

WINTER 2012

the real australian



BBQ CHURCH! PAGE 6



**GARAGE HYMNAL IN CONCERT
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SOUL IN THE BUSH PAGE 12



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As Christians we are commissioned to share good news, not merely offer good advice. “He has risen” was the announcement of the angel the first Easter and ever since then God’s people have been telling friends and neighbours that Jesus is their good and powerful King who has overcome sin and death.

Of course it is possible to share news in a way that contradicts what we are saying. We are not to use trickery or flattery to proclaim the One who is truth, nor are we to bully people in the name of the One who came as a servant. That is why BCA is committed to Christ-centred proclamation that is both humble and confident.

Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to proclaim Christ across Australia. I hope you will be encouraged by the stories which follow, to share the good news in your world.

As I write this editorial it is just on six months since I began as National Director.

In that time I have been delighted to meet many faithful pray-ers, givers and supporters and to see firsthand the diversity of ministries carried out under the BCA banner.

But the greatest thrill has been meeting people whose lives have been changed through the simple sharing of a powerful message.

Christ is Risen!

Mark Short

National Director

Partnership in Proclamation

As the Society partners with its supporters to reach 'Australia for Christ', the gospel is able to go out throughout the nation, being proclaimed in a range of different ways in different locations and by different people. One of the ways it is proclaimed is through the school ministries.

Helena Painting has been ministering to schools in the Yass and Gunning area since March 2010. She has provided an update on her role and a few of the schools she works in...

"The role is quite complex in the way it is outworked.

It involves a combination of working in a

chaplaincy role in Bowning and Dalton Primary schools and the Yass High School, connecting with community members, teaching SRE in Berinba, Yass Primary and the high school and running the youth group which is fed into by much of the connection with the high school kids.

In 2011 I worked with Year 5/6 students at Bowning Public School to create a local history booklet of Bowning. This project enabled me to firstly; engage with the students and assist the teaching staff and secondly; engage with community members in compiling the booklet.

This year, I am starting a toddlers and

mums group at Bowning with music for the toddlers and coffee and chat for the mums.

I got the Shine programme up and running with year 8 girls at Yass High School. This is a personal development programme for girls and runs for nine weeks. We had two very successful terms in 2011. The high school is very happy with

the programme and the outcomes and has requested it to continue in 2012 – so we are off and running again. There is a programme for boys called Strength, which is similar to Shine, and it looks like that will start in Term Two this year.

I also continued with the weekly

Chips, Chill and Chat lunchtime session at the high school. This gathering looked for purpose, so we formed a VGen group (Vision Generation, a World Vision initiative). This gave the group a humanitarian/advocacy reason for meeting and we discussed and focussed on different issues. We also had an advocacy awareness day at the high school with street theatre, information leaflets and Destiny Rescue Jewellery for sale.

The flow-on effect from building relationships with the high school kids into the youth group has been extremely successful. The youth group is hard work,



Group of Shine participants on final celebration day.



VGen Advocacy stall in main street, Yass

but the rewards outweigh that – we have a steady number of 25-30 attending and many of these are non-churched families.

There are also valuable flow-on effects from building relationships with primary school kids who will see you again in high school and from working in the small communities in the primary schools to link with community members.

This is a complex and hard role, but it is one made easier by the support, love, prayers and finance of my friends and supporters. May the Lord bless you abundantly as you support this ministry.

Helena Painting

The Society has been granted funding for 2012-2014 for school chaplaincy in Gilgandra and Gulargambone from the Commonwealth Government under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. Please pray for Alfrene Wright at Gulargambone and for the right person to take up this ministry opportunity at Gilgandra.



**Above: High School SRE with God's Squad
Below: Shine girls working on their collage**

Serving up the gospel in Wickham

BBQ Church has been going for 18 months now (since October 2010). If you like church neat and tidy, well-structured and seamless, BBQ Church is not for you. However, it has been a 'god-send' for many in this community, and a context in which I have seen God's mighty power at work - through the message of His saving love revealed in Jesus, and delivered by His people when they serve and love undaunted by the chaos.

I actually think it is me who has struggled the most with the chaos, and for that I am also thankful, as it has not stopped people from coming back again and again. Not only that, but there has been an amazing diversity in those coming. Wickham is a town of two halves, and BBQ Church is the only event that happens on 'this side of the tracks' in the 'Bronx', an area

dominated by social problems, dysfunction, and substance abuse. It has been amazing to hear the comments of people who have been so grateful for some light in the darkness. And while BBQ Church has been aimed at this side of town, it is open to all, and has been great to see people come from all segments of the community.

Anyway, back to the chaos. The kids love BBQ Church. Yes, they run wild, but we have determined not to respond with the harsh words they are used to. While this means they often do run wild, there has been a growing respect, and as they have been included in helping to serve the food, some of them have changed significantly. Quite a few of the kids either do not attend school, or are repeatedly suspended for aggressive and violent behaviour, so they

desperately need an environment that is able to embrace them and not reject them. The challenge is to provide this in an environment that is also safe for others. Hence the chaos and the stress. Each time we do BBQ Church we don't know what to expect, but every time we are amazed by what the Lord does in sustaining us in the midst of challenges

and blessing those who come. A number of people, from young mothers to grandparents, have told me with tears how important this is for them and for the area.

There has been a lot of crime lately, and we have not been untouched by this. Damage to the Rectory and our vehicles, and Tracy's bike stolen when I wouldn't give



Above: Rich speaking at BBQ Church
Below: Ned Cheedy



Even a group of local kids put down their slingshots to join in BBQ Church

it to the local kids. At a recent BBQ Church, I 'happened' to see a group of kids about to fire their gings (slingshots) into the crowd and walked up to them. I told them their timing was perfect; the food was ready, and to come over for a feed. They came and ended up staying for the whole service. No one got ginged; the kids softened; and everyone heard about 'The Saviour of Lost-Causes and the Lord of the Too-Far-Gone' from Mark 5. At the end of the talk, I offered people to come and take a copy of Mark's Gospel – more than 30 people asked me for one. It was a great night. Continue to pray that the Lord guards and blesses like this every time we go out. And pray too, that I will trust God more, and realise that He is used to ministering to a world in chaos; that Jesus was used to ministering in it; and that He has even entered into the chaos and dysfunction of my life to restore me to Himself. He is not threatened by it, and I must not be either.

Postscript (2nd April 2012)

– I have just heard today, that the oldest aboriginal elder in the area, Ned Cheedy, has died. At the age of 107, his father was born only fifteen years after European settlement. His dad would have heard directly about the Flying Foam massacre of 1869 and shared it with him. He witnessed the last century that stands as a backdrop to the complex issues we face today. Most importantly, he was a man of faith in the Lord Jesus, and a member of the Pilbara Aboriginal Church in Roebourne. For many years he has urged the younger generations to faith, leading outreach ministry to desert communities. He would also attend every initiation ('Lore') ceremony to pray over each of the boys involved. Please pray for the local Indigenous community during this time. Pray that the Lord will raise up more faithful aboriginal men and women to lead their people.

Rich Goscombe Wickham WA

Holbrook Harvest Festival



On Sunday 26th February, the Parish of Holbrook held its annual Harvest Festival Thanksgiving service.

Fresh produce grown and goods made were brought to church and placed at the front—it looked quite resplendent—and we had a special time of thanksgiving to God for all His provisions. After the service everything was taken to the church hall where an auction was held. Prices ranged from the reasonable to the ridiculously inflated, but much fun was had and all proceeds were given to support the employment of a new Scripture teacher at the local high school. In total we raised just



over \$800—a wonderful outcome!

As well as being our Harvest Festival service it was also our second Kids' Church Sunday for the year. Kids' Church is our fortnightly Sunday School programme for children. Since its inception last year, numbers have averaged around the five mark (three of whom belong to the rector's family), but so far this year we have had 16 and 13. Please join us in thanking God for this and pray that it will continue and represent a genuine desire for people to have God in their lives and in the lives of their children.

Revd James Coats Holbrook NSW



We invite all our BCA friends to our Lightning Ridge Community Church Centenary Celebrations

Sunday 23rd September 2012 10am Centenary Church Service

Roast Lunch • Church History and 'Flowers of Praise' on display • RSVP appreciated:

Revd Mike Keith m.keith@bushchurchaid.com.au or (02) 6829 0597

Why not stay for a few days to check out what Lightning Ridge has to offer!

(Note: it is the first weekend of the school holidays, the school centenary is on 21-23/9, and it's the start of an outreach week here, so book accommodation early to avoid disappointment.)

Tracks of Grace

God cares about everyone in Australia and BCA is committed to standing with God's people to make a difference. Here are two stories of the impact God is having throughout our land:

Lee Robertson had been to various churches of differing beliefs, but they never felt quite right and he never felt quite at home even though he thought the people and fellowship were great. Then through a series of circumstances including a funeral for an old Indigenous school friend, God led Lee to the Far West Indigenous Church in Broken Hill NSW and Neville Naden.

Neville was able to instil in Lee the simple truth of Jesus dying to save him and that all he needed to do was accept this free gift. "It seemed so simple and yet no one had ever been able to explain it so clearly to me before," Lee recalls. "Everything seemed to click."

"Even though God led me here, I'm blessed to have a brother with such a brilliant sense of humour who can share so readily the simple truths of God's word. Neville is so readily available, non-judgemental and nothing seems to be too much trouble for him."

Lee enjoys the Bible Studies and community fellowship groups that Neville co-ordinates each week. "These activities strengthen my faith and spread God's word through action and association. I feel as if my journey has just begun."

Fiona Scott describes her childhood experiences of church as "not the best thing for me" and found that it turned her off



Gary, Nikki and Fiona

church. She decided to focus on her nursing training, which led to her going overseas for ten years.

That is the point where Fiona says she fell away from the Lord. Despite the restrictive countries she was in, there were churches, although she chose not to go to them. She found her relationship with God becoming increasingly distant. However God had other plans for her.

On returning to Australia, Fiona met up with a fellow nurse who encouraged her to visit Gary and Nikki Alexander's church in Kununurra WA once she moved there. After a few months, Fiona took his advice and visited the church. She describes her first encounter as "fantastic" and now feels that the church has become her family. Fiona loves being involved in the church. She looks forward to coming to church every Sunday and to Bible Study on Wednesday nights.

"I know I'm there because of God, but Gary and Nikki have just made it so easy. I'm indebted to them just for who they are and their approach to church. It may not be a typical and traditional Anglican church, but it's what I needed and Nikki and Gary just met my needs for getting back into church. They are laid-back and easy going and a really loving and encompassing couple. I can't speak highly enough of them, actually."

Ministry in South Tamworth

We are Geoff, Sarah, Noah, Amelie, and Aleksey, and we are currently living in Tamworth NSW serving at St Peter's Anglican Church South Tamworth with a special focus on Indigenous ministry in the Tamworth suburb of Coledale. This is my first year in full time ministry as I finished training at Moore Theological College last year. Both Sarah and I have called Sydney home for the majority of our lives, but decided to take the plunge and head rural (well, rural for us) to live and do gospel ministry.

Our decision to head rural came, perhaps surprisingly, through our love of working and living in the inner city. When Sarah and I were engaged, I was an arts graduate living in the suburbs with the job qualifications of, well, an arts graduate – my job prospects were the same as before I began the degree. Thankfully I got a job in the inner city suburb of Redfern to co-ordinate an after school programme for kids in the area and to start up a

youth group through the local Anglican Church. We saw this as a very exciting opportunity, so after we were married, we decided to move into Redfern in order to live and attend church amongst those

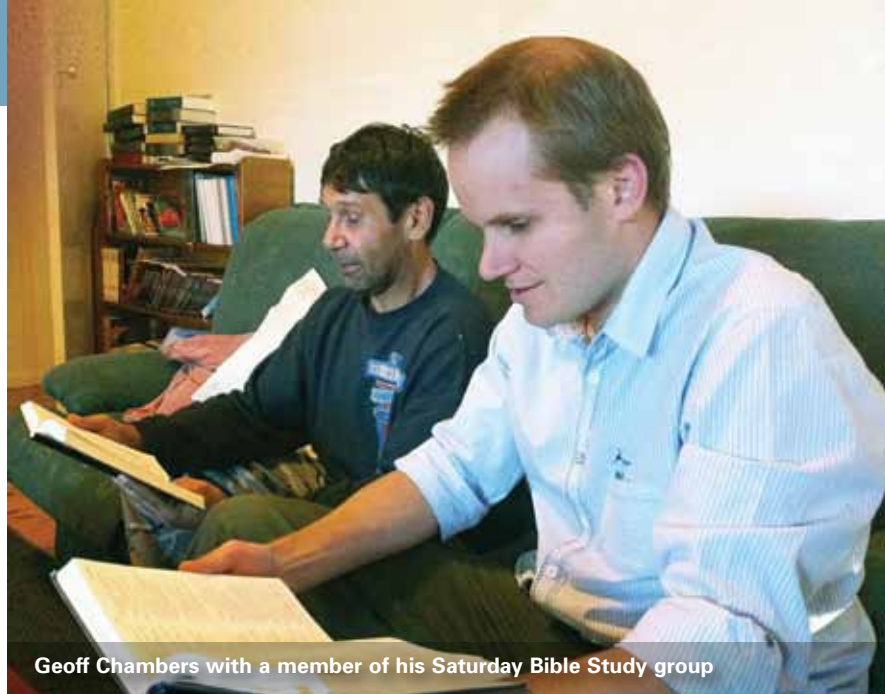
with whom we were working. During that time we both loved living and working in the community, church fellowship, entering homes and sharing the gospel. Over the years our heart for people in the area grew and the possibility of committing to Indigenous ministry became a real possibility.

Therefore, during my time at college when we decided to become candidates for ordained ministry, it made sense to choose the Armidale Diocese for a number of reasons – one being the Indigenous population and

opportunities for work there. At that time there was not much work in the Diocese directed towards Aborigines, so our expectation was that we would begin doing parish work and be trained and maybe God



**Top and Middle: The streets of Coledale
Bottom: The Chambers family**



Geoff Chambers with a member of his Saturday Bible Study group

would provide something in the future. During that time we were approached to do Indigenous work in Tamworth and BCA committed to make a contribution towards our support. Although there is much about Indigenous ministry we find daunting, it was a very pleasant surprise and we were very thankful.

Our ministry at St Peter's is half time. The aim is to continue and initiate work amongst the Indigenous population in the suburb of Coledale. Currently there is a Saturday group that meets to study the Bible, pray and have fellowship each week. It has been an immense encouragement to see the spiritual maturity of the group who have a clear grasp of the gospel and desire to grow in holiness and see Christ proclaimed to friends, workmates and family. We have enjoyed getting to know those involved in the group both personally

and as a family. I am also currently involved in Scripture and a Breakfast Club that takes place at the local school. This has been a great way to build connections with the school and kids in the area.

In regard to the future of the work here, just recently I have approached the community centre about funding and support to start an Oztag competition, to which they have been very positive. Hopefully this will result in building of relationships with kids from the school and Coledale and will eventually lead to a youth group. The Coledale Bible study is continually thinking about ways we can reach out to the community using the resources and time we have.

We would love your continued prayers to partner with us.

Geoff Chambers
South Tamworth

Soul In The Bush



Gardening project in Parkes NSW

After many faithful years of praying and planning, and with the support of BCA, Soul Survivor NSW sent over 500 youth and young adults from city churches to serve and minister with rural churches in country towns as part of a week-long event called Soul in the Bush.

On 16th April, the groups travelled hundreds of kilometres to seven bases: Batemans Bay, Bathurst, Forbes, Gilgandra, Gloucester, Tamworth and Yass. In their bases, they were fed spiritually and physically before going out in teams of twelve to serve through various projects in nearby towns. Some of the projects included gardening in towns around Tamworth, painting over 3800 palings of a cricket fence in Bookham, running Kids' Clubs in Blayney and Kelso, painting a park in Tooraweenah, ripping up carpet in Gooloogong, running a backyard blitz in Waukivory and holding outreach and justice events in Batemans Bay.

For their service project, Nina, Ruby and Josh from Lifegate Church of Christ, Padstow were gardening at Yass High



Mark Short's seminar

School after a fire burnt down the canteen area and surrounding garden. They explained that they hoped replanting the garden would bless the high school and also "just make it a pretty sight" for anyone who passed by. Nina added that the week was a good chance to do more than just give money to a cause but to actually get their hands dirty and help out.

In Parkes, the local Anglican minister, Revd Brett Watterson, had recently placed a Religious Education teacher into the local high school and was keen to continue the relationship with the school. Soul in the Bush was a good opportunity for him to do that, by having a team plant a garden as their three-day project. In Brett's words, the group performed their jobs "like Trojans" and nearly completed it in one day. He was then able to find them three more gardening projects for the rest of the week.

Toby and Rhys from All Saints Anglican Church in Balgowlah were part of this gardening group. They explained that they came to Soul in the Bush to serve in the name of Jesus and in doing so, to grow

in Him. Rhys pointed out that they won't necessarily see the fruits of their labour, but that they were gardening because they already loved the community and wanted to help out. Toby added that personally, he already felt blessed by the week and especially so during the chance he had to share his testimony.

Another project was held in a church in Bedgerebong, a township approximately 30km west of Forbes with a population of 98. The team, made up of local youth from Forbes and another group from Balgowlah, were able to put on a Kids' Club and do some much-needed maintenance around the church. Revd David Barrie, Associate Minister at Balgowlah Anglican, supervised this project and witnessed how valuable the experience was for his group of youth. "I think it gave them perspective. They might take their church for granted – just having so many peers around them and having such a strong church – and so it was an eye-opener for them to see what it is like when a church only has five elderly members. There's no minister at the church. Arnold Constable was the church member who acted as our foreman. He'd been in Bedgerebong all his life and he was very excited to have us there. Arnold asked us to sign the visitor's book and told us to drop in and say 'hello' every time we returned. He was very appreciative of the work we did because he was doing all the maintenance himself and there was just too much to do."

It wasn't all hard work though and on Thursday morning each group had a

'Fun Bush Meeting', where they were able to enjoy their surroundings. The teams in Forbes visited 'The Dish' and had an enjoyable morning playing Frisbee while the Gilgandra teams gathered in a local field to blow up a black stump.

On the weekend, 530 people gathered in Bathurst to celebrate the week, attend seminars – including one by BCA National Director, Mark Short, on rural leadership – and share their experiences from the different bases and projects. Something that resonated throughout each shared story was just how humbling it was to serve small communities, how encouraging it was to serve alongside members of the community, how many youths grew in confidence in their faith and especially in sharing their testimony and how they found God's heart for rural communities.

During Mark's seminar, it became apparent just how much some of the 'city kids' learned about rural communities. Some of them had come with the view that rural life and city life were completely different but after talking to the rural locals, discovered they shared a lot more in common than they at first realised.

Many of the city groups have committed to remain in contact with the rural churches with whom they partnered and will return to serve in the coming years.

BCA had a strong presence throughout the week and in the final meeting, Matt Gelding said how thankful and appreciative they were for the support of BCA to help make the event possible.

Our Place Ministries, Three Years Later

The last time I wrote for The Real Australian was when I first entered into full time ministry as the Assistant Minister in the Parish of Eaglehawk, some 10 years ago now. I remember it well.

I was feeling very inadequate and ill equipped for the task ahead and agonising in prayer about it. I remember the encouragement I received as I read again the story of Jesus feeding the multitude. In it God reminded me that the task ahead of us is never greater than the One who is behind us and has promised to give us all we need to do things He has called us to. We may feel we're out of our depth at times, we may feel very shaky, nervous and unconfident in ourselves and our resources, but perhaps that's necessary to some degree. The truth is, we don't have to have confidence in ourselves, but rather, we are called to have faith in God. Faith in God to meet us at our point of need, faith in God to provide when we have nothing to give, faith in God to do the impossible, to do what we ourselves can't do, faith in God to bring forth in His time that which is needed.

The story of Jesus feeding the multitude was encouraging to me way back then, and it has continued to encourage and strengthen me since then.

Over the past 10 years there have been countless times when I have thought "Lord, one fish and one loaf would be pretty good right now, 'cause I have nothing!" and yet I know time and time again God has indeed provided.

On February 7th 2009, Greater Bendigo experienced its worst natural disaster when the Black Saturday Bushfires tore uncontrollably through the district. With little warning it took the life of local residents, it destroyed 60 homes, countless sheds, outbuildings, cars, boats, caravans, and gardens and burnt through 354 hectares of land. The fire stopped just 1km short of the CBD and left in its wake, a devastated and traumatised community.

Following the devastation, I was appointed as community chaplain to work in the Bendigo fire affected areas. It was daunting. I had no idea of how to be a community chaplain. In the wake of such devastation what could I do? After a week on the ground, being present, available and listening, it seemed good to explore the possibility of opening a place where people could come, share their stories and get practical support and assistance. Our Place Community Assistance Centre was birthed and opened its doors on March 5th 2009 as a Fire Recovery Centre.

'Our Place' still has its doors open today, and still offers hope, a sense of belonging and a range of opportunities for people both young and old, rich and poor, to engage and build community.

From its very beginning Our Place quickly grew into a thriving hub of activity and a friendly, fun, accessible, safe place for all people to connect, grow and contribute in meaningful ways to the community.

Our Place runs as a drop in centre. Anyone can call in at any time for a cuppa,



Celebration of the 100th Community Breakfast

a chat, to join a group, to use resources, be encouraged, receive practical assistance, or gain valuable work experience. Our Place Ministries now has over 20 programmes running each week across three sites with more than 90 volunteers. Over 300 people participate in a range of activities including playgroup, choir, drama, art classes, knitting, craft, woodwork, homework club, gardening, community breakfast and more, and the activity and buzz is still increasing.

Each week Our Place responds to countless calls for help from struggling families. It runs a very busy emergency food relief pantry, is the home to Alcoholics Anonymous, the Bendigo Bushfire Action Group and provides much needed assistance to those in need. Last year it sent constant crews out to help with people affected by the floods and support for those affected by the Black Saturday Fires continues.

At times, I still find myself feeling overwhelmed and incompetent and yet I still have the lessons of Jesus feeding the

multitude and working a miracle in the very ordinary lives of people in need, that keeps me hanging in there. I don't have to have BIG faith, just faith in a BIG God. I don't have to have all the resources I need for the tasks ahead, I just have to keep giving what I can give and trusting my God is the God who can do far more than we can ever think of or imagine. Miracles do happen!! God is the one who can make the impossible possible and the amazing thing is, that He chooses to use us in the process.

Thank you BCA and all who have given their loaves and fishes to the work of God. People have been ministered to, fed and touched by your gift.

May you continue to know His abundance in your life and ministry and together may we continue to marvel at His goodness.

Yours In Christ and fellow pilgrim in the journey

Revd Tracey Wolsley

Director Our Place Ministries

Boogie for the Bush



A new way to raise money for BCA

Danebank Anglican School for Girls in the Sydney suburb of Hurstville and in particular, Richmond House of Danebank, have been supporting BCA through various fundraising events for over ten years. Whether through putting on a book store, a cowboy dance or an accessory day, the girls seem to have an endless supply of creativity for raising money and this year was no exception.

Richmond House Leaders and two of the creative masterminds behind this year's fundraiser, Sarah Sammut and Tiffany Zwanink, were among thirteen Year Six girls who visited the National and NSW BCA offices in an annual tradition. The girls were taken on a tour of the offices, introduced to all the staff and their different roles and watched a presentation about BCA. They were then treated to chips, juice and a bilby chocolate while Sarah and Tiffany told the story of their latest fundraising venture.

Danebank held a mufti day earlier in

the year as usual to raise money for BCA, but the girls of Richmond House wanted to make it a bit more interesting. So they got together for a brainstorming session and according to Sarah and Tiffany, they all came up with the same idea: a flash mob. A flash mob is a group of people in a crowded place who suddenly perform an unrelated act/dance/song together.

"We were just hoping to make it a really fun time for everyone instead of just an ordinary mufti day," Tiffany explained. Sarah



added that they hoped this would encourage people to come along to future BCA fundraising events they plan to hold.

This flash mob that they called 'Boogie for the Bush' was planned to occur in Assembly. During

the sports report, music started playing and the Richmond House Leaders and a few dancers ran onto the stage to perform the Macarena. Everyone was then encouraged to join in and by all reports, it was a raging success!

The staff at BCA are very appreciative of Danebank's support and look forward to their next creative fundraiser.

April Bottom Scholarship

Applications are now being invited for the 2013 April Bottom Scholarship, worth \$9,000.

April Bottom was a unique person – full of fun, life and vision and with a strong Christian commitment. Her family home in Broken Hill, Allison House, became a Hostel for children who would come from surrounding areas for education. She served on the Allison House Managing Committee until the time of her death.

April and her husband, David, ran Wirrylka Station for many years and experienced first-hand the difficulties of having their children educated. Before her death from

cancer in 2003, April expressed a desire to set up a fund to assist families from the West Darling Parish region (now the Parish of the Far West and Broken Hill) with the education of their children, particularly where they needed to leave the region in order to achieve their education potential.

In previous years, winners of the Scholarship have moved from their homes or properties surrounding Broken Hill and Menindee to study in Adelaide, Bathurst, Sydney and Darwin.

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a resident of the Parish of Broken Hill and the Far West.
- Undertake study outside the Parish in 2013.
- Submit your completed application by

the closing date and have it verified by parents/carers.

- Provide your last year's academic records and any other information (e.g. sporting, academic achievements, club memberships, etc.) to support your application.

The winner for the 2013 Scholarship

will be notified in mid-October this year and the amount of \$9,000 will go towards their tuition fees/boarding fees/text books, etc. as they commence their studies in 2013. Applications close on 3rd September, 2012.

The 2012 recipient,

Hayley Lawrence, from Kara Station in far north western NSW, has commenced her Bachelor of Nursing at Flinders University in Adelaide. The Scholarship has eased the financial burden on her parents, who were greatly affected by the drought, and is covering the cost of some of Hayley's courses, including one on Anatomy and Physiology and another entitled 'Health Across the Lifespan'.

If you know someone who would benefit from the April Bottom Scholarship or you are interested in obtaining further information please email:

robyn@bushchurchaid.com.au or phone 02 9262 5017

Applications can be downloaded from www.bushchurchaid.com.au



Rev. Brian Ford presenting Hayley with the Scholarship for 2012

Prayer at the heart of things

Delia Smith, the cooking guru of the 90s says, "Prayer is something that God does. ... it is a relationship in which God is the initiator." (Delia Smith, *A journey into God*, Spire, London 1988) God is doing things in Roxby Downs.

Ten years ago Ian McGrath prayed for chaplaincy openings at the Olympic Dam mining and processing site. 6 years later Bob McKay

took up a part-time chaplaincy position, connecting with the growing number of South Africans who were arriving at the industrial site and joining the congregation. Reinhardt took on senior management positions on site and in the church. He encouraged his best friend, then in Chile

and worshipping with the Hallyburton's (CMS Australia missionaries) to take up the General Manager position and bring his family to join him. The HR General Manager was also prompted to come. At just the time when Peter Palmer was invigorating



Barry Luke with Vivien Bleby and Mary Lewis

ideas about the strategic place of mining chaplains for the gospel these managers heard about it. They had valued Bob's ministry. The

Community Church began discussions with BHP Billiton for a full time chaplain on site. Barry remembered that God had called him into ministry in 1989. Pieces of a jigsaw puzzle began fitting together. In February this year, a partnership between the Diocese and BHP Billiton Olympic Dam

Inc for a full time chaplain, funded by the Company, came into being. Barry Luke, with the support of his wife Avril and family, is stepping up for this position. Already we are seeing that being "fulltime" opens many opportunities to be present and available.

James came to work in town as a carpenter. His sister lived nearby in Woomera and he is a country lad at heart. He is a natural worker with children. They love him and he loves them. People kept suggesting "You'd make a great youth worker!" Roxby Downs is full of children and their families, most know nothing of Jesus. Our voluntary school chaplain was feeling tired (now in her 70s). We prayed for direction and support for outreach work to children from the church base and appointing a Children's Pastoral Support Worker (the term for school chaplains in the SA government school system). Ian had also prayed the same thing 10 years ago. Enough money was committed –

just; the School Council agreed – just; advertisements went out and there were ZERO replies. Then, James was made redundant in the reshuffling of his company and he took the plunge to inquire about children's ministry. Pray for him that the faithful God of his appointment to 2 days per week as a Children's Outreach Worker and 3 days per week as a Children's Pastoral Support Worker will continue to equip and train him for this position. It's one thing to have fun with kids; it's quite another to join a ministry team in a church or school.

God is taking us on a dizzying rollercoaster of prayer. He's initiating the agenda and we are learning to trust His leading – that He has the pieces in place as He gives us His imagination for reaching people for Himself. There is life in the desert when prayer is at the heart of things. •

Mary Lewis

Roxby Downs SA

THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA PRESENTS

GARAGE HYMNAL IN CONCERT

DATE: FRIDAY JUNE 15, 2012 TIME: 7:30PM

VENUE: ST BARNABAS BROADWAY

CNR BROADWAY & MOUNTAIN ST BROADWAY

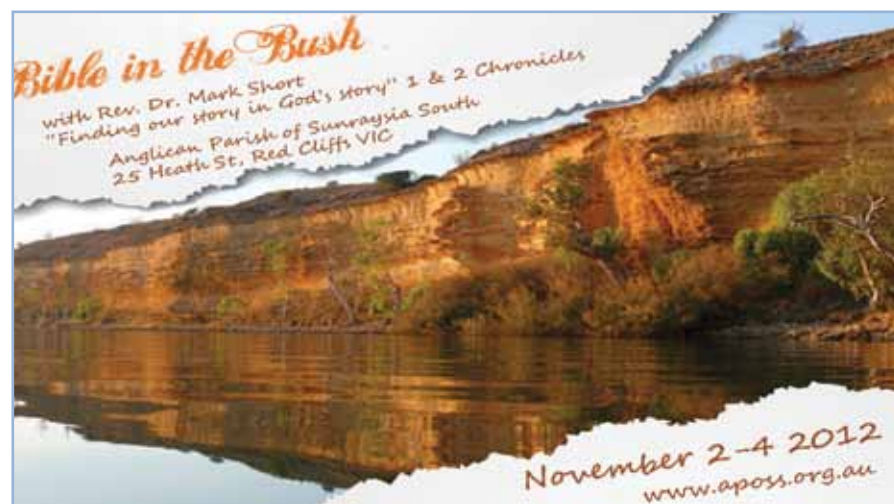
TICKETS: \$10 GENERAL ADMISSION \$5.00 CONCESSIONS



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GOD-INSPIRED MUSIC BY GARAGE HYMNAL IN SUPPORT
OF MISSION IN AUSTRALIA THROUGH BCA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

VIKA TA'OFI PH: 02 9262 5017 EMAIL: VIKA@BUSHCHURCHAID.COM.AU



Happenings in Hillston

Lindsay and Carolyn Whybrow have been BCA Co-Workers in Hillston since January 2007. Lindsay is the Lay Pastor at Christ the King Anglican Church and provides teaching, pastoring and leadership in a voluntary capacity. They are both involved in SRE (Special Religious Education) classes in the local primary schools as well as being involved in the community in many and varied ways. At times they run events for outreach but also for spiritual growth and encouragement for the local church community. Here are some of the latest events in Hillston...

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which of course begins the period of Lent. In our part of the world, this has varying ways of being celebrated.

Without inquiring into what others do, it nearly always has something to do with pancakes. Taking this as an opportunity for outreach is our main aim.

We set up the Parish Centre like a restaurant and invite people from each of the churches as well as other personal contacts. On the evening we cook and serve a number of dishes of savoury pancakes, followed by a dessert of ice cream and maple syrup. In between dishes, we have some kind of activity. This year we were entertained by some local girls who are involved in piano lessons. They played their favourite pieces to the assembled gathering. Lindsay then gave a short talk focussing on the lead up to Easter and the centrality of the Easter events to our world and our church.

We find it quite a busy night, but the rewards are high. We had some 35 folk in attendance.

On Saturday 10th March, our church sponsored our annual Bible Teach-in for the people of our district involved in any kind of Christian ministry. We had responses from people as far away as Griffith, Hay and Roto, as well as the churches in Hillston, Goolgowi and Merriwagga.

The day long conference was held at the Old Schoolhouse Caravan Park/ Conference Centre at Merriwagga (50kms south of Hillston). It is a fine venue for such an event. A lovely lunch was catered for by the Park management.

This year our Bible teacher was Matthew Arkapaw, pastor of Mortdale/Oatley Baptist Church in Sydney. Matthew was especially keen to come out here, as he spent his school days living in Hillston.

The talks given were from Mark's gospel and were about Jesus healing a deaf man, a blind man and a deaf and mute boy. They were excellent expository messages.

A gathering of 23 people were left with much to think about in their Christian faith and understanding. It is certainly an incentive to plan the event again next year.

During the Easter School holidays, we run a holiday Kids' Club with a team of experienced teachers and children's group leaders from Hoxton Park Church in Sydney.

On the first day, we had 35 kids gather for registration. Each morning, they were entertained with craft activities, skipping ropes and soccer-kicking on the lawn.



Hillston events: the Bible Teach-in and Kids' Club

When they moved inside, they were treated to an instalment of our *Moses Prince of Egypt* play, with many props, backdrops and special lights.

After morning tea (thankfully donated by ladies from the churches in town), the children participated in varying activities, such as games, cooking and special crafts, depending on their age group.

The message of Exodus was gradually unveiled over the three days... a gospel-clad fun story. Parents were invited to join in during our sausage sandwich lunches.

By the third day of Kids' Club, we had 40 registrations!

We also ran a ladies' craft morning concurrently, where one of the team led specialised crafts over the three days. A good number of ladies and mothers attended these sessions. Christian booklets and resources were on display for their interest.

Also for the teenagers, there were two



special afternoons of 'teenage activities'. This was mostly attended by members of our small youth group. Getting to know Christian young people from far away was very encouraging for them.

For a day of recreation, we organized for the team to attend the Booligal Sheep Races, which was an eye opener for them, and a real fun day.

As well as all this, the team joined in a Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning, a Ladies' Night involving chocolate on Saturday night, and involvement in the Sunday service.

An exhausting yet wonderfully beneficial opportunity for the young people of our town, as well as quite a few grown-ups to hear the challenge of the gospel of Christ.

We thank God for the work and fellowship at Hoxton Park Anglican church.

Lindsay Whybrow
Hillston NSW

Tassie East Coast Tour

Five days, seven gigs, ninety songs, four deputations and a whole lot of fun!

Our friendship with Greg Jones, the former Victorian Regional Officer, goes back a long way to his pre-BCA days, so it is always good to catch up again. We've noticed that Greg's outreach via music and song often collects an audience that may not normally come to any form of Christian outreach. Greg allows the introductions to the songs and the words of the songs themselves to engage with people.

This particular tour was a bit of a whirlwind. After arriving in St. Helens, we went on the local radio station (Star FM) that evening with local identity, Phil McConnell, who just happens to be a blues harp player, radio announcer and an evangelistic Christian. Doesn't God set up some good contacts?

The next two days saw Greg and Phil in the main street and at the local Market of St. Helens doing their music thing and engaging with the public through music and song. During these times, valuable



Greg Jones and Phil McConnell get into the blues

conversations were had and gospel tracts were given to many people. There were also outreach dinners and dinners for BCA supporters.

I believe there are three major points to this ministry. We can have fun and joy and delight in our Christian lives, and music can be a part of this. Through music and song we can engage with some people who might normally pass by on the other side of the street. We might not see an instant conversion but we can engage in a conversation and open up a dialogue with people we might not get to meet in any other way. Our job is to pray that God will use these encounters to draw people to a place of further enquiry that would lead to faith in Jesus, an understanding of repentance and new birth.

Alexander and Carole Withers



Pictured in a well earned break are (L to R) Ray, Greg, Lincoln, Jennifer and Roslyn

Jazz and Blues Night St Thomas Howrah

A fun filled night of jazz and blues was held at the church of St Thomas' Howrah to raise funds for the Society. Greg Jones was in town with his trusty guitar, blues harps and vocals to sing up a storm with both Christian jazz penned by Greg plus a wide range of classic main stream numbers. Greg was ably assisted by locals Ray Phillips (percussion), Lincoln Phillips (lead and bass guitar), Jennifer Cavanough (flute) and Roslyn Langlois (keyboard).

Ray Phillips

An Interview with NWA Bishop, The Rt Revd Gary Nelson

The Right Reverend Gary Nelson, Bishop of the Diocese of North West Australia has been trusting Jesus since his Sunday School days in a small congregation in Cambridge Park.

His experiences since those early days – at his university Christian group and then with his wife, Christine, as a Missionary Teacher in Papua New Guinea – inspired him with the impact of God's word and led him to train at Moore Theological College in Sydney.

Bishop Gary and Christine have three adult sons and a teenage foster son. Before he was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of North West Australia on 26th May, Bishop Gary took some time out of his busy schedule to speak to Alison Pearce about his new role.

What do you see this role to be?

There are a number of facets to this role. Teaching God's word, centred in the gospel, and prayer is vital to any Christian ministry. Secondly, I think a large part of the role will be encouragement, particularly those who are in positions of leadership, but also their congregations. I will also be continuing to foster the vision for Kingdom work in the Diocese.

It can seem a bit daunting in some ways because there is a lot to do and in doing it, there is an awful lot of travelling. In some ways, though, God has been preparing me for the driving sessions and we will be driving over [to Geraldton]. We are looking forward to seeing things we haven't seen before, but also that sense of leaving the East and going to the West and having a chance to comprehend the distances that people are involved with and the implications for isolation.

How will you be involved with BCA and in particular, the Field Staff in the North West Diocese?

I am really appreciative of the work of BCA and have been a long term BCA supporter, so I'm looking forward to being involved with BCA in this way. I've enjoyed the meetings I've had with Mark already and look forward to a good, close co-operation in the future.

I see my role as encouraging those folk and helping them in their ministries and in the difficult places that some of them are working in. On the top of our fridge sit six BCA money boxes (we 'inherited' some of our children's), which we've been using. We realised there are currently six BCA supported parishes in the North West and so we feel quite an intimate link.

We feel a strong attachment to BCA ministry as a whole, so we are looking forward to having that in a more formal way.



FAREWELL



Fred Chilton and Greg Jones

Greg Jones retired as Victorian Regional Officer at the end of April. He has been strongly supported by his wife, Rhi in this role over the past 8½ years and has made a significant impact on BCA supporters – and potential supporters! – through his music ministry. Greg is an accomplished musician and songwriter and has used his gifts to promote the Society throughout the eastern states, including Tasmania, a recent 'gig' being on Cape Barren Island at the request of BCA Field Staff, Arthur Tanner. Greg and Rhi had served previously with BCA in Mt Magnet from 1985 – 1988.

Greg will continue using his musical gifts to connect with the wider community and enthuse Christians throughout Victoria and Tasmania about BCA. Please pray for Greg and Rhi as they enter this new stage of life and ministry.

Tracey Wolsley

BCA support for Tracey has come full term in the current situation. 'Our Place' will relocate to its new home at St Peter's in Eaglehawk in June.

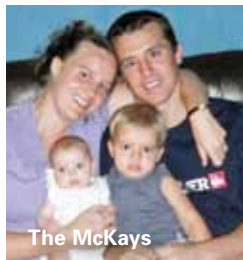


Tracey Wolsley

Tracey's hope is to redevelop the site into a great place for "Our Place", the Parish and the community. The team gives thanks for the opportunity to expand and grow their services.

Glendon and Catherine McKay have left Kununurra, after 3 years as BCA Co-Workers there, to work on a farm in Moree.

Farm work is something Glendon has always wanted to gain experience in and when an appropriate position came up, it was too good to pass up. They loved Kununurra and were finding it hard to leave. Glendon and Catherine have been so very grateful for the prayers of so many, especially for Suzie (who incidentally is putting on weight, rolling over and smiling!).



The McKays

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Brain, having retired from the position of Bishop of Armidale on 1st April, stepped down as BCA President on 23rd May.

BCA Chairman, Fred Chilton, and former National Director, Brian Roberts, reflected on their time working alongside Peter...

Fred Chilton:

It has been my great privilege as Chairman of BCA to serve with Peter Brain as President of the Society and many years ago as a member of the BCA Council when he was the Honorary Secretary in Western Australia.

Peter is a godly, humble, warm, Christ-centred man who is guided in all he does and all his decisions through God's word in the Bible. We have had the benefit of his insights and scriptures as he has led us over the years at various Council meetings and conferences. I have always appreciated his words of wisdom and guidance as we made decisions and particularly during the course of our search for our new CEO, Revd Dr Mark Short.

We at BCA will all miss Peter's contribution but wish him and his wife, Christine, a wonderfully happy, long and fruitful retirement from full time ministry as they move back to Western Australia to be closer to their extended

family. I do however look forward to Peter's continued support and encouragement of God's work in Australia through the Bush Church Aid Society.

Brian Roberts:

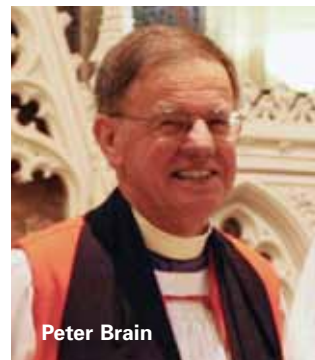
My most enduring memory of Peter's time with BCA is his capacity to stand firm for Gospel truth in any context. He was and still is never ashamed of the victory Christ has won on the cross and is always willing to give an account of the faith within, done sensitively and in an appropriate way; it brought both BCA and his own ministry great respect. I recall that during his time as Honorary Secretary for BCA based in Perth there were many occasions when the truth of the Gospel came under pressure,

when the BCA Field Staff located in the Diocese of North West Australia were vexed by the happenings in other parts of the church, and it was Peter and Christine's encouragement, support and call for a level headed response that was most valued and won through.

During my time as National Director, Peter was consecrated Bishop of Armidale and in due course became the BCA President, a role he took on knowing that it was much more than being a figurehead for a national mission agency. Peter's interest in the directions and policies BCA was taking in a context of massive change in the Australian

rural and remote cultures as well as within the church in urban areas (BCA's supporter heartland) kept us mindful of the straight and narrow way of the Gospel. He still encouraged us to reach out with innovative ministry strategies, riding the crest of the wave of change that was sweeping across the church. Personally, I greatly valued Peter's care and counsel, initially when I, like him, was in a state or regional role and then later when I took on the national task, Peter's regular contact, timely phone calls and occasional advice and insights enabled me to keep the right focus and direction for the Society.

The Reverend Rick Lewers will be installed as the Bishop of Armidale on 30th May.



Peter Brain

There are many different people and locations where BCA's ministry has been given, and The Real Australian of November 1924 tells of one, a sheep shearing shed of those days, as we now tell.

"A shearing shed! Yes it's a queer place for the Gospel; but after all it's a fitting place. Moreover, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has always had this quality – that of pushing into unexpected and unpromising quarters. Did not a well-known doctor tell us that the same Gospel had unmistakeable influence in a certain European jail? And that surely is another queer place! So why marvel at shearing sheds and Australian sheds at that!

Our trouble is that we generally associate the Faith and the preaching of it with well-ordered churches. What a fusty atmosphere for our Gospel. Not that the atmosphere of a shearing shed is exactly pure; it is all dust and smell – the hot, suffocating dust and smell from sheep heavy in wool, penned inside a corrugated iron structure. And no holy calm or quiet is to be found there either. Above the incessant rattle of the machines is to be heard the bleating of the ewes, and louder still, in a rough staccato emphasis, the raucous oaths of men drafting sheep into their proper pens for the shearing. But the Gospel has its place there amongst these men – some of the hardest working men to be found in Australia.

The bunk-house of the shearing shed is where we try out the Faith. It's the place

where the men take rest, that is, if a bag of straw on a tiered wooden bunk affords the measure of bodily comfort and ease which is supposed to be the just reward of a long day's toil.

But the work of the ministry must begin there, and in the bunk-house, with its inmates enjoying a quiet smoke or indulging in some game with a greasy pack of cards, we make a start. And it is just here that the baby organ comes in. How grateful one must be for the discipline of one's early home, when the rudiments of music were literally cuffed into one's composition. What a great chance it gives when men must be attracted. Music still has its charms, and soon we find the "rouseabouts" (youths) gathering round the organ then one-by-one the shearers, until at last all of them have come to take part in which is a most unconventional service conducted on lines which would make liturgiologists of the ancient Church turn uneasily in their mouldering graves. And a gramophone also shares in the appeal to men's hearts. But what shall we say of a hymn-duet sung by the two missionaries. The men "encore" the first verse, and as hymn-books are astutely circulated at the stage, so that they might "just follow the words," we find some of them joining in the second, and by the time the third verse is reached the duettists are relegated musically as it were, to a back seat, for shearers, rouseabouts and all have become a choir making up in volume what they may lack in tone. So from hymn to hymn we proceed leaving in most cases



Bishop Howell Witt and Reverend Bernard Buckland in shed ministry.

the choice to the men, and after all it isn't strange that "*Rock of Ages*" should generally come into the list of hymns favoured out back. Then may come a little break – a chance to give the hearers the Word of the Gospel – a five-minutes sermon. (What a hardship, we think, to be confined to five minutes when on Sundays in the city we preach for twenty-five or more!). But after all it is long enough to tell the men of One whom they need – of One who needs them. Then more hymns with the baby organ doing its lusty best, and at the last we finish with the martial manly strains of "Onward Children Soldiers, marching as to war."

The baby organ is tucked off to rest in the Van; the gramophone finds its small corner. A few of the men loiter about; one confesses that service reminded him of Sunday School days, another wanted us to stay over for two or three nights, a third expressed a rudely emphatic appreciation

of the Church that was prepared to come to the sheds; and just as we were enjoying a mug of tea hastily and thoughtfully prepared, the Union "Rep" came up and compelled us to break our rule by handing over a collection spontaneously given by the men for the work of the ministry in the shearing sheds.

Now isn't this mission worthwhile? We claim it is. These are the men gathered from the four corners of the earth – big men of grit and character most of them, because shearing is not a weakling's job needy men all of them."

Today, BCA Ministry locations have changed much, whether it is industrial locations and mines, a few shearing sheds, outback and rural churches, with Indigenous workers, community or pastoral locations or school children by School Chaplains. Please pray that BCA Ministry will continue to fill needs wherever required.

Clem Kirkby Hon. Archivist

Gift Catalogue



BCA 018	Billy the Bilby BCA for Kids Mascot	\$15.00
BCA 014	Goldtone Pen (refillable)	\$7.50
BCA 013	BCA Teatowel	\$8.00

CARDS

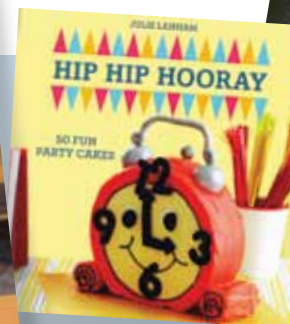
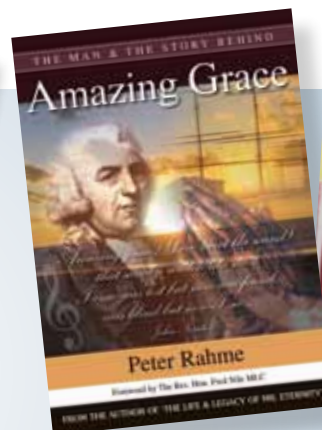
BCA 009	Real Australia Greeting Cards	Pack 6	\$7.70
BCA 011	Bygone Days Greeting Cards	Pack 6	\$7.70

MUSIC

BCA 229	Bring on the Day	Garage Hymnal	\$24.95
BCA 233	Super Saviour - Double CD	Colin Buchanan	\$24.95
BCA 223	A Very Very Very Big God	Emu	\$16.95
BCA 219	Meet the King	Emu	\$16.95
BCA 205	Outrageous Praise	2 CD set	\$33.00
BCA 206	Outrageous Praise	Songbook	\$16.50
BCA 210	10,9,8 God is Great	Buchanan	\$24.95
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BCA 227	Colin's Favourites DVD Plus Live in Sydney 2000	Buchanan	\$19.95
BCA 231	J is for Jesus	Karen Pang	\$19.95
BCA 232	Living On The Inside	Greg Jones	\$30.00
BCA 234	Take My Life	Garage Hymnal	\$19.95
BCA 235	Seventy Times Seven by Steve Morrison	Steve Morrison	\$24.95

BOOKS

BCA 108	Bush Preacher Bites the Dust	Kerry Medway	\$8.00
BCA 117	Desperate	Kerry Medway	\$8.00
BCA 101	The Meaning of Life	Jeanette Fogarty	\$12.00
BCA 111	Fox Tales from Far Flung Places	Barbara Fox	\$16.50
BCA 107	After the Desert	Audrey Aspeling	\$15.00
BCA 112	The Last Lessons	Audrey Aspeling	\$15.00



BCA 128	Amazing Grace by Peter Rahme	\$7.95
BCA 137	Hip Hip Hooray – Cookbook by Julie Lanham	\$24.95
BCA 235	Seventy Times Seven CD by Steve Morrison	\$24.95

BOOKS

BCA 137	Hip Hip Hooray – Cookbook	Julie Lanham	\$24.95
BCA 127	Teenage Bushranger	Kerry Medway	\$19.95
BCA 128	Amazing Grace	Peter Rahme	\$7.95
BCA 129	Dying To Be Heard	David Hart	\$44.95
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BCA 132	Free Too	Chris Thiele	\$28.50
BCA 135	Losing my Religion	Tom Frame	\$34.95

CHILDRENS BOOKS

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BCA 134	Lenny the Lying Lemur	Jen Anderson	\$14.95
	Set of hardcovers		\$27.95

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BCA 116	Faith & New Frontiers	Brian Underwood	\$22.00
BCA 122	Aboriginal Stereotypes	Alan Rogers	\$8.00
BCA 121	White Fella Culture	A must for Nomads	\$12.00

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BCA 013	BCA Teatowel	\$8.00
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BCA 318	2 Gift-boxed Old Fashioned glasses	\$15.00
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