

the real australian

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THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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BCA 020

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BCA directory

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Cover photo: Neals moving on from the Pilbara

A question in a recent quiz on ABC radio went something like this:

"Do 10%, 20%, 50%, or 80% of people in Australia live on 1% of the land surface of the continent?" The answer is a huge 80%.

So by some counts we are the most urbanised nation in the world. Back in the 50's and 60's almost everyone in Australia knew or was related to someone who lived on the land. That is surely not the case today.

What a sea change this last half century has seen; in fact a significant 'sea change', with a literal movement towards the sea. Coastal living is now well out of the price bracket of many Australians. The result, for those now looking for a change, is the 'tree change', with many moving into the hills or to rural settings around large regional centres, seeking a new contentment through a connection to the land and rural Australia; and a renewed feeling of relationship and belonging to a community that the pressures of city and suburban life seem to suppress.

This movement, to what the Australian Bureau of Statistics calls the 'outer regional' areas, is becoming part of the "New Bush"¹ for the Society and is a significant emerging sector on which to focus ministry.

Demographically the outer regional area is a band of country a couple of hundred kilometres inland, into which city and inner regional people are now moving for lifestyle choices, downshifting ideologies, or financial factors. This area is also experiencing growth with a shift from



Brian Roberts. National Director

the more remote regions as the number of farms fall, with fewer people working bigger parcels of land. 'Get bigger or get out'.

The next National census may start to highlight this new dynamic for regional Australians, but the churches are already feeling the pressure as small existing congregations start to realise that this change is overtaking them. They are feeling isolated and inept, left on the side looking in as the community takes on a new shape and different priorities. They are often under-resourced to reach out meaningfully to these new entrants in their communities.

BCA is seeking to find cost effective ways to help provide extra drive, creativity and resources to enable local congregations in the outer regional areas meet this new challenge. The Society's pioneer project in Hillston (NSW) provided some understanding of what is needed. BCA's expansion of its ministry portfolio >

in the last year to include other outer regional areas such as Snake Valley near Ballarat, Heathcote and Axedale near Bendigo, Croajingolong in north eastern Gippsland, the Midlands of Tasmania and Kangaroo Island in South Australia will provide vital ministry as these areas cope with the change and growth in their communities whilst developing as effective mission shaped churches.

Continue to follow the Society as it grapples with the "New Bush" concept while maintaining a commitment to its traditionally funded areas. The articles and stories from the field in this edition of the Real Australian will flesh out some of the challenges faced by the Society and its Field Staff. Stand with us as we stand with them.

BRIAN ROBERTS National Director

¹ A concept presented at the BCA Annual Council Conference in 2004 and at the Council Conference in May 2005.

Read the full text of 'Norman, No Mates' at www.bushchurcaid.com.au and follow the prompts.

As a new feature of the Real Australian in 2006, the Editor would be happy to receive and share comments/short letters from our readers. Please forward your thoughts (approximately 50 words) to:

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or email ra@bushchurcaid.com.au

A changing face of ministry

Bob and Sue Witten are 'old hands' at being BCA Field Staff, so what makes their latest ministry move so different?

Bob noted, "Much seems to be the same as anywhere else we have lived and worked. The distances aren't the greatest we have had to travel. The numbers of



active centres aren't many more than in other parishes but the numbers of church buildings surely are and caring for cemeteries is very new for us. Each centre has a cemetery and there are also cemeteries that don't have a worship centre attached to them. Overall the population base is bigger, and while the total number of regular worshippers isn't any smaller, the largest single congregation is. Put these smaller congregations into large buildings that can seat 200 and 300 people, and the sense of community can be lost. Add the joy of heritage listing and maintenance costs and you have a financial nightmare."

The ministry is called the Midlands



Tee Tree Church

Anglican Rural Community Development Project (ARC). We look after the southern section only, made up of two parishes – Brighton with three centres and Southern Midlands with seven centres.

Outlining his work, Bob said, "My brief is to walk beside these congregations and help them see what the future shape of ministry will be for them. Considerations could see parish boundaries being altered, enabler ministries forming in some centres, retaining the traditional parish structure and clergy role, combining churches or parishes, or a mega Parish may even emerge. Whatever the outcome, this will be decided by each worshipping community over the next three years.

While this happens, I lead regular worship in all centres, conduct baptisms, weddings and funerals. More of each



of these than Sue and I have been accustomed to. We get wonderful support from a small prayer group, and there are several women's Bible study groups and craft/activity groups. While the sharing and caring with Meg Evans (Uniting Church) and Sr Helen (Catholic Church) is wonderful, and a real spirit of cooperation exists, getting a grip on these changes will be an ongoing challenge."

BOB WITTEN

Christmas, Cards, Candy Canes and Chickenfeed

Christmas celebrations began the first week of December. While that is not unusual in some places, celebrations don't usually go on solidly for four weeks leading to Christmas Day. However, there was no other way to cover the communities in the Midlands ARC Development Project in Tasmania. With nineteen Carol and Christmas services and all the travel that is involved on top of the normal services, funerals and weddings, it stretched the human resources of project priest Bob Witten.

So where do the cards, candy canes and Chickenfeed come into this? Chickenfeed is a low priced chain of stores in Tasmania. They sold 24 candy canes for \$2.00 and eight hundred of these canes were purchased. Officeworks was also visited many times to print cards telling the story



of the candy cane. These were given out at the various celebrations as a take home gift.

All this means that over 800 people were reached and given the opportunity to hear and share the love of God and the greatest ever Christmas present. We ask for your prayers that people will respond and have Christ in their lives throughout the year.

And what of the Wittens? They spent January resting up.

BOB WITTEN

Support BCA in your Will

Make your money work for the Gospel when you have entered the Kingdom.

Many lives continue to grow towards Jesus through the faithful departed friends of BCA

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MAKING A BCA BEQUEST CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE OR COMPLETE THE FORM INSIDE THE BACK COVER.

From the Desert to the Sea

Many times over the years, Sandy has said that some day she would really like to go to the Flinders Ranges, while I have said that I would really like to travel the Birdsville Track. God, in His wisdom and grace, sent us to Leigh Creek where we got both.

I have also said on more than one occasion that I would really like a coastal parish before I retire. So God, in His wisdom and grace has now sent us to Kangaroo Island. People have talked of this to us as a "Sea Change" and we certainly won't need our "Ocean Therapy" quite as desperately when we are on leave.

In the whole of our time in Leigh Creek, we were excited and encouraged by the life in the little church there. We remain excited by the work they are doing since we moved on, but our focus now is on the church here on Kangaroo Island where we have just experienced our first Christmas.

The people here are keen to embrace change. They realised long ago that though their church life was comfortable for them, it was not going to reach new people. They decided that they needed to change but have not known quite how. Over the next few years, we will be exploring what goals the church here might need to reach towards, what resources we will have available to assist in this process and what changes might be made to maximise the benefits. In all this I see my role as that of facilitator rather than director, guide and equipper rather than manager. As a way of thinking, this is often the

biggest change any church must make.

Kangaroo Island is an enjoyable place to live and the church here feels like it is about to explode ahead. But nothing at all can be achieved without much faithful prayer and a willingness to be subject to



God, to hear His Word and to go forward in His Spirit. Pray for us as we do.

MARK EVANS

Youth Initiatives

Children's Deputation Tool

BCA is working to produce a DVD for use in Schools and Sunday Schools. The aim is to outline the work of BCA in a way that children will understand and relate to. It will have a gospel focus and show the breadth of our land and the lives of children who are located in the different areas of our ministry.

BCA
FOR KIDS



Max7

This year BCA is working with the Bible Society, Scripture Union, Logosdor and others in a new internet initiative titled Max7 - connecting with Jesus saying "My purpose is to give life in all its fullness". The aim is for a growing number of partnering organisations globally to produce resources to help children and those ministering to them to live life to the max, 7 days a week with and for Jesus. Initially a 26-week Bible curriculum package for 5–12 year olds will be launched in April 2006. This curriculum is just the first

step towards realising the vision to provide quality Bible resources on the web for anyone, anywhere around the world. Resources are designed to help children and families meet Jesus and grow in a daily relationship with him.



BCA Youth Worker for Gilgandra

BCA National Director, Brian Roberts believes this venture of the placement of youthworkers in this instance as a response



to help the youth who struggle with

the flow-on effects of the recent drought could be a forerunner to BCA's involvement with other youth worker projects and partnerships around Australia.

Richard Lanham has been appointed as a BCA Field Staff

Youth Officer and will be a mentor and advisor to the existing Shire Youth Programmes at the Youth Centre and the Gilgandra Adolescent Support Services. Richard will work alongside the leaders of the existing Combined Churches Youth Ministry, to encourage and support them in their weekly programmes and to assist with new initiatives. The local Anglican Rector, Michael Birch said, "This is an exciting opportunity

for both the churches and the whole community to bring a person with specific talent and resources to further our current Youth programmes in Gilgandra."

Speaking of his appointment Richard Lanham said: "I know we shouldn't really be surprised by the amazing things the Lord does, however, Julie and I are wonderfully and gratefully amazed

that the Lord would choose to present this opportunity for our gifts to be utilised".

Paul Mann, General Manager of the Gilgandra Shire Council, has confirmed they will utilise Richard's skills in the development and review of their Community & Social Plan and in providing assistance to the Gilgandra Adolescent Support Project.

PAUL DEW

**YOUNG PEOPLE ENCOURAGING
YOUNG PEOPLE FOR MISSION**

—will be meeting on 11 March, 2006, 6.45pm for 7.00pm start at SMBC (43 Badminton Road, Croydon). Cost \$7 at the door.

For more details email:
m28.email@gmail.com

ZINGzine Magazine

BCA have teamed up with the NSW Bible Society to include in ZINGzine four pages that relate especially to mission within Australia. ZINGzine is aimed at 5-11 year olds to help build their relationship with Jesus and encourage them to be involved with God's people here and around the world.



Christmas, Baptisms & Racetrack Stables

A unique event took place at the Corfield Racetrack when on Saturday 10th December, nine young people were baptised prior to the traditional Christmas Tree celebrations.

Corfield about 100 kms north of Winton, Central West Queensland, is on the boundary of the Parish of Winton. A railway siding, pub, tennis court, racetrack and four houses make up the town. The Christmas Tree (party) is for the local property owners, managers, workers, friends and a few visitors.

Towards the end of November I received a request from a Dad for baptism of his youngest daughter and possibly two other children from other families to be part of the celebration. Within three days this had grown to five children from four families. When one of the proposed godmothers was approached she realised that her four children had never been baptised and the count was now up to nine. The children's

ages ranged from 2 months (Simone) to 15 years (Virginia), seven girls and two boys.

We gathered near the bar area of the racetrack shortly after 6.00pm with the temperature in the high 30's. The service started around 7.00pm with over 100 guests participating in the singing of Christmas carols prior to the baptisms. It had been suggested that the children could be lined up along the wall and that I use the fire hose, but I considered this much too drastic for the younger candidates!

Those attending did not miss the symbolism of Jesus being born in the stable and the racetrack stables in clear view just behind us. And as we were there to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the child born to be King, the connection was made that baptism is the gift from the King.

In the bush much is about being adaptable, and on this occasion, we could not have asked for a more symbolic venue.

DENNIS QUINN



Corfield Baptismal Group

Moving West

It's hard to believe that my course has ended and three years have passed since my wife Rachael and I arrived at Sydney Missionary and Bible College with our 7-week-old baby, Joshua.

College was a great time of learning, growing and sharing through the study of God's Word. We have felt a greater sense of the love and power of God and the extent He went to in Christ to save people from their sin.

We came to college with a heart for rural ministry while remaining open to where God was preparing us to go. After much prayer and guidance, we were accepted as BCA Field Staff and appointed under a Ministry Training Arrangement as the Assistant at Bluff Point, Geraldton.

We are excited and thankful to God, BCA and Bishop David Mulready for the opportunity to move into the Parish of Bluff Point. Our heart is very much in sharing the great message of salvation through Christ with people, to see them come to trust and follow Jesus and become mature in Christ.

Amongst the excitement of going, there is the sadness of leaving family and friends. We always knew we might leave Sydney, but as the time drew near the process of saying goodbye was painful. What really helped is the great assurance we have through God's Word that He is in control of where we are heading, and who and what we are leaving behind.

We look forward to being involved in the North West, facing the challenges of



settling into a new ministry and community, adjusting to missing family and friends, yet embracing meeting and encouraging people to love and serve the Lord, and growing in our own walk with the Lord.

As we move on from Sydney to Bluff Point, we appreciate the support and prayers of all those who join in the ministry connected to BCA. Pray with us that we will continue to seek and trust in the will of our loving heavenly Father.

GRAEME & RACHAEL MIDDLEWICK

Our God delights to make the impossible possible



With some misgivings, Chris and I bought a property in Snake Valley nine years ago to use for our holidays. I had no thoughts of being the

Anglican minister there, as the small church was on the outskirts of a multi-centered parish and it was unlikely the Diocese of Ballarat would welcome an evangelical.

Two years ago, we moved back to Victoria from Townsville, without any hint of work for me. Chris had a job and we moved onto the "farm" wondering what lay in store for me in terms of ministry. We shot a prayer up to God... "ask for anything in my name" said Jesus.. Like Abraham, I wanted the impossible. I now wanted to minister in Snake Valley, where there was no resident minister of any denomination, and to teach VCE Religion & Society in a secondary school. All this in addition to looking after our son Daniel, who was starting school.

Two months passed without any sign of hope until I was invited by the Ballarat



Christian College to speak at one of their chapels. Before doing this, I introduced myself to the new Bishop of Ballarat, Michael Hough. I gave him the three minute tour of my life and had an inner urge to tell him I was a "priest-evangelist", a term that I dismissed as trying to sound Anglo-Catholic enough to get his permission to help out in a parish. In exchange, he shared his vision for the Diocese and said he was looking for a priest-evangelist, and wondered if it might be me. I'm sure I could hear God laughing at me!

With the additional support of BCA, I continue as the missionary to Snake Valley and the surrounding area. Oh, by the way, after speaking at two chapels I was asked by Ballarat Christian College if I was interested in teaching VCE Religion & Society as their teacher had just resigned.

God is very good.

ROB FERGUSON

The day our population doubled

Last November the quiet town of Heathcote doubled in size as four thousand plus bike riders came as part of the great Victorian bike ride. Our main street was lined with stalls and BBQs and the showgrounds became tent city. Amidst all this, how could we, the church, be visible and applicable? Hospitality and friendship in action was the answer.

Chairs and tables beneath the shade of the trees, plus a cool breeze provided relief to many. Riders of all ages, varying fitness and riding experience sat, chatted, read the paper, snoozed and enjoyed bottomless cups of tea, coffee and cold drinks along with food. Amongst the riders were many fellow believers who took advantage of our historic church building, which was opened to all.

To my knowledge no one gave his or her life to Christ that day because of our encounter together. Were we true to our calling? – visible? – applicable? I believe so. There is no doubt that God's love and care was evident through the people of St John's as they reached out to all who came and shared with us.

Part of the challenge of 'being the church' is to recognise what God is already doing. May God give us eyes of faith to see afresh His work, and accept the challenge to go where He is moving us/the church.

IAN CUTLACK

Moving on—meeting the challenges



As BCA supporters you will be aware we have recently returned to Sydney from Newman in WA, where we had lived for five months working as self funded BCA Co-workers.

Our time in Newman was valuable as we endeavored to pastorally care for Revd Brian and Annie Fyffe and the people from the local community. To help us reachout in our ministry as Co-Workers we both joined Lions, Judy joined the CWA and we shared through hospitality and friendship. Living in the local caravan park amongst the permanents enabled us to meet locals in their own environment – which is so important in ministry.

We returned home quite tired, aware that we were in a kind of void and found it hard to settle down. Through prayer we know God is moving us on, and it is an exciting time with the Lord's leading we look forward towards 2006. *(Continued 24)*

A road map for SA initiatives

A very happy time, the warm support of the many BCA supporters, friends and previous work colleagues from many parts of South Australia and a great spread to seal the night.....

This was all he needed to get started in his new role. Then they produced an Adelaide street directory,

South Australian road maps and some other essentials so that he wouldn't get lost. Peter gave a wry smile.

On 28 November, Revd Peter Linn was appointed as the new Regional Officer for South Australia and the Northern Territory to succeed Revd David Hand.

The service was arranged at St Luke's Whitmore Square. St Luke's provides a unique ministry to marginalised people in the "square mile" of Adelaide, a great contrast to the dry interior ministry often presented as the traditional ministry ground for the Society. Archdeacon Bob George, (SA Committee), picked up on this by drawing on his recent experiences on a study tour in the Middle East. He likened the ministry of BCA to that of John the Baptist - the man from the dry desert who prepared a way for Jesus. Just as St Luke's is creative in reaching out to the marginalised of the city so too is BCA in the outer areas - people



Peter and Rosalie Linn

of all walks of life distant from the Lord.

Peter certainly knows his way around the country and his skills, clear Gospel presentation, experience and enthusiasm will enable him to build on the foundations and work put in place by David. Peter is committed to BCA's continuing support to outback areas but also to those of BCA's 'New Bush', places like Kangaroo Island which is eager to reach out to those who haven't yet been reached by the church's mission and ministry.

Peter was commissioned by the National Director and Archbishop Jeffrey Driver, on behalf of the Province of South Australia, and Peter and wife Rosalie were prayed for by Bishop Garry Weatherill, Bishop of Willochra.

Your prayers are most valued as Peter initiates new and exciting regional activities.

KEN LANGSHAW
SA/NT Chairman

Manna in a dry and dusty land

A generation ago many men and women went to Sunday school and had Christian teaching at school. Sadly many have not continued to attend church for a variety of reasons, yet they still retain a latent knowledge of the great truths of Christ.

In a wave that seems bigger each year, many of these people travel the roads of this great country, searching for a warm winter, a new life, a mind-blowing



experience, or just the chance to get away.

In Western Australia, from late April to July this movement hits full strength, then reverses in August to early October as the northern temperatures rise. Northwards stream the cars, caravans, motor homes and camper trailers. For many, their goal is to settle in a town of choice for two to four months, relax, fish, play golf, party, barrack for their favourite footy team, and pass away the weeks in bliss. Yet that bliss has something really missing - an awareness of the beauty and grandeur of the great creation our Lord has put all around them.

Over the last two years in Broome, "Christ for Campers" has sought to redress



that missing component. During July, by putting on breakfasts, dinners, concerts, video nights, and craft groups, at which the Gospel is simply taught, many of these campers have reconnected to their long forgotten roots of a Christian faith. Volunteer BCA Nomads from across Australia assemble as a team to put together this outreach programme for thousands of travellers from Australia and other parts of the world.

In 2006 the movement spreads to Carnarvon, Kalbarri, Eighty Mile Beach and Derby, and is lacking only one thing -YOU!

If you would like to enjoy a great holiday, great fellowship, hard work for a couple of hours a day, and to spread the Gospel message, please contact your BCA office to register your interest.

It will cost you in time, money and energy, but will pay great dividends in self worth and the knowledge that you have contributed something really worthwhile for our Lord.

MICHAEL MAUDE

Information and application forms for BCA Nomads are available on www.bushchurchaid.com.au

WELCOME

BCA welcomes The **RT REVD PETER BRAIN**, the Bishop of Armidale, as the Society's new President. Peter has had a long standing commitment to the work of BCA.



MARK & MARY HOLLAND with Patrick have been accepted as BCA Affiliated Field Staff. Mark begins ministry in Hobart working as the Assistant with John Tongue at Holy Trinity.



PETER & BARBARA NUNN join us as people who have gained a wide experience of life. They have been serving in

ministry within the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn since 1998 and recently with Greg Thompson (former BCA staffer at Sanderson in the NT and Regional Officer NSW) at Reid. They take up the challenge to fill the vacancy on King Island following up the establishing ministry of Richard and Jennifer Minol who are now ministering in the Diocese of Bendigo at Tatura.



RICHARD & JULIE LANHAM are a welcome surprise to BCA. Richard fills the first BCA Youth Officer position. With

their three children they have moved from Silvan (Victoria) to the new BCA posting at Gilgandra. There is a wide support base of church, council and locals for this work to progress.

NEWS

ROXBY DOWNS As per the long standing agreement between the Uniting Church and the Diocese of Willochra it is common that



the responsibility for ministry is done on rotation. This is the first time in the history of Roxby that the Uniting Church is seeking to make an appointment. BCA's connection with Roxby will remain as an associated Prayer Partner. Will you please continue to pray for them in this interim period.

BROOME The Diocese of NWA have appointed two new well qualified couples to minister in Broome - Tim & Kathy Mildenhall and Lachlan & Rebecca Edwards. Their ministries are being financed from local sources. BCA is excited with the opportunity for gospel ministry that it

has had at Broome for the many years beginning with Noel Hart in 1962-65 when Derby was the Administrative centre of the Kimberley region. Then more recently through the O'Maras, Fords, Thompsons and Gabbotts.

THANK YOU

Bishop David Mulready advises that as a result of BCA's generous extra provision and the response of the locals, Karratha and Newman are today, debt free. Kununurra with a much smaller congregation have made a wonderful effort and have greatly reduced their debt to the Diocese. The initiative of BCA in this regard is much appreciated.

BCA'S TREASURER

The Executive Committee gave thanks to God for **MR. KEVIN**

ALEXANDER for his great contribution and foresight given to the Society for more than a decade. The National Director thanked both Kevin & his wife Margaret for their tireless efforts, commitment and dedication to gospel outreach across Australia.

MR. RICHARD HOST has replaced Kevin as Honorary Treasurer from January 1.

VACANCIES

Please pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up labourers for Leigh Creek and the Furneaux Islands.



How your donations fund our ministry

Over recent years the Society's portfolio of investments has increased, thanks largely to bequests, and we have been successful in reaching a balanced budget – despite competing demands from other "agencies".

BCA relies principally on its supporters to fund its ministry from year to year. We do not receive funding from the Government or any Diocese, although a number of individual

churches, groups or organisations affiliated with the Anglican Church support our work. Whilst we undertake our ministry in faith that God will provide for our needs, it is not without careful

consideration of our responsibilities and prayer that we will be faithful stewards of the donations and bequests we receive.

The BCA Council seeks to set a balanced budget each year and has been successful in achieving this in recent years, despite significant competition for the "charity dollar". Our current annual income and expenditure budget is \$2.49m – ¾ of which is allocated to the Field Staff and home mission costs. vSupporters have the opportunity to give through credit card or direct debit transactions, cheques in the mail or via our website www.bushchurchaid.com.au, and are invited to support two

appeals each year. In 2005, these donations were allocated to the General Gospel Ministry (81%) or the Tax Deductible Funds – Outback Education (11%), Nursing & Medical Services (6%), or the Kirkby Trust – a public benevolent institution (2%).

We are always encouraged that our supporters continue to donate towards our Gospel Ministry, as this is the greatest allocation of our Field Expenses.



As the Society's portfolio of investments (made up largely of bequests to the Society and the sale of property) has continued to grow (currently \$4.3m), it affords us the scope to take up new ministry opportunities as they arise. Each Diocesan opportunity is carefully considered by our National Director in consultation with the Finance & Property Committee before being taken to the Executive Committee for approval.

ROBYN WILLIAMS

Administration Manager

30 years of Outback touring

In February 1976 at a deputation by Rev'd Reg Langshaw, John Cronshaw (Buspa) was introduced to BCA for the first time. Reg took the parishioners on an imaginary flight in Rev Chris Clerke's plane to centres such as Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Menindee and Leigh Creek.

John's new Travel Company had a tour planned that visited some of these centres, and after praying about the idea for sometime, John approached BCA about whether their supporters might be interested in a coach tour that visited their missions.

An advertisement in the Real Australian saw the tour booked out even before all the accommodation had been secured. In the spring of 1976, John drove the coach accompanied by Assistant State Secretary, Laurie Calder, and the rest, as they say, is history.

2006 will see a very extensive anniversary programme of tours that covers all BCA centres as a celebration of this event. The tours range in length and cost, and include new ministry centres such as Kangaroo Island and Croagionglong, as well as Central Australia, the popular North West Tour, Outback SA/NSW and Victoria, and Easter in Lightning Ridge. A special youth safari is also planned for the NSW Spring school holidays.

Each tour is like a travelling houseparty, and as well as being wonderful in personal support for Field Staff and their families, many friendships are formed amongst travellers that enrich

their lives. Other benefits are the first hand knowledge of the work of reaching fellow Aussies for Christ, and being better prepared to pray and support this work, and to act as an advocate to others to engender extra support.



A BCA representative hosts each tour, and Buspa plans to be the Coach Captain again and to share his love of the Outback and the Lord with tour participants.

Details of tour options are available from BCA offices or the BCA website, www.bushchurchaid.com.au.

JOHN CRONSHAW

Buspa

What's it really like 'Out There'?



Having read *The Real Australian* for many years marvelling over stories, I was interested to see for myself what life was really like "Out There." It seemed there are three ways to experience first hand what BCA Field Staff do. You could become one, go as a Nomad or take a BCA coach tour.

Considering my husband and I had no formal theological experience, nor had we ever been camping, we took the tour option.

Our first tour was to the North West. What an experience! We visited interesting places such as Litchfield National Park, Ord River, Ningaloo Reef and many other fascinating places that are included in other commercially organised tours. But with BCA we had the added advantage of spending time with the BCA Field Staff and their families and learning of the challenges they face as they bring the knowledge of God's love to people in remote areas.



Space does not allow me to relate all that this coach tour meant to us, suffice to say that we have since added travels to remote parts of NSW and South Australia on BCA tours. People who had previously been simply a name or a photo in the Prayer Notes came to life for us. We talked about all sorts of things - shopping, the need to drive hundreds of kilometres to buy children's school shoes, a new grandchild born and not yet seen and teenage children boarding in major cities to complete their education. We heard wonderful stories of how the Word of God and Christian love is impacting on the lives of people all over Australia, and gradually we realised these visits were as much an encouragement to BCA Field Staff as they were to us.

We praise God for all He is doing through BCA and we are thankful for the privilege and opportunity to have been a small part of this on BCA/Fantastic Aussie Tours. Now when we pray for the people in the Prayer Notes, we picture them in their situation and feel connected even though the distance is great.

NOELENE SEIDL

Sale of Forbes Hostel

A journey of faith by the Forbes Anglican Parish

On 7th December last year, the sale of the BCA Hostel at Forbes was finalised.

The Society had not taken any students at either Broken Hill or Forbes Hostels since 2002 as the demand for this style of school term accommodation had decreased markedly over the previous couple of years¹. The Society found that many of the children who needed hostel accommodation to access schools could now do so via the internet and the then, newly created access schools programmes (Real Australian, Summer 2001).

Since 2002 the Forbes property was leased to the Diocese of Bathurst for use by the Anglican Church. The property became known as the St John's Centre and offered educational and ministry facilities. BCA Nomads renovated many of the rooms and undertook any maintenance required.

During this time a few parishioners from St. John's had a vision to purchase the property from the Society and a steering committee led by Elizabeth Parker, Parish Secretary, was set up. This delegation met with the National Director and BCA's Finance Committee to negotiate the sale of the hostel, which had been endorsed by the BCA Executive Committee.

Elizabeth comments – "I was acutely

aware as were the other members of the delegation that there was not one cent in the bank or anywhere else for the purchase of the place, nor did any of us have any clear idea of where the money would come from. Calmly we agreed on a settlement day in December – only 10 months to raise the money!!"

Interest from the Forbes community grew, and with much prayer, faith and

God's leading, the purchase price was raised.

"The Lord has brought together a very diverse group of people within this



Management Committee", Elizabeth said, "...people who have a heart for the things of God and the growth of His kingdom who have benefited from working together and probably wouldn't have ever done so if it was not for the Lord".

Now known as Havannah House (meaning "Rejoice" in Hebrew), the property will continue to offer educational and ministry seminars, retreats and accommodation. For the full story of their exciting journey of faith visit our website www.bushchurchaid.com.au.

ROBYN WILLIAMS

Administration Manager

¹BCA House, Broken Hill, continues to be the base for the Society's Outback Ministry District—or the West Darling Parish and offers short term accommodation for school and university students and BCA supporters.

Holiday with Spice!

Last July the Monro family set off on a trip around Australia. As Puppeteers, we decided to use our gifts for the Lord, and became BCA Nomads. We were excited at the prospect of sharing God's Word with kids, who had probably seen very little experienced puppetry.

Our first challenge was how to manage the puppetry equipment. Scott came up with a brilliant plan of using a collapsible shower tent and Libby, with the aid of a sewing machine, managed to create a theatre. A great invention as it was cheap, quick to erect and dismantle, and took up very little space.

We performed puppet shows in churches, schools, playgroups, missions and parks. It was a wonderful feeling to see the joy and excitement on the children's faces, particularly the confusion and amazement when the puppet came out and began talking to them. (Libby does ventriloquist puppetry as well). Some performances involved singing, face painting and paper puppet-making crafts, which the kids really enjoyed.

To be so welcomed by ministry staff and church families was a real joy to us. Many welcomed us into their homes as part of their family, sharing their meals and friendship with us. We felt a particular bond with the Diocese of the North West

and hope to return there with some new shows. We added many new towns and people to our prayers. You can pray with so much more feeling in your heart, when you see people's circumstances and the challenges they face first hand.

Upon reflection, it was strange how we were in perfect health until we began the ministry part of our holiday. We felt



we were being put through trials and temptations to give in, and we were certainly tested. We had a great test in giving thanks in all circumstances, and found we could rely

on the Lord. God cared for us in our remote locations and provided the necessary medical attention and medication. He provided friends to help with our children and give advice, meals and prayers. We saw our children's trust in God's care grow too. The truly amazing thing is we didn't miss a single performance!

We have no regrets in giving up our leave for working instead of relaxing. We have come home stronger Christians, filled with joy, looking to future holidays and where we can go and help in kids' ministry. We encourage everyone to think about being BCA Nomads, as working for the Lord gave our holiday an added spice we had never previously experienced.

THE MONRO'S Animalia Puppet Troupe.

Vision and Venture

The Real Australian of February 1924 carried the headlines, VISION and VENTURE and went on to note that "BCA must have vision, the vision of Christ at the very centre of everything so that we bring to Him the things that are, in order that He may make them what He would have them become Facts as they are – on one hand the lonely isolated settlers, pioneers, children lacking opportunity, cattlemen, station hands and their women folk

Then on the other hand, the vision we see: Bush Deaconesses, Childrens' Hostels,

Sunday School by Post, Mission Van Ministry, – in a word, Australia for Christ. What then of the Venture? Simply this—to make the Vision come true. A Vision is a wonderful thing, but it is an awful responsibility. It has to be accomplished. We need to enlist everyone in prayer and



work, and giving for its accomplishment. It is a call to every Christian because he is a Christian. It is a call to YOU."

Today, whilst still maintaining its ministry to those in distant and isolated areas of Australia, BCA also has a new VISION and VENTURE, reaching out to younger generations who, more and more are living and working in the Outer Regional

Areas – the 'New Bush'. Already a Youth Worker has been located at Gilgandra – we need another one for Lightning Ridge. The Editorial and other pages of this Real Australian tell more

of the new VISION and VENTURE to meet the changing face of Australia. Like the call to accomplish the Vision and Venture made in 1924, will you answer the call to support today's Vision and Venture?

CLEM KIRKBY

Archivist

BCA YOUTH SAFARI TOUR

Departs Sydney on Wednesday 4th October 2006 for 8 days

Enjoy hands on fellowship with the youth in Gilgandra and Lightning Ridge.

This is a great opportunity for youth to experience mission in outback NSW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE SYDNEY OFFICE

02 9262 5017

Moving on—meeting the challenges

(from 13) We don't envisage anything quite as adventurous as last year mainly because of financial constraints. Still, we are sure there are many areas where we can make an impact for God and so much more we could do for those who

live in isolation from family and friends.

As we move on and wait for God's leading, we are accepting invitations to talk to various groups about our work with others.

IAN & JUDY NEAL "Neals on wheels"

BCA AGM Diary Dates

Bush Church Aid Society of Australia

Level 7, 37 York Street, Sydney

Wednesday 24 May – 9.30am

A brief meeting to receive the audited financial reports and elect Councillors. Contact Jenny 9262 5017 or jenny@bushchurchaid.com.au

New South Wales/ACT

Level 15, 37 York Street, Sydney

Tuesday 4 April, 12 noon

A light lunch provided

Guest Speaker – BCA National Chairman the Revd Dr Vic Roberts, "The gospel of encouragement remains BCA's future"

RSVP Bronwyn 9262 5017 or email bronwyn@bushchurchaid.com.au

Western Australia

St Nicholas' Church, Australind

Saturday 29 April – 12 noon

Lunch Cost \$15 per person

Guest Speaker: National Director, Brian Roberts – "Norman, No Mates"

RSVP for catering purposes to 1300 554025 or by email wa@bushchurchaid.com.au.

South Australia/Northern Territory

St Luke's, Whitmore Square, Adelaide

Sunday 14 May – 1.00pm – 3.30pm

Lunch Cost \$5 per person

Guest speakers Revd Mark & Mrs Sandy Evans from Kangaroo Island

RSVP Bev 8231 7060 or email sa@bushchurchaid.com.au

Victoria/Tasmania

Holy Trinity, Doncaster (Melways 33 G12)

Friday 19th May 6.30pm (pre dinner drinks)

Guest Speaker Revd Dr Joy Sandefur (Nungalinga College Darwin)

Prime Stud Gourmet Spit Roast

Cost \$20 per person

Last day for RSVP Friday 12th May

Phone: 9457 7556

Email: victoria@bushchurchaid.com.au

Queensland/Northern NSW

'The Annual BCA Gathering'

St. Andrew's Church, South Brisbane

Sunday 2nd April, 12.30pm – 3.30pm.

Lunch in the hall and adjourning to the church for the AGM and Rally

The guest speaker is the Most Revd Harry Goodhew – using themes from his Lenten Study book on Isaiah

RSVP Angeline 3349 9081 or email: graeme@bushchurchaid.com.au

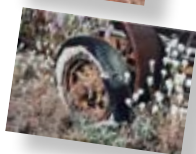
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BCA 009



BCA 011



BCA 012



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"REAL AUSTRALIA" GREETING CARDS

Blank inside for your own greeting or personal note. Post Office preferred size. Single pack of 6 different cards with envelopes featuring Australian scenes.

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BCA 011

Pack of 6 cards with envelopes

\$7.70



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BIRTHDAY-ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

For those dates you just don't want to forget!. With Bible verses and BCA scenes

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Featuring the Australian outback
Designed in Australia 55% linen-45% cotton

BCA 013

\$8.00

PEWTER KEY RING

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

BCA 012

Pewter Key Ring

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BCA TIE

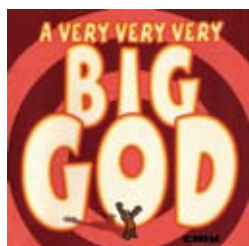
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BCA 010

BCA Tie

\$25.00

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"A VERY VERY VERY BIG GOD" Enhanced CD

This CD from Emu Music is particularly aimed at pre-schoolers, to encourage them in their singing of scriptural songs at church and at home. This Enhanced CD comes with sheet music and overhead masters.

BCA 223 A Very Very Very Big God CD \$19.95



BCA 219

"MEET THE KING"

Following in the footsteps of "The King, the Snake & the Promise. This CD is all about Jesus as portrayed in Mark's Gospel – just for kids. The songs are fun and fast.

BCA 219 Meet The King CD \$19.95



BCA 208

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...CD \$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)



BCA 206



BCA 205

ALL PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE

Product only available while stocks last

WE ARE HIS PEOPLE

From Emu Music

Enhanced CD including sheet music, overhead masters, mp3 backing tracks – a complete church resource as well as devotional album. Produced by Nathan Tasker, and using vocalists such as himself, Colin Buchanan & the familiar team of Nicky Chiswell, Philip Percival, Bryson Smith, Mark Peterson & Rob Smith.

BCA 222 We are His People CD \$29.95



BCA 222

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 CD \$29.95



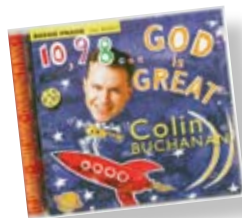
BCA 207

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

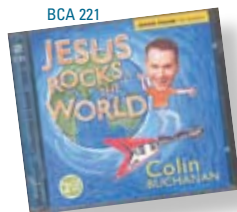


BCA 210

JESUS ROCKS THE WORLD

by Colin Buchanan This 2 CD set includes bonus instrumental tracks, full musical scores and Colin's hand-drawn Colouring-in Book. A new collection of songs and memory verses to challenge, teach and encourage young and old alike with truths from God's Word.

BCA 221 Jesus Rocks the World CD \$24.95



BCA 221

SING 2 JESUS by Sandra Marscham

Suitable for children this recording is dedicated to Sandra's son, Matthew who suffered from schizophrenia and died aged 25 years. Three days before his death Matthew had heard his mother sing in church, went home and putting his arms around her said "Sing to Jesus Mumsey, always sing to Him, lift up your voice to Jesus". Recorded at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, 15 tracks and a CD-Rom.

BCA 224 Sing 2 Jesus CD \$20.00



BCA 224

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BCA 108



BCA 103

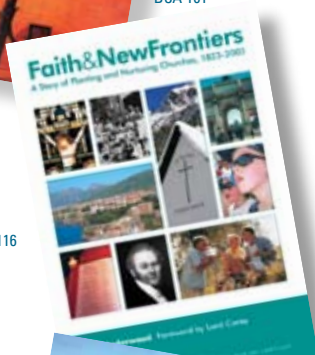


BCA 114

* Please request your free binder if you have purchased Audrey's previous three books



BCA 101



BCA 116



BCA 111

BUSH PREACHER BITES THE DUST

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

BCA 108 Bush Preacher Bites the Dust \$14.95

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

AUDREY ASPELING BOOKS

THE LAST LESSONS

The final book of a four part collection entitled "Life's About Learning". It covers an area of life that some fear, but most will have to face, that of old age. In this Audrey uses the thoughts and feelings of a cross-section of older people who she has met and supported her previous books.

BCA 112 The Last Lessons \$15.00 *

BCA 106 There are Flowers in the Desert \$20.00

BCA 107 After the Desert \$15.00

BCA 104 Unequally Yoked \$15.00

BCA 114 Life's About Learning—collection of Audrey Aspel's 4 books in an attractive binder \$49.95

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.

BCA 101 The Meaning of Life \$12.00

"FAITH & NEW FRONTIERS"

by Brian Underwood

Records the fascinating story of the planting and nurturing of English-speaking churches worldwide, beginning with the Western Australian Missionary Society (WAMS) in 1835; and traces the origins of the Intercontinental Church Society in Australia up to the mid 1960's, including the founding of BCA and beyond.

BCA 116 Faith & New Frontiers \$22.00

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.

BCA 111 Fox Tales From Far Flung Places \$16.50

JUNGLE DOCTOR COMIC BOOKS by Paul White

The ever popular fables—set of 12

BCA 102 Jungle Doctor Books Set \$15.00

"MONKEY CROSSES THE EQUATOR"

A Jungle Doctor Picture Fable (Hard cover)

BCA 118 \$3.50

"JUNGLE DOCTOR'S ENEMIES"

Another thrilling adventure from Paul White, the Jungle Doctor - Ages 10+

BCA 119 \$3.50

"WHITEFELLA CULTURE"

Culture is the way we think, act and feel about things. This book contains stories about an Aboriginal community and the aboriginal family and white people who live in that community. A "must" for BCA Nomads!

BCA 121 \$7.00

"ABORIGINAL STEREOTYPES" by Alan Rogers

Non-Aboriginal people's understanding of Aborigines is largely made up of hearsay and stereotype. Alan explores the "stereotypes" and shows us that tribal Aborigines are closer to their roots and are very much different.

A good companion to "Whitefella Culture" and ideal for intending BCA Nomads.

BCA 122 \$7.00

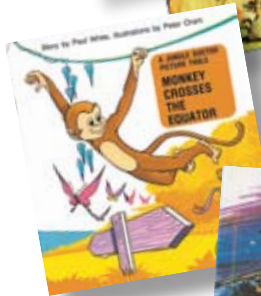
DESPERATE by Kerry Medway

Kerry Medway's new book challenges us to develop a lifestyle of being desperate for God in all circumstances, not just when things go wrong

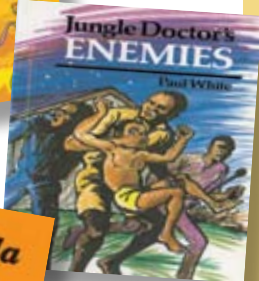
BCA 107 \$14.95



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