On April 11th 2003 it will be 100 years since Broome Anglican Church opened its doors. Rev. O'Mara says the church has an exciting program of events planned to celebrate the church's centenary and invites the community to join in. On April 11th there will be an anniversary dinner at the Mecure Hotel followed on Sunday by a special Celebration Service conducted by the Bishop of the Northwest, Tony Nichols. There will also be another Special Service to commemorate the dedication of the



church by Bishop Goodhew on July 13th.

Another highlight will be a family concert by Colin Buchanan on June 28th. With 5 Golden Guitars to his name and compere of the Tamworth Country Music Festival, Colin is well known to many. However he also has a lot of younger fans as presenter on ABC's long running Play School. His show promises to be a lot of fun for the whole family as Colin performs a wide range of songs from country ballads to hilarious kids stuff.

"As well as the various events, a highlight of the centenary will

be some old faces back in town to share in the celebrations". Many will want to catch up with Rev. Raymond Molyneux, BCA minister in Broome from 1995 to 2000 and now Regional Officer for WA. Rev O'Mara says that although Broome Anglican Church has a fascinating history, he is keen that the focus is not merely on the past.

"The Anglican Church in Broome has always had a focus on people. It is people that matter! We rejoice in 2003 celebrating 100 years of worship in our church centre and our greatest joy is looking at the way Jesus has changed lives in the last 100 years in Broome, and will continue to do so for the next 100 years. We give thanks to God for the many faithful Christians who have been part of this church over the last 100 years. We also give thanks to God for the great variety of people who make up our diverse community.

Our theme is 'Jesus loves Broome!' We shall have special celebration events to thank God for the His past blessings. We will also run home meetings inviting the people of Broome to join and hear topics of interest, and accounts of the life changing power of Jesus in people's lives. So we celebrate the past 100 years and look to the future! There will be something for everyone, whether



it is the family concert with Colin Buchanan, listening to Stephen Lungu from Africa telling how Jesus changed his life from that of a terrorist to a responsible community member, or a coffee morning with some locals. The meetings will be friendly and uplifting. You are important to Jesus and important to us.

I warmly invite you to join us. Ring me on 08 9193 5164.

David O'Mara

DIOCESE OF NORTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bishop Tony Nichols

KUNUNURRA

Archdeacon Bob and Mrs Denise Rothwell

WYNDHAM/OOMBULGURRI

Rev Peter and Mrs Joy Palmer

DERBY

Rev David and Mrs Jenny Day

BROOME

Rev David and Mrs Cheryl O'Mara
Mr Geoff and Mrs Anne Thompson

NEWMAN

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HEDLAND

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Rev Les and Mrs Jenny Gaulton

PARABURDOO/ TOM PRICE

Rev Joe and Mrs Jeanette Sullivan

MT MAGNET (Murchison)

Rev Allan and Mrs Mellita Bate

NE GOLDFIELDS

vacant

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Rev Jonathan and Mrs Pascale Deeks

DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA

Bishop Garry Weatherill

COOBER PEDY

Capt Rod and Mrs Christene Oldfield

ROXBY DOWNS

Rev Tom and Mrs Michelle Beever

LEIGH CREEK

Rev Mark and Mrs Sandy Evans

DIOCESE OF RIVERINA

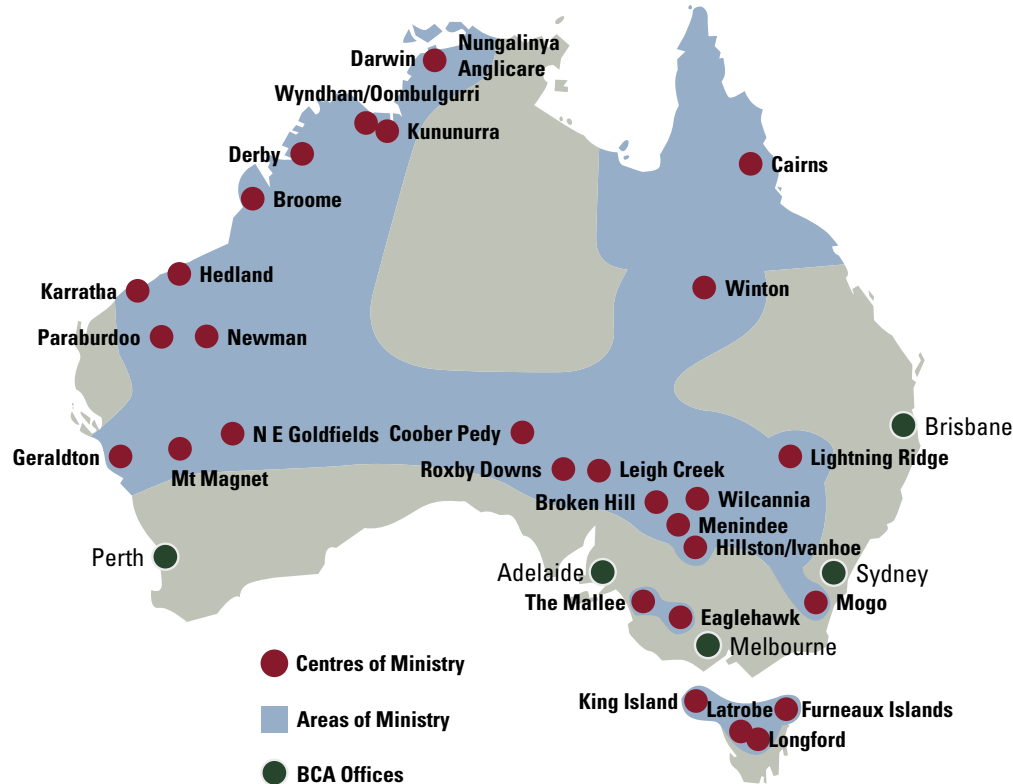
Bishop Bruce Clark

WEST DARLING (incorporating Menindee & Wilcannia, based in Broken Hill)

Rev Alan and Mrs Philippa Hoskin

HILLSTON/IVANHOE

vacant



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Rev Tracey and Mr David Wolsley

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Bishop Ross Davies

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Rev Mark and Mrs Joy Clayton

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Rev Tom and Mrs Muriel Slockee

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FURNEAUX ISLANDS

Rev Bob and Mrs Sue Witten

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Mrs Olivia Chapman

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DARWIN-ANGICARE

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Mrs Jenny Baxter

*If you'd like more details for prayer, send for
our free quarterly prayer notes.*

At the commencement of BCA's involvement in the supply of fodder to drought stricken farmers we had no idea that after nine months there would still be the need to do exactly the same thing! Buying fodder at the best prices possible, arranging drivers for the delivery and organising the distribution to farmers through our Field Staff and other members of clergy able to participate in such a project.

There has been talk that if the drought breaking rains had not come by now farmers from five generations of farming would have to walk away from their properties. Consider how tedious and frustrating it is for those on the land who STILL have not had sufficient drought breaking rains. How tiring for those who are still hand feeding stock, still ploughing land in the hope that rains will fall and the earth be replenished, and still wondering whether they will even survive the drought financially.

Around Tiboburra and across to White Cliffs in New South Wales they have had heavy follow up rains – but as is the nature of rain – some received a lot of rain and others very little. This has been the story around most of the drought-affected areas.

But farmers have a way of always looking out for the other person – they seem to think they are better

off than those on the next farm – “he needs the help more than me! – so let him have the hay”. Our Field Staff have often heard these words over recent months.

It's the “real” Australian attitude isn't it? – standing by the other person. It is encouraging to know that the “real” Australian spirit is still there despite the drought and current hardships these people are facing. In fact when Rev. Alan Hoskin was arranging hay to be delivered to White Cliffs last month, the people there contacted him to say, that with the rain, they were better off than the people around Wilcannia – and so the hay was delivered into Wilcannia.

But nine months and more than 130 semi-trailer loads of fodder down the dusty roads, sees the Society still committed – with God's grace – to provide fodder to the farmers, vouchers in support of businesses in rural communities and the hope that comes from a relationship with Christ.

Please continue to help BCA take the gospel of hope to those still suffering from the drought as we assist in practical ways.

Robyn Williams

BELLS FOR FODDER !

The farmers of Lightning Ridge have banded together with old bells, from various properties, to raise money towards the BCA Drought Aid program. Two bells were auctioned on our behalf by Alan Jones, 2GB for \$1100 each.

Other bells – real Australian antiques, together with an old Clydesdale horseshoe and a pair or forge tongs are available for purchase. The money you pay will be used to purchase fodder for distribution to the Lightning Ridge area.

Please call Robyn Williams 02 9262.5017 or email robyn@bushchurchaid.com.au



Applications of interest are invited for the position of

REGIONAL OFFICER – FOR THE SOCIETY IN THE VICTORIAN/ TASMANIAN REGION.

We are seeking a person with proven gifts in communication and public relations. Management ability is essential as is energy and a high level of self-motivation. Previous connections with BCA would be an advantage.

For a job description please email victoria@bushchurchaid.com.au or write to The Chairperson, Victorian/Tasmanian Committee, PO Box 281, Heidelberg, Vic., 3084
For further information contact the chairpersons – The Rev. Dr. John Batt (03) 9878 8536 or Dr. Joy Sandefur (03) 9438.1366

The Darling Flows again



You may think we have Water on the Brain but we have become aware how precious it is and what a wonderful gift from God!

Our water at Broken Hill has been deteriorating in quality over the last 12 months and we are currently buying water in 10 litre casks for drinking. Another good rain this month has removed the threat of 'no water left in six months' but the quality is still poor. BUT we are off rather severe water restrictions and we may see the many lovely gardens in Broken Hill revive. Broken Hill usually has an almost perfect climate for roses!

Please keep praying for rain. THE DROUGHT IS NOT OVER YET. Up around Tibooburra and across to White Cliffs they've had heavy follow up rains for which we thank God but even there - as is the nature of rain - some received lots and others little. This week I was arranging Hay to be delivered to the White Cliffs area but they kindly contacted me to say that with the rain they are better off than the people around Wilcannia. So

two huge double Semi-trailer loads of Hay from BCA Drought Aid will be delivered this week and next week around the Wilcannia area. The town of Tibooburra has moved from carting water to now having enough water in their Dam for the next two years!

We would like to share with you a parable Philippa heard recently and which resonated with us both [with our own colouring!]:

PREAMBLE: You possibly have no idea what it's like to see water pouring down the Darling River from Queensland. Towns on the Darling hold celebration parties to watch it arriving and we heard one Grazier interviewed on the radio who had mixed feelings. He was celebrating with all the others but was a bit dismayed to see in the tumbling rolling mess that comes with the first water his prize Bull drowned and rolling amid the bits of trees and rubbish! But he still sounded happy! Currently the waters have reached Menindee [something they didn't expect to happen] and it's beginning to fill our Lake Weatherall. This is the

source of our drinking water supply to Menindee and Broken Hill. Praise the Lord! The fishing is proving extra good too!

THE PARABLE: A dry riverbed parched by a long drought. People living either side desperate for water. In normal conditions the water has provided for them and their stock but currently all is brown and dust and the river empty. Beautiful rains from Queensland arrive and down the riverbed flows the precious water. The first part is brown, salty and unfit for anything. Everything is tossing and turning chaotic - but be patient! - After it's all settled, beautiful clean clear water flows and life resumes its 'normal' way.

INTERPRETATION: Australians [and the world?] have been through a spiritual drought. Many were aware of their need of the Living Water and many not. New fresh Living Waters are on their way but first comes the rubbish and the chaos and we are in the midst of that today. Chaos of

Rapid Change, Conflicting Spiritual Voices, Anxiety, New and old Gurus offering Quick fixes all tumbling round together. But be patient! Wait for these things to roll by. They will all disappear and only the True Pure Living Water will remain.

Jesus said: "If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within." (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.) John 7: 38,39

Alan & Philippa Hoskin



Ministry Opportunities

Staff Field Conference

It is a part of the Society's plan to have the Field Staff come together every two years to keep them keen in their work of remote ministry. Two years ago the conference was planned to take place in Adelaide. Right at the conference time, Ansett went under, causing havoc with the plans so that the conference did not eventuate that year.



Peter Palmer and Philippa Hoskin grapple with craft ideas at the Staff Conference

Thus it was with great expectation that the Staff looked towards the opportunity to gather together at Mt Tambourine for a week in March. The time was a great encouragement to all concerned. Each person had opportunity to visit a local church to feed back to supporters how the work was progressing. The gathering was 'keenly honed' from the scriptures by Ian Watson the CEO from The Intercontinental Church Society. Each person was also aided to a gather a

greater incite into themselves and how they may resolve conflict arising from personality differences ably led by Jack Normand.

We gained a helpful input about the Islamic worldview and how we can approach the sharing of Christ within that community by John Bales.

The Staff were also helped in practical ways with Craft activities led by a team organised by Ruth Blackwell. They gleaned great ideas that they can use to encourage group activities back in the parish as well as having heaps of fun.

The conference was a great occasion used to spur one another on in the ministry of the Lord Jesus sending each one back with renewed vigour to persevere in giving up their lives into His service.

BCA Vision promoted in BCA Parish

The Parish of the Murchison has received support from the Bush Church Aid Society since 1957. Why? Because this Parish fits within BCA's vision statement of having "a priority in mission to the isolated, remote urban and rural people of Australia". Due to the transient and interdenominational nature of our membership each year we take the opportunity to learn about the mission agency that helps to ensure that Christian ministry continues within

this Parish. In 2003 I decided that we'd take a look at BCA's Vision and what follows is part of the address that I gave to our members. (You might like to download a copy of BCA's Vision from their website.)



MT Magnet township

BCA's overall vision of Australia For Christ shows that the Society would like to see everyone living in Australia come to Christ as their Saviour and Lord. It is a good aim however Australia is a large country and BCA is a small society so they cannot fulfil this aim by themselves. And so the role that BCA aims to play in this vision is contained in the next line "BCA has a priority in mission to the isolated, remote urban and rural people of Australia." Most government resources in Australia focus on Australia's major capital cities. Sadly, the same can be true within Christian circles. BCA and their supporters are

different for their focus is on some of the least resourced areas of our nation. They see the isolated, remote urban and rural people of Australia as important, and so they exist to provide ministry to people in these regions.



Yalgoo church with storm damage

BCA's first purpose is to proclaim Christ so that people may respond to him.

The most important purpose of BCA is to see that the message of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus, is proclaimed, spoken of, lived out and preached. For if the good news of Jesus is not proclaimed then how will anyone ever respond to God's message of salvation?

Allan Bate

your gift buying helps gospel work across Australia

Ordinations in the North West

There was an air of excitement and expectation as the Archdeaconry gathered for the ordination to the priesthood of Rev Brian Fyffe. It seemed like the whole town was geared up for this historic event. After all, it is not every day that an ordination service takes place in one of the Towns of the North West instead of the cathedral. Definitely a first for Newman!

There was also excitement in the old building founded by William Mitchell the second ICS chaplain sent to the Swan river when the Rev Peter Palmer as ordained Priest at St Mary's on the 1st May during the North West Diocese clergy family conference.



Bishop Tony, Brian Fyffe, Bill Ross, Les Gaulton, Lindsay Newby.



Bishop Tony ordaining Peter Palmer



The Stafferton family outside the cathedral in Hobart.

Ordination in Tassie

There was great rejoicing in February in Tasmania when Chris Stafferton was ordained Deacon in Hobart. Chris is ministering half time in Latrobe whilst he completes his theological studies.



BCA 009

"REAL AUSTRALIA" GREETING CARDS

New scenes, Post Office preferred size
Single pack of 6 cards with envelopes featuring our Ministry Areas.

BCA 009 Pack of 6 cards with envelopes \$7.70



BCA 102

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

SAVE — Order 3 calendars or more and pay \$9.00 each

BCA 003 \$10.00

JUNGLE DOCTOR COMIC BOOKS

by Paul White

The ever popular fables - set of 12

BCA 102 Jungle Doctor Books Set \$15.00



BCA 010

BCA TIE

Stylish - fashionable. Includes discreet BCA logo

BCA 010 BCA Tie \$27.50



BCA 308

WOOLLEN SOCKS

LAST TIME OFFERED THIS YEAR

Made in Australia from 75% wool blended with 25% nylon.

Adult sizes 6-11 in bundles of 3 pairs - mixed dark colours only

BCA 309 Woollen Socks - 3 pairs \$22.00

ALL PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE

Product only available while stocks last



BCA 201



BCA 202



BCA 008



BCA 217



BCA 205

BCA 206

"FROM THE HEIGHTS" – Volume I CD

Written and performed by the Sylvania Anglican Church Worship Band and produced to facilitate the praise of God using modern sounds and chord structures. Songs are a mix of upbeat praise, gentle worship, teaching hymns and songs for specific purposes (eg. communion or confession).

Volume 1 Songbook
(not illustrated) Available for congregational use.

"FROM THE HEIGHTS" – Volume II CD

"FROM THE HEIGHTS"
Volumes I & II together. **Save \$5.00**

BCA 201 "From the Heights" CD Volume I \$20.00

BCA 202 "From the Heights" CD Volume II \$25.00

BCA 203 "From the Heights" CDs Volumes I & II
\$40.00

BCA 204 "From the Heights" Songbook \$20.00

BIG DROUGHT NIGHT OUT

Written and recorded by "The Kelly Gang". All proceeds from the sale of this CD will go to BCA DROUGHT AID.

BCA 008 "Big Drought Night Out" CD \$12.00 incl postage

WHAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE –

CD by The Scooter Two

Australian children's CD deliberately written to fill a gap in the present Christian Children's music range—targeting all children (and their families) but especially those with little idea of the message of the gospel. In Kid's terms.... *"It really rocks!"*

BCA 217 "What was Impossible" CD only \$19.95

OUTRAGEOUS PRAISE

2 set CD by John & Eleanor Macpherson

Comprising:

- 19 original songs for praise and worship
- designed for all age worship
- includes vocal and backing versions

OUTRAGEOUS PRAISE – SONGBOOK

Separate book has music, lyrics and movements

BCA 205 "Outrageous Praise" 2 CD set \$33.00

(\$10.00 to BCA)

BCA 206 "Outrageous Praise" Songbook \$16.50

(\$5.00 to BCA)

ALL PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE

Product only available while stocks last



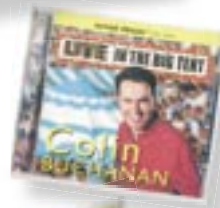
BCA 207



BCA 208



BCA 210



BCA 211



BCA 212



BCA 213

YOU ALONE - EMU LIVE

Features a collection of some of the most popular songs.

From *Plainsong*, *Bethlehem* and *Nicky Chiswell*, as well as some original songs written especially for this album. Recorded with a live congregation, each song is presented in a fresh energetic style. Songs include: *Behold the Lamb of God*, *Consider Christ*, *Psalm 96*, *May the Mind of Christ*, *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*.

Sheet Music and overhead masters are included on this Enhanced CD.

BCA 207 You Alone - Emu Live \$29.95

THE KING, THE SNAKE AND THE PROMISE

Genesis to Jesus... For Kids! From *Plainsong*

Lively praise for kids complete with words

BCA 208 The King, The Snake... \$19.95

10, 9, 8... GOD IS GREAT

from COLIN BUCHANAN.

This album is a follow-up to his much loved "AUSSIE PRAISE for Kids" series. An album full of fun and energy which is sure to teach and encourage kids and adults alike. Songs include *GOD IS EVERYWHERE*, *JESUS IS NO FAIRYTALE*, *WHO'S THE KING OF THE JUNGLE* and *THE LORD IS KING*, written by Colin in response to the September 11 attacks.

BCA 210 "10, 9, 8... GOD is GREAT" (CD only) \$24.95

LIVE IN THE BIG TENT – CD

Includes *"Follow the Saviour"*, *"Practise Being Godly"*, *"Jesus is the Mighty, Mighty King"* and memory verse medley.

BCA 211 Live in the Big Tent CD \$19.95

AND FOR EVERYONE!

SPECIAL EDITION AUSSIE PRAISE—Volume I CD

Includes the "Archbishop Rap" and features never before released songs.

BCA 212 Special Edition Aussie Praise Volume I \$19.95

REAL HOPE – CD

Includes songs for praise and worship – *"Jesus My Lord"*, *"He is Risen"*, *"Glory to the Rock of Ages"* and *"All I Can Bring"*.

BCA 213 Real Hope CD \$29.95



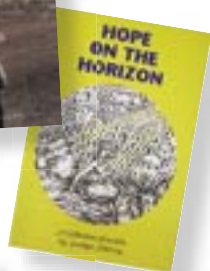
BCA 108



BCA 103



BCA 105



BCA 109



BCA 104

BCA 106



BCA 107

BUSH PREACHER BITES THE DUST

An old BCA favourite by author Kerry Medway, who served with BCA at Coober Pedy

"My husband chuckled his way through each chapter with frequent outbursts of laughter. I have never seen him read a book so enthusiastically. I just had to get my nose into the book too, so next day whilst hubby was at work, I laughed my way through 'Bush Preacher' "...a grateful housewife.

BCA 108 Bush Preacher Bites the Dust \$12.75

BUSH PARSON – by Leon Morris

Former Principal of Ridley College, Melbourne and BCA Missioner during the years of World War II. Leon Morris' story is a "tribute to the big-hearted people I met in the outback".

BCA 103 Bush Parson \$10.00

WE'RE HERE NOW, SO MAKE THE BEST OF IT

by Margaret Douglass

The life story of two ordinary people with whom God has done some extraordinary things – in the suburbs of Sydney, the POW camps of Germany, the outback of North West Australia, Anglican Ministry and Christian schooling. Full of pathos and the irony of living for a God whose thoughts are higher than ours.

BCA 105 We're Here Now... \$32.75

HOPE ON THE HORIZON

A collection of works by Jocelyn Harvey. Jocelyn Harvey communicates the significance of joy and security in Jesus through her writing. This collection of poems and prose has been dedicated to the work and workers of the Bush Church Aid Society.

BCA 109 Hope on the Horizon \$10.00

UNEQUALLY YOKED

—by Audrey Aspeling

"unable to find a person to marry who shared my born again faith I have tried to give some insight into our particular scene, and especially show how God seems to have been there all the way nevertheless"

BCA 104 Unequally Yoked \$15.00

Other favourites by Audrey Aspeling:

BCA 106 There are Flowers in the Desert \$20.00

BCA 107 After the Desert \$15.00



BCA 101



BCA 007



BCA 111



BCA 303

BCA 302

BCA 301



BCA 012

THE MEANING OF LIFE – by Jeanette Fogarty

The story of Jeanette's spiritual journey which started at 15 when she went on a camping trip with BCA to Coober Pedy. Whilst worshipping here she had a vision that answered the question in her heart – "What is the meaning of life?". Well written and easy to read.

BCA 101 The Meaning of Life \$12.00

OUTBACK RECIPES AND STORIES

Compiled by Brian and Beverley Bell. Includes recipes and stories from the Outback cooks of Wilcannia, Menindee, White Cliffs, Tilpa and their friends. "The Outback" – where women are known for their cooking. Here are some of their great recipes. Try them, enjoy them and get the taste of the Outback.

BCA 007 Outback Recipe Book \$10.00

FOX TALES FROM FAR FLUNG PLACES

— by Barbara Fox

Letters that Barbara had written to a friend during her 5 years as a nurse with BCA in the outback of South Australia, sparked memories and inspired this book. In it Barbara exposes her inmost fears, misgivings and frustrations as well as her hopes, joys and dependence on prayer.

BCA 111 Fox tales from far flung places \$16.50

ORD RIVER TEA TREE OIL PRODUCTS

Due to the discontinuation by the manufacturer of a number of their products we are able to make a special offer of stocks remaining – until sold out.

BCA 303 250ml Hair Conditioner \$7.00

BCA 302 250ml Shampoo \$6.50

BCA 301 125gm Soap \$2.20

Note that other Ord River Tea Tree products are no longer available.

PEWTER KEY RING

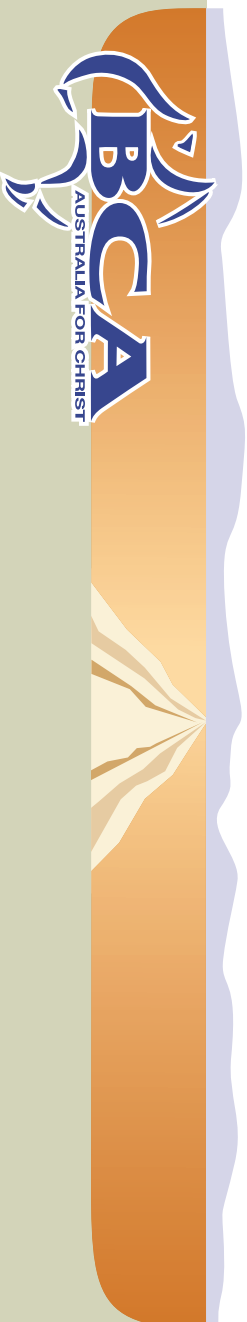
Handcrafted Australian pewter. We regret the lost key ring identification system is not available.

BCA 012 Pewter Key Ring \$5.00

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Activating the vision ...



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