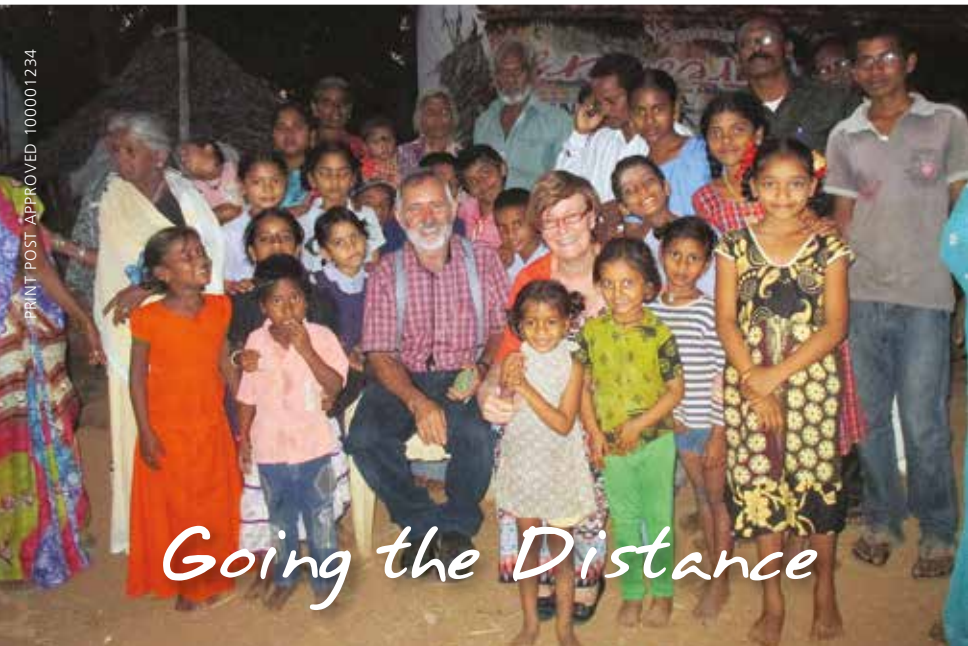


# The Real Australian

bca  
bush church aid  
*Going the distance*

autumn  
2016



*Going the Distance*

From Coober Pedy to India 10 Thankful for Joel 12  
Islanders Celebrate and Give Thanks 14

# BCA Directory

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David Morgan and Joel Jeevaraj outside Paraburdoo

David Fell auctioning a local leg of lamb during Thanksgiving Day celebrations on Norfolk Island

Geoff and Tracey Piggott in India witnessing the work of their link partner Samuel

Whenever I travel outside our major centres and see the number of bars on my mobile phone dwindle, I am reminded how easy it is to take everyday services for granted. Whether it's mobile phone coverage, educational opportunities or access to medical and dental care – the gap remains between Australians living in the bush and those in our capital cities. It is a gap that needs to be closed.

There is another type of coverage that is close to the heart of BCA. We call it gospel coverage. It means the opportunity to be connected to a Christ-centred, Bible-based, Mission-hearted community of God's people. We pray for a future where all Australians, no matter where they live, enjoy that opportunity. We are working with our partner Dioceses and organisations to make this a reality.

Over the next several editions of *The Real Australian* we will be working through the key priority areas I introduced in our Summer 2015 edition. The first of these is *bringing the gospel of Christ to the outermost parts of Australia*.

In this edition you will read how Field Staff and the churches they serve are sharing that gospel across Australia and even beyond our borders.

Finally, a big thanks to all our supporters who gave so generously to our end of financial year appeal which focused on the new ministry opportunity in Longreach-Barcaldine.

By God's grace we exceeded our target and this has given us a great foundation for this new work. God has also provided a couple for this ministry and you can meet them on page 16.

May the LORD guide your footsteps for His glory in 2016!

*Mark Short*

**National Director**



**“– the gap remains between Australians living in the bush and those in our capital cities. It is a gap that needs to be closed.”**

# Bringing the Gospel to the Country... and Beyond



**Looking back on the first ten years of BCA's ministry, Organising Missioner Sydney Kirkby declared: "Australia needed a robust gospel more than anything else."**

As we approach our second century that need remains as compelling as ever. It should be no surprise then that our first key priority area is "bringing the gospel of Christ to the outermost parts of Australia."

But how do we do that? Let me suggest three ways in which we are called to reach Australia for Christ.

First, the gospel needs to be *expressed*. The gospel is not good ideas or good advice. The gospel is good news. And like all good news it needs to be shared in words. The announcement that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was raised on the third day as Lord of all changes lives for eternity. BCA is committed to sending people who love that message and speak that message.

Second, the gospel needs to *embodied*. The gospel transforms people into the

likeness of Christ and builds Christ-like community. We are called to commend the gospel in the way we serve one another and the world. BCA is committed to supporting ministries that grow gospel-shaped gatherings of God's people.

Third, the gospel needs to be *encountered*. The gospel compels us to engage with a world that needs to know the Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel challenges us to ensure that cultural prejudices and preferences aren't allowed to get in the way of people meeting Jesus. BCA is committed to encouraging outward-looking mission.

The gospel is for all people in all places. BCA is called to bring it to the Australian bush. Sometimes that will mean sustaining a vibrant gospel presence in remote places. Sometimes that will mean establishing a gospel presence in less remote places to reach new generations and cultures. Everywhere it must mean that we work and pray confident that God's good news is as robust as ever.

*Mark Short*

# Summer School a Turning Point for New BCA Field Staff

**CMS Summer School has twice been the turning point in the lives of new BCA Field Staff Roger and Amanda Kyngdon. It is where they first met in the summer of 2009 and it's where in 2015 Gary Nelson offered them a position in the Diocese of Geraldton.**

Roger and Amanda were commissioned in November last year and moved to Bluff Point in January as part of a Ministry Training Arrangement with BCA.

"Gary Nelson (Bishop of North West Australia) has organised for us to go to Bluff Point as the minister there is able to give us good training," says Roger. "He also wants us to minister to young families as because we have young children it will be easier to make connections."

Roger was previously the Youth and Children's Minister at Windsor Anglican Church but he and Amanda have always hoped to move to Western Australia.

"Our long term goal has always been to go to WA as my side of the family is there," says Amanda. "The job literally fell into our laps and we have to see the hand of God in that."

For Amanda this marks a return home after 10 years in Sydney and for Roger, it's the first time he's moved so far away from his family.

Amanda's family have a long association with the Anglican Church. Her grandfather, The Rt Revd Howell Witt, was the Bishop of North West Australia from 1965 to 1981. Bishop Witt travelled all across the diocese, as well as visiting every sheep and cattle station in the North West. He was so well regarded for his work and great sense of humour he even appeared on 'Parkinson Down Under' (The video of his appearance



Amanda and Roger with NSW/ACT Regional Officer Peter Adkins and Rebecca Jeavons from the BCA National Office.

on YouTube is well worth a watch).

Roger grew up in a Christian family in Wollongong and his father Geoff was at one time assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong. "I always knew that being a Christian and having a relationship with God was something really important," says Roger. "After completing my primary teaching degree, a minister encouraged me to do training with him, or as he called it – career diversion therapy. After I completed that I went to Moore College to pursue further study."

The first plan for Roger and Amanda, their children Ada (3) and Eliza (18 months) is to settle into life in Geraldton while they await the birth of baby number three.

They ask for your prayers that Ada will settle in well to pre-school, swimming lessons and playgroup, and that Amanda will make great connections there.

"We want to get to know the people, be a part of their lives and get to share our lives with them," says Roger.

*Janine van den Tillaart*





Former Federal Council Member Denzil Humphries is interviewed by Neville Naden

**There was an air of expectation and encouragement at the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Convention (AEF) in Port Augusta in January; a sense that God was at work.**

The numbers were higher than they had been for some time. There was a sense of harmony between Aboriginal people from all over Australia. One night people were told to bring extra chairs with them if they could. It is estimated that there were 1000 people in attendance that night.

The AEF is an organisation of pastors, Christian leaders and Christians from different churches and organisations from all over Australia whose motto is *All One in Christ*. Their purpose is to preach and teach the gospel and encourage each other and others to grow in their relationship with God and their understanding of the Bible.

One evening as I talked with leaders Neville Lilley and Jim Lawrence their excitement at what God was doing was tangible. Seventy people had arrived from Kintore and Central Australia where a revival was taking place amongst Aboriginal people. People attending the convention were eager to learn what God is doing

in the Centre of Australia. Neville and Jim joyfully took on the task of finding somewhere for 70 people to be provided for and accommodated in their swags.

There was a good spirit of unity and a sense of ownership by those at the convention. BCA National Director Mark Short led Bible studies in the mornings from the Gospel of Matthew. They were well received and many asked for copies of the notes.

I had travelled to the convention with The Revd Kathy Dalton and three members of her family. Kathy was greatly encouraged by Mark's Bible studies and enjoyed catching up with Aboriginal Christians she had not seen in many years. Kathy is an Indigenous Minister in the Gippsland Anglican Diocese and Associate Minister for Koori Ministry at Morwell Anglican Church. She had for many years dreamed of attending this convention and now she has thanks to BCA. It was a wonderful encouragement and inspiration to her.

Neville Naden, BCA's Indigenous worker at Broken Hill, is chairman of the AEF. Under his leadership more people have been made aware of its work and state branches that had ceased to function have



Joy with friends from The Kimberley

been reactivated. Aboriginal people in the centre of Australia have been made more aware of what AEF is and what it seeks to do. It was a great encouragement to many to see this new life in AEF and to sense that God is working amongst them. Pray for

Neville, Kathy and others with leadership roles as they guide this organisation. Pray also that the AEF will encourage people in their lives as Christians, in their ministry and leadership; that they will reach many Aboriginal people for Christ.

A source of great encouragement for me as former member of the Kriol Bible Translation team was to hear it read twice at the evening gatherings. Pitjantjatjara scriptures were also read. There were songs in traditional language presented by various groups attending the convention. There was a brave attempt to translate the sermon into the Pitjantjatjara language one evening.



Mark Short with Neville Lilley

It was good to see the language needs of the people from more remote areas recognised in this way.

The needs of children and youth were also well catered for. A team made up of members of One Heart Uniting Church from Sydney and St Marks' Anglican

Church Camberwell ran a successful program that attracted local Aboriginal youth. An excellent children's program was run by Baptist Minister Andrew McDonough with times of good learning and plenty of fun.

It was a great experience for both Kathy and myself to be at the convention at a time when there was a growing awareness and excitement about what God is doing amongst Aboriginals today. Pray that it will spread and put down deep roots in Aboriginal Churches.

*Joy Sandefur*

# A Different Type of 'Schoolies'

**December last year saw the community of Gahini in Rwanda welcome a group of Year 12 Gippsland Grammar students who travelled to their country as an alternative to 'schoolies'.**

Joined by BCA Field Staff Rich Lanham (as the group Chaplain), these students immersed themselves in community life: painting walls, moving thousands of bricks and teaching English and Maths to school kids. Rich continues the story:

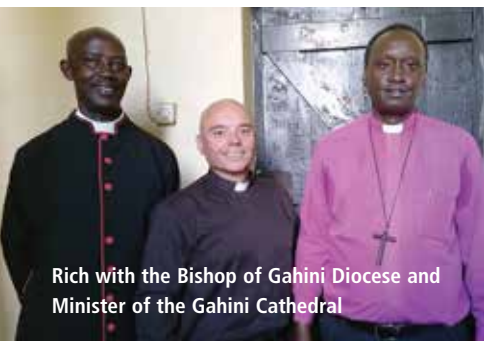
This trip was so significant because many of these young people from Gippsland Grammar do not express a faith, but they do have an openness to the Gospel and the work of Jesus in our lives. This is because of their immersion in Christian values at school and the fact that they often hear the gospel message. They simply need help to ground it in their world and lives.

My role was to walk with these young people and connect faith and the Christian journey to what we were doing. I had to help them make some sense of the anomaly of people who exude joy, happiness and peace in a culture that seems to be poverty, neglect and want. How can these people be

so happy when they have nothing by our standards? And the answer is of course – they have faith in God.

I had some wonderful conversations with these young people after visiting the genocide memorial that commemorates the time when 900,000 people were killed in 100 days. It gave me the opportunity to explain things from my point of view. I basically said that if you could accept sin as a concept and understand how sin operates, then it is sin that drives all evil. When things go wrong in the world it is easy to blame God and think He is responsible. But then you need to think about what causes things to go wrong. At the end of the day we can bring a lot of these things back to people. It isn't that God isn't interested or helping – we've forgotten that we need God. It's not God being a bad God, it is our sin allowing us to run from Him to sin.

The trip to Rwanda was a great experience and there were two things that really stood out during our time there. Firstly, the idea that as a culture our lives are like buckets – in the West we fill them with all things we have and accumulate, leaving no room for God. In contrast, these people in Rwanda fill their



Rich with the Bishop of Gahini Diocese and Minister of the Gahini Cathedral

**“The trip to Rwanda started many of these young people thinking about the Christian faith. They have proposed to get together again and see what can grow and develop.”**





buckets up with all they have but there is still tons of room for God. Secondly, the Bishop gave the young people a real challenge. He said "as you go around my country I want you to look at the people and see how they are living and think about it from your point of view. Then I want you to recognise that these people are living and not just surviving. I want you to think: are you living or are you just surviving in your western culture?"

The trip to Rwanda started many of these young people thinking about the Christian faith. They have proposed to get together again and see what can grow and develop. On top of that a number of them want to come and be a part of our 123 outreach in Sale. They can see the connection to a practical faith. It's not just head knowledge and talk. I said to them that behaviour is not your primary focus. Your behaviour is a symptom of your values and beliefs. We need to start from that point. When I say I believe in God and I value what Jesus did for us my behaviour follows from that.

*Rich Lanham*

Happy faces of some of the kids from Gahini

Students from Gippsland Grammar moved thousands of bricks at the new Cathedral site.

# From Coober Pedy to India

**About 15 years ago a young Indian man named Samuel was at Bible College in Bangalore, India when he saw a magazine ad for the Catacomb Church.**

He wrote to the church in the time of Bob Rothwell and thus began a relationship across many miles. The church agreed to pray for him as he began his ministry. After the 2004 Tsunami, which hit the east coast

good education. Our Sunday School children raised \$1000 through a garage sale.

December 2015 saw us head out together to see this ministry for ourselves. Before coming to Coober Pedy I had not been on a plane since 1986. Geoff and I had only travelled overseas together once in our 27 years of marriage and that too since being in Coober Pedy. How would we go?



Tracey being welcomed into a village home

of India, Samuel and his new wife Sujhate took in orphan children to share their home and when possible they gave other hungry children a meal as they returned from school to their very poor families.

Catacomb Church has sent a small donation towards that work of feeding children over many years. Three years ago Brian and Judy Underwood (members of the church for 40 years) decided it was time to go and check out this ministry. They returned for a second visit a year ago. Their stories captured the attention of not only our little church but other churches and individuals as well. Money was raised from near and far to build a small school on top of their building for poor children to access

With many, many prayers from our wonderful BCA support team, we flew to Hyderabad and three days later took an 11 hour train ride (no NOT on the roof!) east to Kakinada, in Andhra Pradesh. There we spent 11 days of ministry; teaching Mark's gospel in many small village churches and teaching English to those who would be teachers or helpers in the school.

We were keen to model exegetical preaching through a Bible book as all the preaching there is topical sermons. It was so encouraging for us to see

God at work in the lives of our brothers and sisters in these isolated villages with few resources and yet faithfully attending with Bibles open and eyes and smiles waiting expectantly. As no one other than Samuel spoke English, he translated the talks and songs fluently which allowed us to share in this way.

Geoff's highlight was attending a Christmas Service out in a village where the children had been trained to memorise Bible verses, sometimes 12 at a time. One 12 year old girl started with Luke 1:1-12. Wow!

Another highlight was a Pastors Mini Conference. Samuel, through many phone calls, gathered 40 pastors together for Geoff to teach from Mark's gospel. How amazing



Geoff and Tracey were honoured in the little churches that they visited (Samuel appears in this photo but busy on his phone in the back row)

to see all these pastors together. We offered to pay for their transport as many were very poor, it was \$2 for some, \$4 for others and \$10 for a few. We also were able to provide them with a Bible each and we left another boxful for Samuel to distribute at his discretion.

We left behind a Study Bible in the Telugu language and also a copy of Paul Barnett's commentary *The Servant King*. We hope that Samuel will use the information from the talks he heard from us as a foundation to help him understand more easily what he will be reading.

We are still trying to process our experience. We are reading a book called *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*. The Kindle version is very cheap.

We would like to support an Annual Pastors Conference where the local pastors could gather for a few days to be taught and encouraged, and that those who travel from far could sleep in the school rooms.

Back home we will be sharing God's work in India with our little isolated church. May we grow together here at the Catacomb Church as we look outside ourselves to reach the locals here in Coober Pedy, the tourists who come through and also amazingly to partner with our brothers and sisters so far away.

We felt quite embarrassed by the honouring of us in these little churches. We know this was the cultural way to show respect and honour but we thought about Jesus' words in the Parable of the Talents. The man given two talents received the same affirmation as the man who received five. Both had doubled their talents and the Masters words were the same: "Well done good and faithful servant." Being faithful with what they were given was the point. Samuel is being equally faithful with his two talents.

*Tracey Piggott*



# Thankful for Joel



The Morgans welcomed Joel into their Paraburdoo family

**“Joel is one of many young Aussies who have been blessed by the discipleship he received through the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students.”**

**2015 was the year of the visitor for us in Paraburdoo and Tom Price. We had visits from two locum couples (The Suttons and the Bootsmas), a mission team from our link church at Heathcote/Engadine, our parents, Dave’s sister and Matt, one of Dave’s former youth group members.**

Every one of those visits was a precious shot in the arm for us. But one particular visitor stands out from the crowd in a special way, and that is Priya’s cousin Joel who spent five months with us last year.

I first met Joel on the day that Priya and I were married back in February 2013. He struck me as a short and cheerful young Sri Lankan bloke. I remember him well (among the hundreds of other relatives I met that day) because he and his family had flown all the way from Perth.

As it turns out, Joel and his older brother Joseph had been nagging Priya and her siblings to visit Perth for over 15 years, without success. Who would have thought that our investigation of ministry at Paraburdoo/Tom Price would be the catalyst that finally got us to spend a week in Perth?

After finishing uni Joel told me that he would like to spend some time with us doing ministry.

During his time here Joel got his ‘hands dirty’ with ministry in a number of ways. First there was the everyday relational ministry of chatting to people from town and church. He also

led some Bible studies, preached sermons, helped me explain baptism to two teenage guys and was just a very committed and faithful member of our three church services. Having someone to walk home with after church, to help with the dishes, to play with our daughter Evie, or to take Scout our dog for a walk, was a blessing to us, we are so thankful for his friendship and faithful service.

Joel also joined the local cricket team and gained a reputation as a decent bowler. I was walking past the Club Manager's house the other day when he said to me: "When is Joel coming back Dave? We need him!"

Joel is one of many young Aussies who have been blessed by the discipleship he received through the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students. This training not only gave him some very useful skills in handling the Bible, but also a desire to use them, which blessed us greatly.

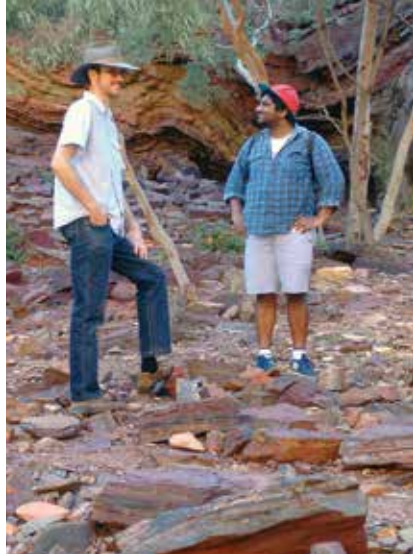
One highlight for both of us over the five months was reading the book of Isaiah together and growing in our understanding of this part of God's word. On Joel's last week with us he preached a sermon on Isaiah 9:2-7 which flowed out of our exploration of the book together.

There was so much gained from Joel's generosity in coming to live with us. We were encouraged to keep persevering in ministry here. God's people here were blessed and Joel grew in his understanding of God's word and the needs of Christian mission outside Perth. There is much to thank God for!

We are hoping that Joel will be able to return here in early 2016 after an overseas trip to see family in Canada. Please pray for his future work, ministry and service of Christ in whatever shape it takes.

Please also pray that someone might consider following in Joel's steps (for about four times as long) to do an MTS apprenticeship here in the Pilbara.

*David Morgan*



David and Joel  
outside Paraburdoo

Joel and Evangeli



# Islanders Celebrate and Give Thanks



Produce being sold after the Thanksgiving service at All Saints



**“Thankfulness is a funny thing,” says David. “By its very nature the giving of thanks cuts straight across the self-focus of the human heart.”**

**Norfolk Island is one of the few places outside the United States that annually celebrates Thanksgiving Day – a link to the 1800s when American whalers stayed on the Island and brought with them their culture and food.**

According to Tom Lloyd, the current warden of All Saints Church, Pitcairn Islanders always celebrated the English Harvest Home festival, but it was not until Isaac Robinson (the island’s first and only US consul) came to the island that the church was decorated each Thanksgiving.

This tradition continues strongly today and All Saints is decorated with corn, sugar cane, fresh fruit and vegetables on the last Wednesday of November each year.

According to All Saints parishioner Mary Christian-Bailey, the day itself is very much a family occasion; people enjoying a celebration of the Island, its people and produce.

Last November’s celebration included a visit from The Rt Revd Robert Forsyth, Bishop of South Sydney. In his last visit in an official



capacity, he reminded the congregation that he had a great deal to be thankful for. While on the Island seven years ago Bishop Forsyth had a heart attack. He believes the prompt and skilled treatment he received saved his life.

The service at All Saints was a morning of celebration, uplifting hymns and a special performance by mezzo soprano Lynne Anderson from New Zealand who sang *How Great Thou Art*.

Following the service, the freshly harvested fruit and vegetables were sold in the All Saints Courtyard. David Fell also auctioned off a leg of local lamb with great skill according to those present (see above).

"Thankfulness is a funny thing," says David. "By its very nature the giving of thanks cuts straight across the self-focus of the human heart. When we are thankful for something, we acknowledge that we are in someone else's debt... that there are good things in our lives for which it just doesn't seem appropriate to pat ourselves on the back.



"On Norfolk Island we pause for a day at Thanksgiving to think about the blessings we enjoy – the way our lives, with all their challenges, trials and disappointments, are actually much better than we could have accomplished for ourselves in our own strength, and much better than we know we deserve. And that seems to be the case, even for unbelievers. If we are honest with ourselves, strangely enough, it feels good to be thankful. We enjoy giving thanks – something just feels right about it. For us, that represents a tremendously helpful way to commend the Lord Jesus to the people of Norfolk Island."

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# From Gundagai to Longreach

**Ten years ago Graeme and Susan Liersch attended a BCA deputation in Wagga Wagga and heard former Field Staff Ian Forsyth speak about his time in Hay. It was then that they believed they would one day serve with BCA.**

Fast forward to 2016 and the Lierschs are our latest Field Staff relocating to Longreach-Barcaldine in March.

In response to the dire situation of drought ravaged Longreach-Barcaldine, The Rt Revd David Robinson, Bishop of Rockhampton approached BCA to send a couple to serve as mission facilitators in the community and bring encouragement and help.

"Mark and David approached us and we travelled to Longreach last year to have a look," says Graeme. "Our hearts went out to the people up there and we were drawn to go."

Graeme has a background in the military. He was an electronic technician in the Royal Australian Airforce before going into ministry with the Church Army.

"I joined the Church Army in 1983 and since then we have been constantly on the move," Graeme says. "We have worked in Brisbane, Coffs Harbour, Victor Harbour, Melbourne, country Victoria and spent the



Graeme and Susan Liersch

last 15 years in the Riverina."

Graeme has been the Parish Priest in Gundagai for the past six years and a part-time chaplain at the Juvenile Detention Centre in Wagga. He also serves as a Reserve Airforce Chaplain.

Susan is an Occupational Therapist by profession and has worked for NSW Health as a Child and Adolescent Mental Health worker for the past five years.

Graeme and Susan leave behind three adult children – the eldest who lives in Melbourne and the youngest two in Wagga.

"Our kids will miss us but they have all 'released' us," says Susan. "As Christians, they are all supportive of the move and sense the calling of God. It makes it much easier for us. We really feel it is the right thing for us to do."

Graeme and Susan hope to be in Longreach in the first or second week of March. Their commissioning service is due to take place in late March but they plan to start work well before then. The Lierschs would value your prayers as they settle into their new home and establish their place in the community.

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia for the purpose of adopting the audited accounts of the Society for the financial year ended 31 December 2015 and to elect Councillors.

**Wednesday 18 May 2016 at 9.30am**  
**Anderledy Lodge, 80 William Street, North Sydney.**

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## **Queensland and Northern New South Wales**

**Saturday 12 March 2016 at 9:30am**  
**St John's Anglican Church, 10 Greenwood Street, Wishart**

Followed by the 2016 Bush and Bible Day The Rt Revd David Cook, Moderator General, Presbyterian Church of Australia, will give three talks from John's Gospel. The Revd Capt Rod and Mrs Christene Oldfield, BCA Field Staff, Cloncurry will speak on *Going the Distance* in North West Queensland.

\$15 includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

RSVP by Friday 4 March to Craig Buchanan on **(07) 3349 9081** or **craig@bushchurchaid.com.au**

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## **Western Australia**

**Saturday 12 March 2016 at 12 noon**  
**St Mary's Anglican Church**  
**42 Colin Street, West Perth**

Guest Speaker: The Rt Revd Jeremy James, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Perth.

Meet the Revd David and Mrs Priya Morgan, BCA Field Staff, Paraburdoo / Tom Price.

\$20 per head (\$15 concession) for lunch.

RSVP by Friday 4 March to

**1300 554 025**

or **wa@bushchurchaid.com.au**

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## **New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory**

**Thursday 7 April 2016 at 12 noon**  
**BCA Boardroom, Level 7, 37 York Street, Sydney**

Guest Speakers: Mr Brian and Mrs Ali Champness, BCA Field Staff Canberra & Goulburn Diocese.

Light lunch provided, a small donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

RSVP by Thursday 31 March to Heather Joyce on **(02) 9262 5017** or **heather@bushchurchaid.com.au**

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## **South Australia and Northern Territory**

**Saturday 2 April 2016 at 12 noon**

**Christ Church North Adelaide**

62-72 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide

Guest Speakers: The Revd Geoff and Mrs Tracey Piggott, BCA Field Staff, Coober Pedy. \$15 per head to cover the cost of lunch.

RSVP by Tuesday 29 March to Helen Spring on **(08) 8221 5444** or **sa@bushchurchaid.com.au**

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## **Victoria**

**Friday 6 May at 6.15pm**  
**Rowville Anglican Church**  
**131 Taylors Lane, Rowville**

The Rt Revd Rick Lewers, Bishop of Armidale, will speak on *Following Christ in a Different Country*, together with The Revd Dale Barclay, BCA Field Staff Red Cliffs, Victoria.

Drinks at 6.15pm for a 6.45pm meeting, followed by spit roast dinner and speakers. Child minding will be available.

\$30 per head for dinner and drinks.

RSVP Victorian office by Tuesday 3 May on **(03) 9457 7556** or **victoria@bushchurchaid.com.au**

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# A New Home in Christ

**Twenty-two year old Willy Roberts-Wise has found a new home in Christ thanks to the witness and leading of David Ebsary from the Sale Salvation Army Corps and BCA's Rich Lanham.**

After growing up in Western Australia, Willy moved to Tasmania in 2009 but the move was not one that worked out well.

"Tasmania is a good place but I lived in a town which has a really bad reputation," Willy says. "I ended up hanging out with the wrong crowd and while I had never really touched drink and drugs before, I started drinking heavily. It escalated from there and I realised that I had to move."

Willy moved to Victoria to be close to family but after some time he ended up without a home. Although transient, Willy was still part of the community in Sale, involved in local sporting teams and volunteering with the Salvation Army.

"I started going to Bible Study with my good friend David and he gave me a place to live behind the Op Shop," explains Willy. "When he went away I had to move out and it was then I ended up staying with Rich. I was really blown away with what Rich told me about Christianity and how God wants us to live."

At this stage Willy was still partying a bit and after having too many drinks with friends one day he missed his shift at work. Rich took Willy to his employer who encouraged him and even paid him for his missed shift.

"It was that day I saw that I couldn't live this way any more and I had to make a positive change in my life and for myself," says Willy.

It was then he spoke to Rich and told him that he wanted to commit his life to God. Rich introduced Willy to his niece's partner Kyle – someone who had also been transformed by Jesus. "Kyle told me his story and how God had changed his life," he says. "It really gripped me and I became a Christian."

Willy was baptized in the Stratford River in Sale surrounded by friends and family.

"Ever since becoming a Christian my whole attitude has changed," says Willy. "I am more positive and have a different outlook on life. It is really great living in a Christian household with the Lanhams. I really cherish them."

Willy is so keen to find out what God has planned for him. He prays in the good times and bad, before he goes on the field in a cricket or footy match and in the lead up to a job interview.

At the moment Willy is unemployed but is helping Rich with 123: "I'm privileged and proud to be part of it," he says. "It's

"It was that day I saw that I couldn't live this way any more and I had to make a positive change in my life and for myself."





Willy Roberts-Wise (far right) with the extended Lanham family

always great to help a friend who has a vision, a dream that he wants to pursue. I hope to get a snapshot of his smile when everything is done."

Willy is still in the process of finding his church home and has been called a 'church hopper' as he attends the Salvation Army Church, Baptist Church and the Anglican Church – sometimes on the same day.

"I like to go to different churches and see how they preach," says Willy. "I'm still a baby Christian and I want to find a preacher who I can relate to. I'd say that I pretty much prefer going with Rich – he speaks well and what he preaches about really, really grips you. It has made a huge difference in my life."

Willy has been living with the Lanhams for six months now and has truly become part of their family. Rich relates a time when he was giving advice to Willy but then realised he was talking like he would to Jack, Jacob and Elijah. He apologised to Willy who said he didn't mind taking the advice if he could call Rich 'Dad'.

"I didn't have a home until I came to the Lanhams," says Willy. "My life has changed for the good in the blink of an eye. I really put it down to God's work. I had no idea that things would change so much so fast.

"I am just starting on the Christian path and would value your prayers. I have put my faith in God and am letting him guide me. I am enjoying the journey and my complete transformation."

*Janine van den Tillaart*

**"I didn't have a home until I came to the Lanhams," says Willy. "My life has changed for the good in the blink of an eye."**

# Celebrations for Newly Ordained Field Staff



Stuart Haynes at his ordination in Moranbah



Barry Luke and Joel Hill at their ordination in Roxby Downs

**“It’s God’s work and was and still is a privilege to be part of it.”**

**There was great celebration in Moranbah and Roxby Downs in late November 2015 when Field Staff Stuart Haynes, Barry Luke and Joel Hill were ordained in their respective parishes.**

For Stuart it was a journey that commenced in 2000 when he and Katherine joined the Church Army.

They worked as youth ministers for seven years until they were asked by former BCA National Director Brian Roberts to plant a church in Blackwater.

“We took up that challenge, were there for four years and saw the church grow in lots of different ways,” says Stuart. “It was an amazing ministry of transformation, just brilliant. It’s God’s work and was and still is a privilege to be part of it.”

Over the years Stuart has done two advanced diplomas, one through the School of Christian Studies and the second through St Mark’s National Theological Centre.

“As Church Army captains, we have been able to fulfill the gift of evangelism but what we’ve realised doing a church plant



and then coming to Moranbah was that we wanted to serve the people completely, it was really on my heart," he says. "That's when I looked towards ordination."

Stuart completed his Bachelor of Theology through Charles Sturt University and was ordained on Sunday 30 November 2015 in Moranbah.

"November 30 is St Andrew's Day which was quite significant to me," Stuart explains. "Andrew was in the background, but went out there, met people and they trusted him and he brought people to Jesus. He is a great role model of ministry. To get out there, build relationships with people – there's an element of trust in that."

People travelled from far and wide to share in Stuart's ordination, there were those from the parish of Moranbah but also from the Parish of Blackwater – a trip of several hundred kilometres.

"It is a real show of support that people came so far," Stuart says. "It is something that warms your heart. A lot of times you don't see the fruits of your labour and then you get a glimpse of something like that

and it's just incredible. I also had the support of family and friends and BCA National Director Mark Short – to have his support – that speaks volumes. It really made my ordination a special and privileged moment."

Stuart's ordination was not only the culmination of years of ministry serving the Lord but came at the end of a weekend of highlights. Stuart, Katherine and Christina travelled to the Victorian Alps for Stuart's brother's wedding on Saturday 29 November and then flew back for Sunday's ordination.

Stuart talks about ministry as a team ministry and he's valued the help of Katherine and Christina during his study. This year the shoe is on the other foot as Katherine has commenced a Bachelor of Social Work.

"God has given us gifts so let's go out there and use them for His glory and see what happens," Stuart says.

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# All in God's Timing



**"I'm not sure what the future holds for me but that's ok – I do know the one who holds the future."**

**As Robyn Williams finished up her time as BCA's National Administration Manager in late January she reflected on her more than 16 years with the Society:**

This is all in God's timing. Ecclesiastes tells us that there is a time and season for everything. I thank God for entrusting this role to me over the past 16 odd years and I thank him too for the blessings that have come with that.

For it is all His work that we are doing not our own – I thank him for those who have journeyed with me and for the new kids on the block who will carry on. I thank God for our supporters who are the ones who have been the real encouragement as they supported God's mission – when I think of the sacrifice that I know people have made – I remember \$2 coins stuck to cornflakes packets coming in the mail with a note saying they're sorry they can't give more – I am humbled. It is that devotion to our mission that has spurred me on.

When Brian Roberts interviewed me I thanked him for the opportunity of a second interview to meet the Finance Committee. I must have sounded pretty confident because his response was "you haven't got the job yet". I acknowledged that of course and actually felt a bit silly – but I felt God was calling me to BCA and after I was offered the position I remember driving around singing to myself "in God's perfect timing..."

And so it is now – I believe that this is God's timing – for BCA and for me – and I believe too that Greg Bridge is God's person in God's place in God's timing.

I have had some amazing times, experienced so much of God's love and seen answers to prayers – this has been REALLY special. I won't take you down memory lane but want to say that my real joy came from



seeing lives changed for Christ in the field, from hearing stories from Field Staff – and problems solved... at home on the admin side.

I always wanted to finish well, but that's to put the emphasis on me. Finishing a job well is not what it's about – it's about finishing the race for eternity that matters. We need to persevere – to run the particular race that God has set for each one of us.

I'm not sure what the future holds for me but that's ok – I do know the one who holds the future.

I will pray for BCA constantly – please pray for me as I seek His guidance and leading. In closing I'd like to give you the words of Colossians 3:15-17 – *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*





# Post and Rails

## WELCOME

**Greg Bridge** commenced his role as Chief Operations Officer in the National Office in January. Greg has previously worked at Youthworks, the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation and in a number of private sector positions. He trained as an accountant and has extensive experience in finance and reporting, IT and human resources. Greg is married to Liz and they have three teenage children. They are active members of Jannali Anglican Church.

**Heather Joyce** commenced as Executive Assistant in the New South Wales/ACT Office in late January. For the past four years she has worked at Wesley Mission as PA to the General Manager, Aged Care. She was married to Don (deceased) and has two adult sons, one living in Sydney and the other in Singapore. She is grandmother to Alastair who is 20 months old. Heather currently worships at St Matthew's Manly.

**Roger and Amanda Kyngdon** have moved to Bluff Point in Western Australia with their two daughters Ada and Eliza as part of a Ministry Training Agreement with BCA. Previously Roger was the Youth and Children's Minister at Windsor Anglican Church in Sydney. Roger loves teaching young people and helping them understand what the Gospel is all about.

**Graeme and Susan Liersch** have joined BCA after 30 years working for the Church in a variety of roles. Graeme is a Church Army Officer and Priest while Susan is a trained Counsellor and Occupational Therapist with experience in Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Counselling. They have taken up the role of BCA Field Staff in Longreach/Barcardine.

## FAREWELL

**Barry and Avril Luke** have concluded their time as BCA Affiliates in Roxby Downs after just over two years. Following his ordination in November, Barry accepted a new position in the Parish of Cummins which he recently commenced.



Greg Bridge



Heather Joyce



The Kyngdons



Susan and Graeme Liersch



The Lukes

**Peter and Joy Palmer** concluded their time as BCA Field Staff in February. They have served with BCA since 2001, first in Wyndham-Oombulgurri and then Coober Pedy from 2007–2011. Peter finished his service as the Fly-in-fly-out Mine Chaplain in 2015.

**Ran and Jenny Mitchell** concluded their time as Drought Family Support Workers in January. Farmers, relationship counsellors and lay-preachers, Ran and Jenny have been ministering to people on the land over many years. In 2015, with BCA funding, they were able to expand their ministry.

## VALE

**Mina Whybourne** (born 1922 – died 23 October 2015) chose to honour the Lord Jesus in every aspect of her life. She was passionate about her church, ministry and had a heart for mission. Mina was Sydney Diocesan Secretary of MU from 1986 to 1989 and a long-time member of the Bush Church Aid Ladies' Auxiliary. She also volunteered with the Save the Children Fund for over 35 years. Mina was married to Jack (deceased), mum to Colin and Annie, and grandmother of Tim, Martin and Kathryn.

**Joan Rich** (born 1928 – died 21 November 2015) was the wife of former BCA National Director Bill Rich (deceased). Bill and Joan served as Field Staff in Mount Magnet from 1957–1959, and then in NSW where Bill was the NSW Deputation Secretary from 1959–1963 and served as the National Director from 1963–1969 (then known as Organising Missioner and Federal Secretary). Joan was the loving mother of Mark, Peter and Phil.

**Ray Ctercteko** (born 4 June 1920 – died 16 December 2015) had a passion for all he did and an intense interest in BCA and Mission Australia. Ray was first elected to the BCA Council in 1968 and served as Honorary Treasurer from 1982–1993 and Vice President from 1992–1999 (thus holding dual roles during 1992 and 1993). At the BCA Annual General Meeting in 2000, Life Membership was conferred on Ray – “The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia gives thanks to God for Ray’s outstanding contribution to the people of rural and remote Australia through his service within the Society. His long association with the Society as a supporter, Councillor, Honorary Treasurer and most recently as a Vice President has been marked by his dedication and example as an ambassador of Christ.” Ray was married to Joy (deceased) and will be sadly missed by Robyn and Phil, Grahame and Alison, and his large family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



The Palmers



The Mitchells



Mina Whybourne



Joan Rich



Joy and Ray Ctercteko

# From the Archives



In 1957, The Revd Donald Douglass and his wife Margaret were one of the first group of BCA Field Staff to venture to the Diocese of North West Australia, at the time a very new endeavour for BCA. It was a challenging time – the region was an expanding mining zone, and the Diocese didn't have the personnel to meet the challenges. Hence the call to BCA.

The task was originally presented by BCA as being rather an exotic mission opportunity; it needed the people to go and the finance to make it work.

Once in Port Hedland Margaret was a regular correspondent to the BCA National Office and ten of her letters appeared in *The Real Australian* during their time in the Pilbara (1957–1960). Margaret also detailed all her ministry with Don in a book: *We're here now, so make the best of it*, which was published in 1988 by The Australian Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity. The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Margaret which appeared in the September 1958 edition of *The Real Australian*:

*Dear Everyone,*

*I know it is not very long since I last wrote, but such a lot has been happening here that I'd like to tell you about that I feel that I must write even if you haven't time to read it straight away.*

*Our biggest activity this month has been our first Parish Tea. We invited all Anglicans to this function and were amazed at the number in such a small town. The prospect of catering for the eighty expected seemed at first tremendous, as food etc, is not just bought here – but when the members of the Young Wives' Group got together the plan all worked out wonderfully.*

*Salad and fruit salad ingredients had to be air-freighted especially but between us we donated the rest and the menu was pretty good. I made a special fruitcup, which we began with and continued to drink all evening, and we had hot curry and rice, spaghetti bolognaise, fish savoury and cold mutton, silverside and fish, with the salads. The sweets of fruit salad, lemon meringue pie, jelly whips etc were delicious, and we ended with tea and savoury scones. What a meal!*

*The best part of all this was the fact that it was served on trestles on our lawn, surrounded by shrubs and the sea shore. The lawn was lighted and we borrowed sufficient chairs for all so when the Church Secretary, the Treasurer and Don spoke the people listened very well.*



Early editions of *The Real Australian*

Mr Dempster and Peter told of BCA's sending Don here and of the parish's job of keeping him on the road and gradually taking over the full responsibility of their Minister, and told of the work in Sunday Schools, day schools and other towns. It really was an excellent evening and we made some very valuable contacts. Most of the station folk sent apologies because of mustering, but three families did come in, two of them travelling more than 100 miles especially for the tea.

On Anzac Day the RSL had its first march and service (conducted by Don). The march was a credit to the men – 36 of them. Two days after this a man phoned here most anxious to attend Church – he said he would be there next Sunday night – he described himself on the phone to me as “the chap wandering along on the march on Friday.” It is a thrill when God uses these occasions isn't it?

When Don was in Roebourne I had the usual cottage service here. Very few come but it is worth it for last week, just as Mrs Chequer and I were about to start, two men from the manganese ship and an air hostess arrived. They had met outside the church looking for a service and came here to inquire. The little service was great and one chap from the ship came to the Bible Study and Prayer Group on Tuesday night. He is a fine chap and really enjoyed the Christian fellowship, and so did we.

Incidentally, please pray for Christians in lonely parts. Don had a letter from a young chap in Broome – where there is no ministry, expect when the Bishop is there – asking him some questions that were worrying him. Eric, a chap from the manganese ship in port, also spoke of difficulties in the Navy. It is so marvellous to have fellowship – but we often take it for granted.

All the family join me in prayerful and loving greetings,  
Margaret.

What is wonderful about this article is that it shows how even the small things on the mission field are vital in bringing people to Christ.

*Brian Roberts*



**“The task was originally presented by BCA as being a rather exotic mission opportunity...”**

**I have had a most blessed life. My earliest memories include going to a Salvation Army Sunday School in Casino aged about three. I can still see the big picture on the wall there of Jesus on a beach surrounded by and holding children learning the words of Jesus loves me.**

By about five, I was "going" to Mothers Union (MU) and somewhere around that time the names, Bush Church Aid Society and Bible Society filtered in. Dad worked on the railway so we lived in lots of country towns and joining the local Church of England was a priority.

I went to a Beach Mission at Harrington around 1954

and my eyes were opened to understand Jesus as my Saviour and Lord. Moving to Keiraville parish as a teenager, Bible study and fellowship expanded my curiosity and understanding of Jesus and still continues as central to my life.

Malcolm and I were married in 1966. We have two married children and four grandchildren all living locally and a big part of our lives. In 1987 I was granted a Diocesan Readers Licence.

Since the mid-seventies I have been privileged to count coins for Christ as the Box Secretary at Figtree Anglican. What started out as a way of contributing to the life of my church grew into a love for BCA, serving on the NSW Committee for some

years and more recently on the Council. My respect for BCA and what they achieve deepened when I did a BCA Bus Tour to western NSW and saw first-hand the difficulties and joys of the bush pastors and their families.

I have experienced 26 years of blessing in my own mission field at the Wollongong Nursing Home. As volunteer chaplain I am involved in the lives of 120 residents, their families, staff and visitors. Membership of MU allows me to promote the ideals of marriage and family relationships encouraging our Playtime Leaders and their work.

I thank God for the wonderful servants of BCA past and present and for the richness of fellowship found in looking beyond my doorstep.

*Leonie Burgess OAM*





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