

SUMMER 2013

the real australian



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BCA Directory

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Cover: "Those who attended the Kids Club in Hay had a ball, the interns in Wickham have a lot to smile about and Alfrene has the right agenda for Gulgargambone."



At a recent gathering, members of our BCA Executive were asked to share how they first became involved in the life of the Society. Many recalled the power of a personal invitation – perhaps to an event where a member of the BCA staff shared what God was doing in the bush.

For many that was the beginning of decades of service through praying, giving and going.

The Christian life is a relay race. Previous generations have passed on to us a wonderful legacy of faith and service. Later in this edition you will read about two of those servants as we reflect on the lives and ministries of Clem Kirkby and Joyce O'Neill. Like them, we now have the opportunity and responsibility of passing the baton to those who will come after us.

BCA has named the identification and nurturing of new leaders in mission as a key

priority. We are currently developing new pathways for young people to experience life and ministry in the bush. Even now our Field Staff are encouraging young people to find their hope and purpose in the Lord Jesus Christ and you can read some of their stories in the pages that follow. God is at work to ensure His mission has a future.

How did you first become involved with BCA? Was there someone who helped you take that step? Can I encourage you to pray and consider how you might be that kind of friend to at least one other person?

Mark Short

National Director

Maybe God Knows What He's Doing

If I had been a Jewish believer 2013 years ago, I reckon I would have been pretty unimpressed with Jesus. I mean, given all the mess the world is in, the corruption, the abuse, the immorality and the politics, surely God could have done a slightly better job?

Was a baby, born in the sleepy backwater of Nazareth, to the son of a carpenter, who grew up to become one himself, the best plan God could come up with?

Surely he'd have been better off sending a troop of elite soldiers to kick out the Romans, stamp out corruption, destroy some pagans and whip these immoral politicians into shape? Perhaps even some smiting would have been in order!

No - a carpenter's son it was to be!

Surely God could at least have made sure this carpenter got the "Who's Who in Israel" memo. That might have kept him from hanging out with tax collectors, fishermen, all kinds of sinners....and then maybe, just maybe, he wouldn't have made the mistake of inviting them to "Come, Follow Me."

There are certainly days today, when I feel a bit like this too. What is God thinking? Can we, unlikely people, hidden

away in a small town, on a small island off the bottom of Australia, really make an impact in the world today? Can we still be God's missionaries? Are we really, today, blessed to be a blessing? Then I pause, and I remember, that this rag tag group of fisherman, tax collectors, men and women, together with Jesus the carpenter's son,

changed the course of human history forever.

They spent the next three years of their lives following Jesus. They shared their lives together. They ate and they drank together, in crowds of thousands and away in quiet by themselves. They healed the sick. They fed the hungry. They debated with religious leaders. They spoke hope and forgiveness to the poor and marginalised. They

watched first hand as Jesus died on the cross and they ate together with him after he had risen again.

As Jesus' disciples gathered before being commissioned to "Go and make disciples", He reminded them, "Surely I am with you always." And that is what they did. In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Rome, India, Africa - and to the ends of the earth - these disciples of Jesus did with others what Jesus had done with them. Small communities of Jesus followers spread and



multiplied throughout the known world, so that by about 300 AD, half the population of the Roman Empire were Christians - known by their love for one another.

I'm reminded again of God's love for the world and His proven plan to change it. Through small communities of seemingly unlikely people in seemingly out of the way places, sharing their lives together and following Jesus.

I'm encouraged to live as a follower of Jesus and help others follow Him.

I'm encouraged as I see young men being transformed by Jesus' love for them, as they choose to forgive and as they step up into leadership. I'm encouraged as I see young women discovering that they have vision for their lives, that God has given them abilities and passions for a reason, and that he will work in them

and with them and through them, to fulfil his plans and purposes in this world. I am encouraged to continue living as a follower of Jesus, and helping others to follow him too.

I'm encouraged as I see professional, retired, single and married people continue to realise God is with them always and when He calls people to follow Him and be His missionary people, He meant them! I'm encouraged as these people create and develop communities of disciples who will love refugees, international students, local high school kids and men who live in our neighbourhood. I'm encouraged God still says to His people today, "Come, follow me. Go and make disciples. I am with you always." I think, just maybe, God knows what He's doing.

Andy Goodacre Imagine Project

Raising Tomorrow's Generation

'Jesus died for all' is the first sign you see as you drive into Gulargambone. It is a refreshing reminder of the heart of God's mission. This is also where BCA Co-Worker Alfrene Wright's heart is for mission.

As you enter into this outback town, it is quickly impressed upon you the kind of place it is. A lot of the shops on one side of the street are empty and there are a lot of shops and buildings boarded up. A group of kids are sitting around outside one of the local cafes and there isn't too much hustle and bustle. However that quickly begins to change as you walk into the classroom of kids learning and playing at Gulargambone Central School, where Alfrene Wright is the School Chaplain. There you certainly get a sense that she takes that love of Jesus into her workplace every day.

Even though there are a small number of students, she treasures the place and wants the best for all of the kids who attend the school. "I love the kids, I really do. The kids and teachers get on well with each other within the community," she said. You can clearly see that she has invested in the children by the way she interacted with them as she took BCA National Director, Mark Short and me on a tour around the school. Her role as School Chaplain allows her to have time for genuine conversations with the students, as they feel free to come up and talk to her. She has opportunities to speak with other members of staff and is able to be a continual encouragement to those around her. Each classroom is abuzz



Alfrene is a chaplain at Gulargambone Central School

with activity and even though the classes are small, there is a real sense of family and that stretched across the year groups from Kindergarten to the six young ladies in the Year eleven and twelve class. The banter, even among the teachers was contagious. There was continual praise for Alfrene and all of the assets that she brings to the school from both staff and students. "She does a great work," one staff member said. "She is an amazing asset," echoed another.

"Children have no fears approaching her," a third teacher told me.

As Alfrene spoke, you could hear that her heart was really in it and although she was not actually a teacher, she looked as if she just slotted in. "I do it for the kids," she said. "I enjoy my work, working with kids. The kids come down and have a bit of a yarn and tell you how they are and they will tell you about how their day is and

how they are going. Some of their lifestyles are pretty hard and to see the smiles on their faces is a real joy. They are good kids," Alfrene told me.

Alfrene's School Chaplaincy is funded through the National School Chaplaincy Programme.

Timothy Adkins

Media and Communications Officer

Wickham Interns Shine For Christ



Will and Hannah in Wickham

For Will Lindeback and Hannah Casey this year has been a turning point serving in Wickham as a part of Youthworks Year 13 programme.

We took the opportunity to 'change things up', by travelling to Wickham in Western Australia to see life and ministry from a remote perspective, while returning to Sydney for Year 13 Intensives every couple of months. This was made possible through the generous provision of a scholarship through a BCA supporter. Seeing the work the Goscombes do in the community here and assisting them in ministry has been incredible. Living in Wickham has been an unforgettable experience. It is a town of two extremes;

one of great material wealth and yet abject spiritual poverty.

We lead a small youth group from the church here and at Roebourne. Over the year we have seen the young people grow in their understanding of Jesus, who God is and what He's done for them. One of the major highlights of the group has been a series we did on Jesus' parables, which we didn't just study, but re-enacted, with a modern flavour, including a Kardashian 'Prodigal son', and a footy themed 'Good Samaritan'. It was fantastic to see the youth understanding the parables in a context accessible to them.

Another key way we engage with the community is through our ministry in the



Furniture distribution in the local community

local park, in the heart of the "Bronx". We like to call it 'loitering with a purpose'. Every afternoon we go to the local park and hang out with the kids (ages 3-14yo). We play sports, do craft and just spend time with them. The park is a haven for so many of the local kids in the "Bronx", so being accepted there is a great encouragement to us. We've had the opportunity to share with the kids, as they often ask why we come to the park each day. Hannah has had some great conversations with the girls about Jesus and His love for them.

The park plays a key role in our outreach and is also the location for BBQ church. Each month we have church in the park, with a band, food, games and great Bible teaching. We usually have great response with whole families coming along. It's a fantastic opportunity for the church to engage with the Indigenous community and share God's love and mercy with them. Each week we serve in church (Hannah in music and Kids' Church and Will in set up and audio/visual) and have participated

in furniture and food distribution to the community through Rich's chaplaincy.

The Principal at Youthworks College, Andrew Nixon, has been really supportive and is keen for the scholarship programme to continue, saying, "We are very thankful to God for the chance to partner with BCA in the Wickham Scholarship in 2013. It has been an amazing opportunity for Will and Hannah, whom we have seen grow and benefit enormously. We look forward to exploring options for the future!"

Pray for strength and wisdom for the Goscombes, as they seek how to best love and serve Wickham and share the message of God's saving love in Jesus. Please pray for us. For Hannah as she finishes in Wickham and heads back to Sydney to study law and get married next year and for Will staying in Wickham as he looks for an apprenticeship, so he can continue to support the ministry of the gospel here in Wickham.

Will Lindeback and Hannah Casey
Wickham Interns

Hay Kids Receive Holiday Blessing

As the September school holidays rolled around, Hay had an influx of visitors who weren't just passing through. The youth team visiting from Engadine Anglican Church in Sydney were delighted to be a part of the Kids' Club at St Paul's, Hay where self-funded BCA Co-workers Peter and Lee Caspersonn are based.

The week could not have begun on a brighter note, with twenty nine children turning up on the first day, a much larger crowd than the same day the year before.

In the evening the attention switched to the teenagers who enjoyed a 'Live Café' with all the key ingredients for a good night like food, video games, a photo booth,

music and some teens sharing what Jesus means to them. Peter Caspersonn said, "I was overwhelmed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the team from Engadine, who went into town, especially to the skate park, to invite local teens to come along."

The response on the second day was even greater, with forty children turning up and several more parents staying to watch, share coffee and chat and have very worthwhile conversations. The 'Live Café' for teenagers also began to take shape as some of the locals came along to see what was

going on. "We are learning heaps about the need to build relationships before people will be brave enough to come through the door. I sat in and listened to one young team member tell those there what Jesus meant to him. It was very humbling." Peter added. The number of kids rose to fifty on Wednesday. That night the team took a break and travelled to Maude for a farm visit and BBQ dinner at the Maude Hotel. Parish staff invited some of their local friends to join and Peter was thrilled at the

way the team chatted to their friends and others, making sure no one was left out. Fifty kids came along again on Thursday morning, even on a very windy day. There were

some good conversations with parents and even a visiting family from Victoria, who were directed to the Kids' Club by the Tourist Information Centre. The kids were taught the memory verse from Luke 9:10, "The Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost" and remembered the Bible verse off by heart, which was so encouraging. That night fifteen teenagers came to the 'Live Café' and some really good conversations were had.

Twenty four teenagers attended the 'Live Café' on Friday night and four indicated an



A few of the leaders put on a skit for the children



There was a fantastic turnout over this holiday period

interest in committing their lives to Jesus. Some parents filled in response forms to say that they would support an after school activity for primary aged children. The Kids' Club concluded with over one hundred attending the Sunday service at the Community Building, where further

good conversations ensued. Praise God that, whatever the results, we know His word does not return to Him without achieving His purposes. Isaiah 55:11.

Peter Caspersonn

Hay Co-Worker

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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



Five years of Dusting off the Boots...



Some of the youth play music at Neville's Church

June this year marked the fifth anniversary of the BCA Dusty Boots Programme.

It was started by then BCA Co-Workers, Rob and Jenny Stubbs, with coordination support from Beth Hazell in Sydney. Dusty Boots sees teenagers from urban and suburban areas travel hundreds, even thousands of kilometres to serve a remote community. On these trips the students' eyes are opened to the needs of the outback while being challenged about their Creator.

Over the past five years there have been a number of Dusty Boots trips from various schools who travel to support local Field Staff and rural communities across Australia. In the July school holidays a group of Year 11 students and staff from Penrith Anglican College travelled 14 hours across NSW to work with Neville and Kathie

Naden at the BCA House in Broken Hill. Teams painted bathrooms, cleared out the community vegetable gardens, tidied the formal gardens, and prepared all their own meals, picking up many new skills along the way. Evening devotions focused on service, for example Ecclesiastes 4:12 – "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Students were challenged to think about how the combination of God, the team and themselves could be a strong force for the Gospel and for service. Sunday morning involved celebrating a traditional Prayer Book service at the Anglican Parish of Broken Hill which was a first for many students. In the evening students and staff performed skits based on the Good Samaritan and played and sang two songs at Neville's mostly Indigenous Church.



Stopover on the way to Menindee

Liam Thurston, the School's boys' captain, reflected recently that the excitement of his first Dusty Boots adventure stemmed from coming to faith at school. "I want to serve others as I had received a lot in my life time, I just wanted to give back," Liam said. "One of my highlights was definitely being able to play ukulele at the Aboriginal church on the Sunday. It was great to spend time with school friends, see new places and meet new people. I would recommend Dusty Boots to other youth. It's a good opportunity to build skills and serve Christ." Christ truly is at work in the heart of teens heading bush on an adventure of a lifetime. There are countless testimonials of students growing in confidence and becoming more active in serving the school when they return. Alison Menzies, teacher and coordinator of the Penrith Anglican College

programme, has also found that "they grow in their Christianity and it gives them ideas to further their service outside in the local community. It is also an opportunity for kids who aren't Christians to ask questions about what this all means as we model our motto, which is To Serve Christ."

BCA would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob, Jenny and Beth for their ongoing dedication to the Dusty Boots Programme, and to praise God for the opportunities He creates for our teens to help reach Australia for Christ. Please pray with us for all BCA ministries that seek to share Christ and nurture the next generation of disciples.

Beth Hazell & Jen Schabel
Dusty Boots & Student Worker



Building the new All Saints. Below: All Saints Anglican Church in Currie

All Saints' Currie, King Island, recently celebrated 100 years of ministry on its current site. Sadly the original building was burnt down as a result of a bungled burglary in 1997 having had a special place in the hearts and minds of so many people as sacred and special.

Since being dedicated on October 12th 1913 by Bishop J.H. Mercer, it had been the place where 1272 baptisms, 483 confirmations, 364 funerals and numerous weddings had been celebrated in its 84 years of service to the King Island community.

Fortunately though, through God's provision, a wonderful new church building was built and completed three years after the old one had been destroyed. Rather than attempt to reproduce the previous building, a new, modern building took its place. Good lighting, effective heaters,



comfortable pews, lots of windows, and a wonderful kitchen, modern toilets, and a large hall that can open up and extend the worship area replaced the

lovely old wooden building. As the present minister here and after three and a half years of using this new Church, I appreciate the thought that went into designing a beautiful and very functional worship centre. The Revd Richard Minol, who had been the BCA missionary at the time of the rebuilding, deserves much of the credit for how well the finished Church functions. The new All Saints was opened by Bishop John Harrower on the 14th April 2002. Hopefully we will be able to continue to help the community reconnect with the new Church in ways they had with the original Church. •

Rod Oldfield
King Island



Bruce and Carly lead the youth group in Nightcliff

A problem the church can face is raising up new leaders. As BCA Youth Officer in Nightcliff, I see part of my role as training young people to be the next generation of leaders in the church.



Carly Simpkins is a leader at Nightcliff

This is a natural development of my key strategy from Jesus' great commission of discipleship and mission. Young leaders will have a firm foundational relationship, knowledge and trust in Jesus and a heart for reaching the lost.

One such young leader to emerge in my five years in Darwin is Carly Simpkins. Carly moved to Darwin in 2008 and joined the St Peter's Nightcliff youth group. She always asked great questions in our Bible studies and had a desire to know and serve Jesus. Carly explained, "It was scary when I started because I didn't know anything. I started leading the youth group because that's what my older brother and sister did when they left school. I also knew there were no leaders and Bruce asked me." Three years later, Carly and Bruce still lead the


junior youth group. Carly is a great leader with more responsibility in planning, organising and running the group, including leading the Bible study occasionally.

Recently a youth group girl rang Carly because she

was not sure where she's up to with God. Carly organised to meet up and is really excited to see our strategy of relationship building working in action. Carly went on to say, "When I started, being a youth group leader was just something you did. Leading became a challenge to think more seriously about my faith. I realised I had to own it myself especially if I wanted to encourage younger people in their faith." Carly knows that being there every week to build relationships with the kids and be someone they can talk to and look up to is really important. Leading has also made her more confident. •

Bruce Chapman

BCA's Diocesan Youth Officer in Nightcliff in the Northern Territory



PLEASE SEND YOUR STAMPS TO BCA

Thank you to those who have been sending us stamps and continue to do so. Those stamps raise a large amount of funds for the Society.

We are able to raise funds to support those who are out in the field spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and without your help we would not be able to do that. However we are always in need of more.

Please feel free to donate any of your old stamps or stamp albums to us and if you have any further inquiries, you can contact your Regional Office

Thank you again for the way that you support the Society and may God bless you in your giving.

A BIG THANKYOU TO YOU!

This year we would like to tell you how much we appreciate you as our Supporters who have given your support both prayerfully and financially. As we draw closer to the Christmas period, a time in which we remember our Saviour's birth we would like to wish you all a most blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year. As it is a time of reflection and celebration, we will be closing over this period ready to come back refreshed and energised in the New Year.

OFFICE CLOSURES

NATIONAL, NEW SOUTH WALES/ACT

24TH DECEMBER – 2ND JANUARY, 2014
(FROM MIDDAY 24 DECEMBER)

QUEENSLAND/NTH NSW

24TH DECEMBER – 2ND JANUARY, 2014

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

20TH DECEMBER - 6TH JANUARY, 2014

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/NORTHERN TERRITORY

18TH DECEMBER – 13TH JANUARY, 2014

VICTORIA

24TH DECEMBER - 7TH JANUARY, 2014

TASMANIA

24TH DECEMBER – 2ND JANUARY, 2014

April Bottom Scholarship Winner

We are delighted to announce Sarah Charlton from Broken Hill as the winner of the 2014 April Bottom Scholarship.

Sarah understands that it can be tough moving out of home, especially when it involves being a student. Her determination is a clear example that success can be achieved when you put your mind and effort into study. Having worked for the past year, Sarah will move to Newcastle next year to study at Newcastle University. She will undertake a double degree in Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science and major in environmental



Sarah Charlton, 2014 winner

sustainability and creative and professional writing, in which she is very interested. This course is really appealing as it will offer Sarah the chance to pursue her interest in science and animal welfare as well as develop her writing skills. It was difficult for her to decide where to go and what course offered her the best options. She decided upon Newcastle, as it had the added advantage of being closer to her family and cost benefits too. "I'm so thankful to have received the scholarship - it's a very generous gesture on the part of the late April Bottom's family and I would sincerely like to thank them for this opportunity," Sarah says.

At the moment Sarah is really focusing

on throwing herself into her course and learning as much as she possibly can to see what opportunities arise. However, she is aiming to go into the field of environmental management and sustainability of our wildlife population. Everyone has told her

that it's difficult to juggle study and the need to work part-time to meet all the costs associated with University, especially when you move away from home. So Sarah has explained, "The Scholarship will allow me to focus more on my studies next year. I'll still be looking for part-time work, but knowing the Scholarship is there to help meet my accommodation costs is a

big relief and will take some of the financial pressure off." On leaving Broken Hill, Sarah says it will be difficult as her family is there, though she is really excited to be taking on a new challenge and getting started on the next phase of her study. "I was worried I'd lose interest during my gap year but now I'm really looking forward to next year and can't wait to get started. When you grow up in a place like Broken Hill you accept that at some point you will have to leave if you want to go University, but that doesn't mean that you can't come back." Sarah explained.

We wish Sarah all the best in her studies and are thankful for all applicants for their participation.

Bright Lights for the Ridge

You couldn't keep the excitement from the faces of David Piper and his wife Joanne any more than you could a child receiving presents at Christmas time.

That is what this moment meant to them and you could see that they were both thrilled to be officially commissioned as BCA Field Staff, for David being inducted as Vicar into the Parish of Lightning Ridge and to be ordained as presbyter on September 10th.

David and Joanne first came to Lightning Ridge when ex BCA Field Staff Mike Keith was looking for an assistant and they saw the opportunity to go and serve. Three and a half years later, David and Joanne have now had the opportunity to formally become part of the BCA family and they are very grateful for all those who could make it to Lightning Ridge Community Church for the celebration.

The service was a happy, joyous and obviously a momentous one for David who was visibly moved. "I had a fantastic night and it was great to share with so many people; that my church family, blood family and wider church family could be there along with the wider church family and supporters," said David. "What really got me were all the ministers that came along.



Being commissioned as BCA Field Staff

I was really touched by that. I was just amazed," Joanne added. Bishop Rick Lewers who led the service and inducted David said that, "Being supported by BCA is something that other churches want to have." "It was good to have the people from Sydney and messages from people who couldn't make it. People who travelled far and wide to be here, so that is special," said David. There were a number of members from the congregation who also spoke at the service saying how much of a blessing it has been to have the Piper family with them and what they have brought to the community.

Ministry in Lightning Ridge has a very different dynamic to it. David recognises the significance of his responsibilities in the role ahead and the call that is required. David and Joanne are completely committed to

wanting to reach people with the gospel in Lightning Ridge both to know Christ more and make Him known. Whoever they come across they want to be able to share His love with all generations. David and Joanne see Lightning Ridge as an amazing opportunity to reach people with the gospel as much as any other part of Australia.

Timothy Adkins



The Piper family amongst the many sights in the Ridge

Canberra Goulburn Diocese Celebrates 150 years

2013 will mark the celebration of 150 years of the Anglican Church throughout the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

BCA locations in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn currently include Adelong/Tarcutta, Holbrook, Yass and BCA supported ministry until recently in Batemans Bay. The Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn Diocese, The Rt Reverend Stuart Robinson, is currently the President of BCA and it is fantastic to be in partnership with him and the Diocese.

Bishop Stuart has announced details of a Convention organised as part of the Diocese's 150th celebrations. "Following on from the success of our Provincial Convention in 2011, I am pleased to announce a Bishop's Cathedral Day Convention on January 18th, 2014, as a part of our 150th celebrations. The focus will be encouraging lay people in their vocation/ministry. The Archbishop of Sydney will

be present and he will, I believe, unify our Province and be a blessing to the national church," said Bishop Stuart. The Revd Dr John Dickson, a Christian author, historian, TV presenter and the Director of the Centre for Public Christianity, will be the keynote speaker at the Cathedral Convention service, which will be held at St Saviour's Goulburn from 9am. Bishop Stuart says the Convention will be especially tailored to parishes in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn however delegates from across regional NSW will be more than welcome to attend.

Timothy Adkins

Media and Communications Officer

Rich days of learning with Adrian Lane



It's a chilly August Saturday morning in Battery Point, an historic harbor side suburb of Hobart. Dark rain clouds are rolling off a brooding Mount Wellington. People are steadily rolling into St George's Anglican Church hall.

Just down the road brave crowds are building at the world-famous Salamanca Markets. Our crowd has chosen to spend the day at a Tasmanian Bible Forum. They've come to hear the Revd Adrian Lane, the new Victorian Regional Officer for Bush Church Aid Society. Adrian will lead three sessions in Luke's Gospel which he entitled 'Three Meaty Parables-in-Waiting for the Slack, Cosy and Frightened'.

After each parable is read by a different person – Luke 19:11-27, 20:9-19, and 21:29-31 (within 21:5-38), Adrian asks us not to take notes but to listen while he

preaches on the parable. We are then given time to reflect on what was said, followed by a time of personal application of the parable to our own lives. The large group is then invited to answer questions prepared by Adrian to aid our understanding of the parable. These can be written down in our session outlines. There is then time allowed for personal application of the parable to our own lives and circumstances, before the session is finished with prayer and discussion in groups of two and three. This variety of approaches to hearing and learning is very refreshing and caters for the variety of adult learning styles.

For me the recurring theme of the day seemed to be Jesus' expectation that his disciples-in-waiting would be fruitful – with all that Jesus has entrusted us with for his gospel mission (Luke 19:11-26), as tenants

in his vineyard (20:9-19) and as we 'watch and pray' for his return (21:34-36). As the organiser of these Bible Forums, I was very thankful that Adrian always stayed with the text and illuminated its meaning from careful preparation and considerable learning and with warmth and humour; and above all, the Lord Jesus was exalted and his gospel proclaimed.

Adrian mentioned the generous level of financial support given by BCA to the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania and challenged us to increase our support for BCA. A challenge that I hope will be

heard and taken up across the Diocese. The Revd Dennis Quinn, the Tasmanian Regional Officer, was also present with a promotional display. It was a very appropriate occasion for me to present a student with her Certificate in Theology & Ministry. Janet is with Wellspring Anglican Church in Hobart and told of how important her studies have been to her. I coordinate the Certificate in my diocesan role which BCA supports. Annual attendance at a Tasmanian Bible Forum is a component of the Certificate.

The rain had fallen heavily outside. The visitors to Salamanca Market drank their

coffees and took home their bargains and other junk – mere stuff that will pass away. Meanwhile there were sixty Christians who met together with God and heard him speak words of forgiveness, challenge and hope – all words of life. Jesus said: 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away' (Luke 21:33).

On the following Saturday we had the second Tasmanian Bible Forum, this time in Launceston (St Aidan's East Launceston,

parish of Riverlinks) where Adrian spoke on his passages on Luke. I spoke about the ministry and training resources that I coordinate for the Diocese in my BCA supported

role and Adrian interviewed Irfon Griffiths and Andy Goodacre about their ministries in Launceston, which are also supported by BCA. Again, Jesus was glorified, the Scriptures honoured, God's people were strongly encouraged, and BCA was highly commended. I am very thankful to God for his obvious blessing on these Forum days; for Adrian's ministry, for the strong support and for the rich learning.

David Rogers-Smith

Ministry Development Officer
Tasmania



Honouring Clem Kirkby



Clem paying close attention to the archives. Above: A great eye for detail

A large group of family, friends and BCA supporters gathered together at St Stephens, Normanhurst, NSW, on August 13th to celebrate the life of Clem Kirkby who died at the age of 94. Clem was the son of BCA's founding missionary Bishop Sydney James Kirkby and was born three days before BCA was founded in 1919.

During the celebration, former BCA National Director, Brian Roberts, recalled how Clem was able to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of his father's life during his 26 years as BCA's honorary archivist. "I didn't ask to do this, no one asked me to do this, it just came to be," Clem had said. It was Brian who asked Clem to put a number of slides in order and it was then when Clem stumbled across a sealed box labelled "Historical Records – Do Not Destroy". Having seen the state of the archives Clem then felt he needed

to organise them and became the first archivist at BCA.

Former BCA Field Staff member Allan Bate recalled how Clem had a soft spot for the Parish of Murchison in Western Australia and regularly contacted Allan during his time there. Clem always asked about specific members of the congregation by name and was always keen to see how they were going. Clem's son and daughter, Graeme and Jenny, spoke of their father's love of travel, especially camping and sailing. Their brother David was also there to celebrate his father's life.

Clem diligently served in bringing the archives into the well organised library that it has become and he will always be an integral part of BCA, just as his father was in the Society.

Timothy Adkins

Media and Communications Officer

Ode To Joyce

Joyce O'Neil was an amazing woman who helped contribute to the BCA family for twenty four years. Joyce sourced material for BCA and managed the BCA shop that used to be in Bathurst St, Sydney from 1959 to 1983.

In the 1950's Joyce started working as a secretary for the Bush Church Aid Society and she also managed the gift shop. As well as spreading the gospel to remote communities of outback Australia, BCA would promote the work of the Aboriginal people it ministered to. Buying and selling an assortment of paintings and artefacts from outback settlements was no easy task for a white mother of two from Sydney living in 1960's Australia. She went on many of these adventures to the outback and loved them. Joyce's stories seemed to grow in detail and grandeur with every telling. If each of us has a 'Golden Age' in our lives, then this period with BCA was



Joyce O'Neil

hers. Working with BCA was one of the highlights of her life and it's only in her passing that we may find the many letters of thanks, praise and deep appreciation for her work at BCA over a period of twenty four years.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

In the last mailing we asked you to include your reference number when making donations over the bank counter or via the internet. Thank you to all those who have done this.

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Revd Peter Adkins

WELCOME

The **Revd Peter Adkins** has been appointed as the NSW/ACT Regional Officer, and will take up his duties at the end of January 2014. Peter will succeed Chris Baxter, who is retiring after 6 fruitful years in the position.

Peter is currently the co-ordinator of training programs and leader of the Lawson local mission community for the Church Army. He has previously served as a Mission Support Officer/Archdeacon in Tasmania and a Parish evangelist in Sydney and London. He has been married to Gwen since 1985 and they have three young adult children.

Peter came to faith in Christ during his 20's and says since then he has been actively involved in sharing the good news of Jesus. "I believe the message of the cross and the resurrection has the power to transform lives as the Holy Spirit convicts and leads people to Jesus and empowers them to follow Him. I believe that Jesus called us to make disciples and not converts, and that mission involves all of life."

FAREWELL

As Peter joins us so we farewell **Chris Baxter** as the NSW/ACT Regional Officer. Chris joined us in York Street 6 years ago and

during that time has travelled extensively throughout New South Wales and the ACT to gather support for BCA. We are thankful for his ministry to our Field Staff and those in the National and New South Wales office, as well as his encouragement to our supporters. He will now join Jenny, who previously worked in the National Office, in retirement, but he is still keen to see where God may be leading him in ministry – maybe a BCA locum or two??



Chris Baxter



The Skeats family

Josh Skeat has completed his term with BCA in a Ministry Training Arrangement in Burnie, Tasmania. Josh and Naomi will continue in their ministry in Burnie. You can keep up to date with Josh and the Connections teaching and news at www.burnieanglican.org.au/connections

THANK YOU

We are thankful to the **Revd Noel and Mrs Margo Clarke** for their interim ministry in Cloncurry. They have spent five months ministering in the local area and travelling many kilometres to visit folk in Normanton, Croydon, Burketown, Karumba and Julia Creek. Please continue to pray for



The Clarks

the Diocese and BCA as they develop an effective ministry description following Noel and Margo's interim.



The Evans's

The **Revd Mark and Mrs Sandy Evans** will return to their home after 3 months locum in Blackwater. Continue to pray for unity amongst the congregations and for the Diocese of Rockhampton and BCA as they continue to seek a permanent appointment.



Haynes family

CONGRATULATIONS

To the **Revd Capt. Stuart Haynes** who was ordained in the Diocese of Rockhampton on 1st November. Stuart will be known as a Deacon Evangelist.



Barry and Avril Luke

Barry Luke (Mining Chaplain, Roxby Downs) will be ordained Deacon in the Diocese of Willochra on 30th November. His ordination will take place at Port Pirie Anglican Cathedral.

I began my journey with BCA as a guest at an annual dinner in the 90's. However it was not until 2005 that I became actively involved. This came about because my husband and I were planning a trip into the Kimberley region of North West Australia.



The Revd Jeannie Woollard

We met Greg Jones, the Victorian Regional Officer back then, and were introduced to the idea of BCA Nomads. At Kununurra we met another Nomad couple from Tamworth. The four of us worked together with local clergy doing whatever was asked of us. We mainly did practical stuff, using whatever skills we had. The men helped with building renovations and the women sewed, painted, and assisted on a market stall. We also helped with an Aboriginal youth group. This was quite a challenge and an eye opener. We enjoyed participating in their Sunday services too, but the best part was the relationships that were formed. It wasn't all work; we wine and dined, and one highlight was the vicar taking John barramundi fishing – successfully too! We still keep in touch with the couple from Tamworth. On our return we were asked to do a presentation on our experience, followed by, "why don't you consider the Regional Committee". Regional

committee has been an interesting journey. John and I have both been impressed with the ethos of BCA meetings.

Despite the never ending housekeeping matters, the main concern is always the Field Staff and to support them in their ministry. At every meeting we spend time in God's word and prayer, so there is a real

sense that God's guidance is sought in all that we do. This is also the ethos of the National Council meetings of which I have been a member for several years. There is a saying I love that says, "bloom where you are planted." Often people think of missionaries as those who go overseas to other countries, however, BCA Field Staff are missionaries, right here in Australia. We need to bloom where we are planted. There are so many people in our own backyard who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. We could paraphrase Acts 1:8; "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in the deserts, the ranges and the islands of our land Australia, and to the ends of the earth."

BCA really is a great mission organisation which deserves our wholehearted and continuing support.

The Revd Jeannie Woollard
BCA Councillor

From the Archives

King Island's Centenary

BCA's support for Christian ministry on the islands around Australia was an intentional drive to

support isolated communities which were not in the traditional 'hot, dry, dust and flies' category which was the BCA focus for the first 70 years of ministry reaching Australians for Christ.

The King Island (KI) Church community and witness to Christ turns 100 this year. BCA has only had an interest on King Island since 1998. The Island church community, has provided the bulk of its own ministry resources for most of the century. But with the loss of mining and other key markets, the demographics changed and they soon became a church in need of outside support. BCA's support on King Island, in the early days, involved pastoral care and support in addition to that provided by the Diocese. The first of the BCA Field Staff were in the main selected by the then Diocesan Bishop, Philip Newell. As confidence grew in the Society's ability to resource such isolated ministries BCA was asked to recruit and offer suitable candidates.

The turning point on King Island came the night before Christmas Eve 1997 when the 85 year old wooden timber church burnt to the ground, an act of vandalism by some people visiting the island. To make matters worse the rector was due to leave



All Saints after it was burnt down

in early January 1998. Could BCA help? In August 1998 Don and Helen Wilson were invited to undertake a short-term locum arrangement on KI until

a permanent appointment could be made. Their role was to minister to the Christians in their trauma and to look at the options for building a new church. In the meantime the Seventh Day Adventists graciously offered their church building.

As devastating as the fire had been for the congregation, it was the general community who expressed the need to have All Saints' rebuilt and felt that building a replacement was key to life on the Island. Richard Minol, a Tasmanian clergyman and his wife Jennifer were candidated by BCA and appointed to King Island in October 1999. Richard and Jennifer soon rallied the locals and plans were under way for the new church building. The new parish centre was consecrated 14th April 2002.

It was a huge personal effort from the Minols, not only the building of a church building that would serve the ministry on KI well into the future, but the building up of the congregation in their understanding of Christ's offer of everlasting life. They laid the foundations for all that is happening there now – a strong biblical base – which others have now been able to build on and reach out to all who call King Island home.

Brian Roberts

Hon Archivist

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The Bush Church Aid Society

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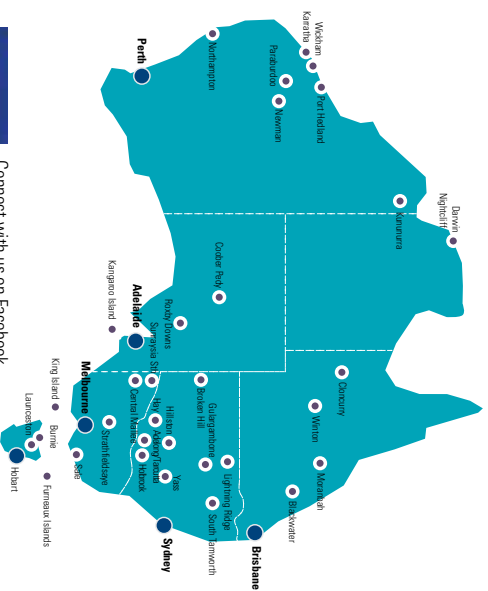


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