

# The Real Australian

bca  
bush church aid  
*Going the distance*

winter  
2016



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# BCA Directory

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**Top** Darryn Farrell (centre in white) with Alistair Lalara (centre left in black) and the Bickerton Island Community mob.

**Bottom** 'Connected' by Raymond Howes from Monica Short's book *Three Anglican Churches Engaging with People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds*

## **The more things change, the more we need to work on staying connected.**

I've recently been considering a government yearbook called *Progress in Australian Regions*. Amongst the many (!) statistics two key trends stand out:

- the bush is changing. Over the past few years the pace of economic change has been fastest for Australians living in the bush.
- the bush risks becoming disconnected. Over the past few years levels of trust and participation in civic and political groups have fallen the most in the bush.

Together, these two trends risk eroding social capital – the network of relationships which gives people a sense of belonging in the community. But with this challenge there is a wonderful opportunity for Christian mission. What better time to share a message which connects people of different ages and backgrounds under the Lordship of Christ!

Our current financial appeal highlights how God is working through BCA-supported ministry to keep people connected with Christ and each other in rapidly changing mining communities. Thank you if you've already responded to it! This edition of *The Real Australian* looks at another side of connection – building bridges of trust and learning across generations, so that the gospel of Jesus continues to bear fruit in our nation. I hope you find it an encouragement to face the changes in your world with Christ-centred confidence.

*Mark Short*

**National Director**



**What better time to share a message which connects people of different ages and backgrounds under the Lordship of Christ!**

# Developing a New Generation of Culturally Diverse Christian Leaders



**A wise friend once gave me two pieces of advice about Christian ministry. One – you can only pass on what you’ve first received. Two – you can only lead others where you’re prepared to go yourself.**

Reaching Australia for Christ is more than leaving behind a set of instructions or ideas for those who come after us. It means going the distance with them now.

Hence BCA’s second key priority area is developing a new generation of culturally diverse Christian leaders.

New generations are significant as the church endures, because a living faith in Christ is passed from one generation to the next. The emphasis on cultural diversity reminds us that God is calling people to Himself from different cultures and social backgrounds and that this diversity should be reflected in the leadership of our churches and ministries. There’s even a place for white, middle-aged males – for which I am thankful!

## **So how do we work with God in this?**

First, new leaders need to be recognised. The Bible assures us that the Risen Jesus

gives gifts to His church, and chief among those gifts are people called to serve. We must have faith to see the potential evangelists, pastors and teachers that may be right before us.

Second, new leaders need to be disciplined. They need the wisdom and encouragement of brothers and sisters in Christ who’ve walked the way of Christ for decades before them. They need to see ‘living examples’ of the gospel being expressed in word and deed.

Third, new leaders need to be trusted. They need to be given the opportunities to exercise ministries and make decisions, especially when that means doing things differently. They need time to reflect with others on what went well and what didn’t, and the reassurance that when things don’t go to their plan, God is still sovereign and gracious. He goes the distance with us, so we go the distance with each other!

*Mark Short*

# Engaging with our Culturally Diverse Neighbours

As part of her PhD research on the Australian Anglican Church engaging with rural, regional and remote communities, Monica Short has recently published a report in conjunction with BCA, The Anglican Diocese of Bendigo and Charles Sturt University.

Entitled *Three Anglican Churches Engaging with People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds*, the report is the result of a collaborative project involving rurally located congregation members and leaders from different backgrounds.

"We believe it will help churches and other voluntary organisations build inclusive and welcoming communities where all people are able to use their gifts for the common good," says Monica.

The research, conducted and compiled over two years, saw Monica interview people from a range of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in the Bendigo and Mildura areas.

"It was fascinating to listen to people's stories," she says. "I am inspired and in awe of how people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds build wonderful relationships with God and others."

The book highlights a number key points including that:

- engaging with a church can be part of a migration experience
- Anglican churches can be accessible public spaces connecting people with God and each other
- the church can be a go-to place when people are experiencing exclusion by society
- engagement upholds people's well-being and builds social capital.

"It is my hope that every person in rural, regional and remote Australia, regardless of background or culture, has the opportunity to connect with a vibrant Christian group or church," says Monica. "I also hope that every church will engage with every cultural group in society and actively be part of its local community. The church is a public space that can bring people into a wonderful relationship with God and their neighbours."

*Janine van den Tillaart*



Monica Short

THREE ANGLICAN CHURCHES  
ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE  
FROM CULTURALLY AND  
LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE  
BACKGROUNDS



MONICA SHORT  
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

To receive a copy of this report contact the BCA National Office on (02) 9262 5017.



# Indigenous Leaders take the Stage



**Indigenous Community Leaders who have been mentored by BCA's Bruce Chapman took centre stage at the youth program at this year's Katherine Christian Convention (KCC).**

Since Bruce commenced leading the youth program in 2009, it has combined teaching with a space where Aboriginal leaders can be trained.

Mandy Mangurra, Craig Rogers and Darryn Farrell each conducted sessions related to this year's topic – God's Big Rescue (the Easter story).

Mandy, from Darwin/Numbulwar, spoke on *Thieves on the Cross*; Craig, from Ngukurr, spoke on *The Empty Tomb and The Road to Emmaus* and Darryn, from Minyerri, spoke on *Pentecost*.

"It was so exciting," says Bruce. "Their talks were fantastic; they were well prepared, gospel-centred, aimed at the young people and had great application. There was a certain level of Christian maturity in all of them that wasn't there seven years ago when I first came to KCC.

"These three now have leadership positions in their various communities – Darryn has been deaconed and Craig runs the Roper Yangbala Kemp (Kriol language youth camp)."

Apart from talks, the youth program included games, action, drama, reading the Bible, painting and music. The music was led by Alistair Lalara from Bickerton Island.

"Alistair is a bit of a rock star in Arnhem Land," says Bruce. "Everyone has his songs on their phones but most people had never seen him. Alistair sang with a bunch of people from his community and as part of that also shared his testimony."

This was the first time that a group from Bickerton Island (a small community of around 200 people) had attended KCC. Darryn Farrell was so excited to meet Alistair for the first time he made sure to get a photo with him and some of the people from the Island (see above).

"That sort of thing happens over and over again at convention," Bruce says. "You get people coming together from remote communities from right across the top end,



Painting time at the youth program

meeting each other for the first time and having fellowship together. But the most exciting part is that people get encouraged and grow by hearing God's word taught."

Each year the convention features three simultaneous programs – catering for adults, youth and children. The adults heard from Jono Wright who spoke on grace and law and the children enjoyed a program conducted by Scripture Union Northern Territory.

According to Bruce there were 30–50 teenagers at each session of the youth program. In previous years numbers were inconsistent, they may have had 10 kids at one session and then 50 at the next. "KCC was one of the best attended for a long time, mostly because of accessibility – we've had a dry wet rather than a wet 'wet' – rivers are down and it was easy to get to."

KCC has been running for 49 years and this year was significant for a couple of reasons – the near record crowd (1500) and its last hurrah at Morrow's Farm. Bruce and Janine Morrow have hosted the convention at their farm for nearly two decades. Bruce

has been involved in running the convention since its infancy after moving to the top end as a CMS missionary.

"The Morrors have kindly opened their farm to the convention each year and now it's time for them to take a step back," says Bruce. "With 1500 attendees there are people staying in sheds on the farm or camping in tents along the river. You can see open fires everywhere. From 2017 the committee are looking to host KCC at Katherine Showgrounds."

National Director Mark Short attended part of the Katherine Christian Convention and was greatly encouraged. "I learned so much driving from Darwin to Katherine with William and Marjorie Hall, two Aboriginal ministers from Ngukurr in Arnhem Land. I was also encouraged to meet some of the Christian leaders mentored by Bruce and Jodi Chapman, and see them in turn stepping up to reach and serve the next generation."

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# Dusty Boots a Turning Point for Kathryn



Kathryn getting her boots dusty' helping out with the gardening

**Travelling to Western Australia as part of a Dusty Boots trip was a turning point in the life of Kathryn Robinson. Not only was it the first time she had gone on mission, it was when she realised that going out and serving in practical ways is significant to God.**



Kathryn was just 14 years old when she went to Dongara as part of a mission team from Glenmore Park Anglican Church. A group of around 20 people, including three teenagers, served the church in a variety of ways – cooking, gardening, concreting and assisting with the Sunday service.

“While I was there I made concrete for the first time, laid bricks to create a border for a garden bed and did some gardening,” says Kathryn. “I was also part of the team that led music in church.

“I had a lot of fun serving in different ways. I think what I learnt was that different acts of service can mean so much. It was

amazing to see how our work blessed the people of this small country town and how God used our service.”

Dusty Boots Coordinators Rob and Jenny Stubbs were delighted to have the mission team serve in Dongara during their time in the Parish.

“Often rural churches do not have many, if any, young people around as they often go away for schooling,” explain





Kathryn leading the music at the Dongara Church

Rob and Jenny. "So the churches miss having the input of the youth. When young people go on a Dusty Boots trip there is a two-way interaction. The participants are able to support activities that have not been undertaken for a while, like children's programs or gardening. The rural church community are given hope that young people are interested in them. Young people are given an insight to rural life and may even decide to go out and work in rural areas when they leave school.

"It is a real encouragement to have young people from city churches involved in Bush Church Aid's Dusty Boots Program. It is a program where you need to organise yourself and you may be out of your comfort zone, but the benefits for all are long term."

Since her first mission trip, Kathryn has travelled to Fiji with her high school and is now studying at Sydney Missionary & Bible College (SMBC).

"I'm doing a Diploma of Theology through a mission-focused gap year program at SMBC called *The Bridge*," says Kathryn. "I am at college from Wednesday to Friday. We do a mix of lectures and practical things like barista training or a conflict resolution Bible study like *PeaceWise*. We also do physical, spiritual and emotional exercises to help us develop as people. It's a great program."

Kathryn looks forward to seeing what path God has in store for her following her gap year. As Dusty Boots led her to further work and study in the mission field it seems that mission may well play a part in her future.

*Janine van den Tillaart*

I had a lot of fun serving in different ways. I think what I learnt was that different acts of service can mean so much.

# SRE Continues to Grow across New South Wales

**Christian Special Religious Education (SRE) currently covers more than 70 per cent of high schools and central schools in New South Wales. However students in many isolated rural schools have been missing out on the opportunity to understand the Bible, Christian faith, and engage with a significant part of our Australian heritage (with parental permission).**

The combination of a lack of confident volunteer secondary SRE teachers, the scarcity of applicants for paid positions in isolated communities and financial challenges, have required creative thinking to achieve equity in ensuring that Christian SRE is available in every high school in rural New South Wales.

So BCA and Generate have partnered together to create a new position – Distance Scripture Education teacher, and are delighted to welcome Peter Volkofsky on board.

With the help of Christian volunteers, Peter will teach isolated students through a combination of



Cheryl Hallinan with husband Michael

video-based lessons, worksheets and video-conferencing lessons using the NSW Department of Education intranet. These lessons will draw on the lived experience of rural and Aboriginal Christians. Peter will also travel to meet his students each term and teach a lesson in class.

This creative adaptation of the curriculum by Peter and myself aims to meet the needs of isolated secondary students. The new audio-visual and printed resources will be available to SRE teachers for students with similar cultural and other special needs throughout the state.

*Cheryl Hallinan*

**I grew up on an outback station with five brothers. Both my parents loved God but my mother in particular, who was dying of Motor Neurone Disease, demonstrated an infectious love for Jesus.**

My faith was tested at school and university, and for a while I tried to tell God to go away, which didn't work. Instead I got involved in Bible study and evangelism on campus. I learned to treasure the Bible during this time and developed a passion for sharing the gospel and making disciples.

I enrolled in training with Cornerstone Community in 1984. I combined my Cornerstone responsibilities with my work as a Vet for thirty years.

Cornerstone Community is a network of intentional communities in towns and suburbs across south-eastern Australia. Communities are formed by people responding to Jesus' call to 'follow me', and exploring authentic spirituality in life. Through Cornerstone I helped to establish a training campus in Broken Hill and mission teams in places across New South Wales and South Australia.

On the family front, my wife Penny and I have seven children, six of whom are now at large in the world. We have three grandchildren and our daughter Nadya (Year Ten) lives with us.

I also love to write and recently published *Beautiful Quest*, a non-fiction Ark House imprint, available through Koorong, Word and The Wandering Bookseller. The book's thread is, 'Whether we know it or not we are all on a perilous and beautiful journey.'

My wife and I recently bought a

house in West Dubbo in order to be part of a missional network. Two other families, who we have worked with for many years, also bought houses in the area and we gave ourselves to praying and looking to God. I applied for a job as an SRE teacher and began to sense that this could be something that God might be calling me into.



In this role I am looking to waken curiosity and whet the appetites of students for goodness and for Jesus, and to build good communication with individuals and groups, including the Education Department, my churches and supervisors. I would value your prayers as I embark on my work and build respect and trust with all stakeholders and teams of SRE support people.

*Peter Volkofsky*

# Reaching Out to the People of Broken Hill



**Broken Hill has been a popular destination for mission trips over the past few months with visits from Sydney Missionary & Bible College (SMBC) and Wycliffe Christian College. A team from St Matt's Manly is visiting in July.**

Visits such as these provide much joy and encouragement for ministry workers, church members and the local community.

According to BCA Field Staff Neville Naden, most churches in Broken Hill are struggling with numbers – “They’re two bob a dozen in Broken Hill: Lutheran, Church of Christ, Assemblies of God, Uniting, Anglican, Seventh-day Adventist, Catholic, Saltbush and ours. No church here has big numbers. We have a congregation of about 30 people so we are in the same boat as everyone else.”

This is why visits from mission teams like SMBC provide such a valuable ‘shot in the arm’. The recent SMBC mission, led by Old Testament lecturer Kit Barker, saw eight students conduct various outreach events

for both the Living Desert Indigenous Church and the Saltbush Evangelical Church.

Saltbush is an independent church run by former SMBC student Matt Letcher. “When Matt first came here in 2013 the people who started up the church left Broken Hill so he felt very isolated,” says Neville. “We try to encourage him in his daily ministry and also by getting involved in this mission. Saltbush in turn is a great encouragement to us.”

The mission was really successful according to Neville with the students engaging well with both churches. “They conducted Scripture in schools, ran our Kids Church, and one student did a great job preaching on Hebrews Chapter 8 one Sunday morning. I’ve been preaching my way through Hebrews and he simply carried on.”

The week also included a BBQ dinner, a pizza evening, a men’s breakfast and a combined service at Saltbush.

“The men’s breakfast at BCA House on the Saturday

Visits such as these provide much joy and encouragement for ministry workers, church members and the local community

morning was excellent," says Neville. "Forty-five men came and learned how to sharpen knives and make coffee! One of the guys from Saltbush, an expert in sharpening knives and axes, gave a talk. And Kit brews his own coffee beans and he taught people the art of making good coffee while cleverly working in his message."

The pizza evening drew a crowd of more than 70 people, even though they had to throw in \$5 each. "We had about a dozen people who normally wouldn't grace the doorway of the church, which was just great," says Neville.

Some of the students also came along to Neville's Bible study class which normally averages around 12 people. "To have three students join in, engage in the discussions around Exodus and contribute where they could was really encouraging," Neville says.

Apart from the great witness and outreach Neville also enjoyed another part of the mission week, and something that we all need from time to time: "Mate, I got a good rest during the week as both services were taken care of."

*Janine van den Tillaart*

## BCA OUTBACK QUEENSLAND HOLIDAY

JUNE 2017

*There remains something romantic about Western Queensland with its endless plains, rivers of history and spectacular sunsets with 'wall to wall' skies. Our unique tour covers the main features of this region including Longreach and Winton.*

*Longreach is famous for its Stockman's Hall of Fame and being the birthplace of QANTAS, whilst the first public rendition of Waltzing Matilda was heard in Winton and it is now a town famous for the largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils.*

**This is really a tour not to be missed as along the way we meet with many Christian people who are served by BCA.**

**For more information on both tours contact your Regional Office or email [BCATours@bushchurcaid.com.au](mailto:BCATours@bushchurcaid.com.au)**

OPERATED BY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TOURS

# Growing a Missional Community in Launceston

**Andy, the girls and I have been in Tasmania for six years now. We believe God has called our church community to be His missionary people in the northern suburbs of Launceston. We really encourage people to think about who they are called to bless and serve in the community and to recognise that Christianity is not just about us meeting and having a nice time together, but about going out and serving.**

Students were our first port of call when we came here. For the first couple of years we had students meeting up, supporting one another, praying together and holding social events that they could invite friends to. On campus during exam time our team also provided coffee for

students, a really great initiative. They set up a coffee cart, provided free coffee and had a chance to chat to people.

An English language café was the first of our missional communities to be established. The café is coordinated by a couple in our church who have a real heart for international people. For years they have welcomed overseas students into their home through the university's homestay program. When we asked the question "Who are you called to bless and serve?" they very quickly said "international people".

The English language café is an informal place where non-native speakers of English can come and practice their listening and speaking skills. We set up the church in a café style and make coffee using the church's coffee machine. People sit around the tables and someone provides a topic each week to talk about. It can be anything from public transport, places to visit, Australian wildlife or shopping.

The thing we found out very quickly (the café is going into its fifth year now), was that what people really valued was a place to belong and a community to connect with. Launceston has a lot of international PhD students who often come with their spouses. These spouses are often professional people but they are not able to work in Australia, which can be very isolating. People just love somewhere where they can come and meet others.

The English language café also hosts social events – at least once a term. They might go to the beach for the day, go fishing, attend an event in Launceston (eg the Carols by Candlelight event in the





City Park) or tour the Christmas lights. They try and do stuff that helps the students engage with Tasmania and the places where they are staying. It is a lovely little community and the social stuff is really the glue that binds it.

Some people from the café have come along to church because they already feel part of the place and when they come on a Sunday they see people that they recognise.

The English café is just one of our missional communities; we also have a thriving international student Christian group called *Imaginations*. They meet together on the uni campus to read the Bible together and for discussion. They get a number of non-Christians coming along who don't know about Christianity at all and have found it a great place to connect with people.

We have also been running a mentoring program called *Connections* for the past two years. Our volunteers go into our local high school and mentor kids who are struggling. The volunteers come from different churches across the city and the program is now spreading into other high schools as well which is really encouraging.

We at Barney's believe very strongly that twisting people's arms, or setting up programs and then looking for volunteers, is not the best way to see mission happen. When people are encouraged to listen to God about who He is calling them to bless and serve, and who they are called to do that with, we get communities of passionate people who are simply being who God has called them to be.



**The thing we found out very quickly, and it's going into its fourth year now, is that what people really valued was a place to belong and a community to connect with.**

*Liz Goodacre*

# Reaching Tourists with the Gospel

**For those travelling across our great country by car, Coober Pedy is a favoured location on the tourist map. Its underground Catacomb Church is a popular site that sometimes boasts over 70 visitors a day. It's a great ministry for BCA Field Staff Geoff and Tracey Piggott but one that could use an extra pair of hands.**

Val Ishri from New South Wales volunteered to become that pair of hands. She joined the Piggotts in mid March to specifically take on the role of tourist ministry and she hit the ground running. She's already had a good rap on Trip Advisor

– “Interesting little church, just on the edge of the centre of town so not far or hard to get to. Really friendly lady who gave lots of information around the church's construction and symbols. Also took a fun special souvenir photo of us too...”

“Last year we ached at the thought of the hundreds of tourists we passed each week in the street who we couldn't possibly reach with the gospel...but now they are being reached and we rejoice,” says Geoff. Val tells us how she came to be the Catacomb Church tour guide:



**I want this message to continually be fresh and genuine and not just part of the 'tourist patter'**

The long-term house sit I'd been doing in New South Wales finished in May 2015 so I headed off to Queensland. I had been considering voluntary work for 2016 when three opportunities came up, two in North Queensland and one in Coober Pedy.

I'd met Tracey and Geoff while travelling through Central Australia in 2012 and was very interested in their call for help on Facebook. Tracey messaged back their need for assistance with tourist ministry and I knew that was for me as I've been on the road for five years now so spend a lot of time with fellow travellers and tourists.

My role is to show tourists around the church, give a bit of





Geoff, Tracey and Val

information, and use whatever opportunities God provides to share with others.

I think God may have other purposes too – I'm naturally a quieter person and can find it difficult to think of a response when speaking with people. I had been asking God to teach me to open my mouth and speak for Him. Now I'm finding that many times each day I am opening my mouth and telling our visitors about the central message of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ, God's Son died on the cross to pay the penalty for our rebellion against God so we can be back in relationship with Him. I want this message to continually be fresh and genuine and not just part of the 'tourist patter'.

I have been here for two months now and around 20–50 people a day are coming to see the church – and I hear that it will get a lot busier! First impressions? – it is such a privilege to have this opportunity; each individual that comes in the door is precious. And, I'm really tired at the end of each day!

*Val Ishri & Janine van den Tillaart*

**Last year we ached at the thought of the hundreds of tourists we passed each week in the street who we couldn't possibly reach with the gospel...but now they are being reached and we rejoice...**

# Inspiring and Invigorating – 2016 Nomads Gathering



**This event helped us Nomads get to know the Junee church family and vice versa; transforming the idea of 'them and us' into 'we are all part of God's family'**

**An inspiring weekend of friendship, hard work and fellowship was held in late February when over 60 BCA supporters gathered at Junee Caravan Park for the annual Nomads gathering.**

For those new to BCA, our Nomads scheme connects Christian travellers with Field Staff and their ministries. Nomads travel to BCA locations across Australia offering skills, fellowship and support for the work of the gospel. They aim to encourage Field Staff and local Christians through their presence and willingness to lend a hand with jobs.

Across the weekend the Nomads had a lot of fun getting to know each other, singing songs, studying the Bible, listening to talks, serving the church of Junee, eating together and worshipping God.

Much work went on behind the scenes in preparing for this gathering. Our Nomad Coordinators Doug and Frances Orr did an outstanding job organising the gathering, putting in a huge amount of hours beforehand and during the weekend. Kees and Cindy Bootsma prepared stimulating studies, helping us grow in our knowledge of God and encouraging us to witness to those around us. BCA National Director and my husband, Mark Short provided a lot of behind the scenes support for the conference, and spoke to the Nomads about the priorities of BCA. NSW/ACT Regional Officer Peter Adkins sang and presented on sharing faith. Ken Allen spoke on ministry in the bush. Robert and Helen



Joice lead sing-alongs. Nomads inspired each other through stories about work in different parts of Australia. There were also workshops and testimonies – it was invigorating.

During our visit some Nomads worked in and around Junee Anglican Church. Some painted parts of the church, mended broken items, repaired hymn books, helped with church services, assisted with a women's craft event, supported a men's breakfast and visited people isolated in their homes. This is only some of what happened over the weekend!

In exciting news, one Nomad shared the gospel with someone and that person realised for the first time we are saved only by God's grace. God is good.

One of the many highlights for me was a wonderful dinner hosted by the church after the Saturday night service. It was a classic country meal: potato bake, sausages, chicken, salads, fruit salad and ice cream. Laughter over the meal was infectious. This event helped us Nomads get to know the Junee church family and vice versa; transforming the idea of 'them and us' into 'we are all part of God's family'.

*Monica Short*



A classic country meal!

# Bidding Adieu to Faithful Field Staff



Ran and Jenny Mitchell



Barry and Avril Luke

**While we are sad to see them leave we know that they will always be part of the wider BCA family and continue to boldly proclaim the name of Jesus across our great country.**

**Over the past few months BCA has bid farewell to some faithful Field Staff – Ran and Jenny Mitchell, Barry and Avril Luke, Peter and Joy Palmer, Mary and Owen Lewis and Lindsay and Carolyn Whybrow.**

While we are sad to see them leave we know that they will always be part of the wider BCA family and continue to boldly proclaim the name of Jesus across our great country.

Even though they have completed their service as Drought Family Support Workers, Ran and Jenny Mitchell continue to serve God through their community. They are so thankful for the prayer support they received through BCA and ask for your continued prayers that more people will accept Jesus into their lives.

Barry and Avril Luke have settled into their new home in Cummins (South Australia) where they received a warm welcome from both the church and local community. "Pray that we will boldly proclaim, through word and action, the saving love of Jesus," says Barry.

Peter and Joy Palmer have relocated to Brisbane where Peter is now the Priest-in-Charge of St George's Beenleigh. After serving with BCA for 15 years Peter has not left us entirely: he was elected to the BCA QLD/Nth NSW Committee at their recent AGM.

Mary and Owen Lewis were farewelled from Roxby Downs in late April after serving there for seven years. Mary is now the Dean of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Port Pirie. "We are very sad to leave this special family but commit to continuing to support BCA in serving the gospel," says Mary.

Lindsay and Carolyn Whybrow were due to finish up in



Owen and Mary Lewis



Joy and Peter Palmer

Hillston (NSW) in early May but after an accident at home, Lindsay has been in the spinal rehabilitation unit at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital since February.

They praise God that over the past few months Lindsay has been able to regain some use of his left leg and to stand with assistance. He also has limited use of his fingers. They would value your prayers that healing would continue in Lindsay's hands and body.

At this stage Lindsay is due to be discharged from hospital in late June and look forward to making their new home in Uralla close to their daughter and grandchildren.

"Lindsay and Carolyn have appreciated visits and phone calls and thank everyone for their prayers," says NSW/ACT Regional Officer Peter Adkins. "They hope, God willing, that at some time in the future they might be able to visit Hillston to pay a farewell visit."

"All of these wonderful servants have been faithful in proclaiming and commending Christ in many ways – through pastoral ministry, chaplaincy and drought work," says National Director, Mark Short. "We look forward to continued fellowship as they serve in new ways in new places."



Carolyn and Lindsay Whybrow

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# Reflections of a Newbie



Greg (second from left) and the BCA team

**I joined the BCA National Office in late January 2016, following the departure of Robyn Williams after almost 17 faithful years of service. My role, while a little broader, was essentially to take over the work that Robyn had done. I have previously worked as a professional accountant, including senior roles at two other Christian not-for-profit organisations in Sydney.**

In many ways, what I have found is exactly what would be expected in such an organisation, given its strong connections with the Anglican Church. It is both traditional but also keen not to be left working in ways that were good in the past but don't continue to deliver the required outcomes as the world around us changes. BCA has seen some areas of transformation over the last 18 months and there will no doubt be other changes within the office over time.

The team in the Sydney office are hard-working and focused on getting good outcomes for supporters and Field Staff, looking to provide strong support to both.

At the same time they are not work-a-holics and have a good focus on their own Christian work, churches and families.

One of the things that grounds the National Office team and keeps them focused on supporting Field Staff, is opening each day with prayer and twice weekly devotion time. We sit down each Tuesday and Thursday and pray through the relevant days of the Prayer Notes. It is great for us to pray for our BCA family each month.

Another joy in the National Office is the constant stream of willing volunteers that come in to help with all sorts of tasks from collating our stamps, answering phones and preparing mail outs. They are a joy to work with.

I look forward to providing you with an occasional update as to how things at the National Office are going. I hope you will be encouraged by that, as I have been since I started working here.

*Greg Bridge*

**JULY 2016 – 28 DAYS**

# **NORTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA TOUR**

*Come on a BCA CFT holiday for a fantastic time of sightseeing and fellowship. This particular holiday lets you explore the North Western coast of Australia, including Kakadu National Park, The Kimberleys and Broome, as you experience a taste of outback life and BCA ministries.*

*Darwin – Kakadu National Park – Katherine –  
Kununurra – Fitzroy Crossing  
Broome – Port Hedland – Newman – Tom Price  
Karratha – Exmouth – Carnarvon – Denham  
Kalbarri – Geraldton – Perth*

**Packages are available departing from Sydney, Melbourne,  
Brisbane and Adelaide.**

**For more information contact your Regional Office or email  
[BCATours@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:BCATours@bushchurchaid.com.au)**

**OPERATED BY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TOURS**



The late April Bottom

# Applications invited for the 2017 April Bottom Scholarship



2016 winner Ellie Chrisakis

## Applications are now being invited for the 2017 April Bottom Scholarship.

The scholarship was established by the family of April Bottom following her death from cancer in 2003.

April and her husband David ran Wirryilka Station for many years and experienced first-hand the difficulties of having their children educated. Before her passing, April expressed a desire to set up a fund to assist families from the Parish of the Far West and Broken Hill with the education of their children, particularly where they needed to leave the region in order to achieve their potential.

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

2016 Scholarship winner, Ellie Chrisakis, is currently studying a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga.

*"The scholarship has allowed my transition to be smooth as I have had less financial stress," says Ellie. "I absolutely love Wagga and Charles Sturt University. I have met so many amazing people and have settled in so well. Although my course is very full on I have found it interesting and I can't wait to learn more! Thanks to the*

*April Bottom family and BCA I have been given such an amazing opportunity to strive and achieve."*

## To be eligible for the April Bottom Scholarship, you must:

- Be a resident of the Parish of Broken Hill and the Far West
- Undertake study outside the Parish in 2017
- Submit your completed application by the closing date and have it verified by your parents/carers
- Provide academic records from the previous year and any information to support your application including club memberships, sporting or academic achievements.

The winner of the 2017 Scholarship will be notified in mid-October 2016. The amount (to be determined), will go towards tuition/boarding/text books, etc. as they commence their studies in 2017.

**If you know someone who would benefit from the April Bottom Scholarship or you are interested in obtaining further information please email [greg.bridge@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:greg.bridge@bushchurchaid.com.au) or phone the BCA National Office on 02 9262 5017. Applications close 15 September 2016.**



# From the Archives



Kerry Medway talks to students at the local school in Coober Pedy

**We don't often see any fruit for our labour, but be encouraged, God is building His Kingdom and every now and then we see some fruit.**

At last year's Easter Dawn Service in Coober Pedy I told the story of how 34 years ago, when Easter and Anzac Day were very close, I challenged the local high school kids saying there was more evidence to prove that Jesus rose from the dead than we could prove Australian soldiers landed on the shores of Gallipoli in 1915.

The kids jeered me for making such an outlandish statement and over the next two weeks, we looked at the historical, scientific, archaeological, biblical and personal testimony evidences for Jesus rising from the dead.

Following last year's Easter Dawn Service, a Greek lady came up to me and said "Mr

Medway, I was one of those teens in your classes and as a 14 year old I was so stirred by what you shared, I gave my life to Jesus".

I found that this lady has been walking with Jesus ever since. A local couple, George and Chris McCormack, later told me how she has ministered to hundreds in Coober Pedy over the years including George himself, when he had a heart attack.

I knew nothing about this until Anzac Day 34 years later. I remember wondering years ago how useful those high school seminars were as they didn't seem to produce any fruit.

God gave me a glimpse of what we will see when we go to glory. Be encouraged.

*Kerry Medway*

*Former BCA Field Staff Coober Pedy  
(1976 – 1982)*

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Roger and Amanda Kyngdon** welcomed Benjamin into the world on Tuesday 8 March. Benjamin is a little brother to Ada and Eliza.

**Allan Sauer** received a Medal Of The Order Of Australia (OAM) for service to the Anglican Church in the 2016 Australia Day Honours. Allan served as Honorary State Secretary for the Queensland Regional Office from 1981 to 1989. He provided pastoral care to Queensland-based Field Staff and grew BCA's supporter base in the region to the point where BCA was able to appoint a full-time State Secretary. Allan was involved in strengthening BCA's relationships with the Bishops of the six Anglican Dioceses in the region and liaising with representatives of other denominations at state and regional level. Allan continued to represent Queensland on the Federal Council until 1995.

## WELCOME

**Peter Volkofsky** has commenced service with BCA to implement the Distance Scripture Education Program in western New South Wales. Peter has worked in adult education for twenty years, including the delivery of nationally accredited leadership units for Cornerstone Community, a non-denominational Christian training and mission movement. He also worked part-time as a veterinary surgeon and has authored three books.

## FAREWELL

**Mary and Owen Lewis** have concluded their term as BCA Field Staff and taken up ministry in the Parish of Flinders Plains (incorporating the Cathedral). Mary will be based in Port Pirie as the Priest of the



Benjamin Kyngdon



Peter Volkofsky



Mary and Owen Lewis

Parish which incorporates Port Pirie, Point Broughton and Crystal Brook. She will also be the Dean of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul.

**Lindsay and Carolyn Whybrow** have concluded their term as BCA Field Staff in Hillston. Lindsay is currently recuperating in Prince of Wales Hospital after a spinal injury. He is making some progress and doctors hope to discharge him in June. Lindsay and Carolyn will make their new home in Uralla (Northern New South Wales).



Lindsay and Carolyn Whybrow

## VALE

### **The Revd Peter Leonard Swane**

(2 November 1940 – 11 February 2016) was ordained a priest in 1963 in Armidale. He and wife Margaret served with BCA in the parish of Ashford/Delungra/Tingha from 1972. He served in Melbourne for many years before his retirement in 2006. He also served as a BCA Councillor. The Revd Swane is survived by his wife Margaret, their children and grandchildren.



The Revd Peter Swane

### **May Buckingham**

(23 March 1928 – 22 February 2016) together with her husband Roy (deceased) served as BCA Field Staff in Karratha from 1984–1990 and Geraldton from 1990–1992. After retirement, they moved to the Anglican Retirement Village at Castle Hill (NSW) where May continued her association with BCA serving as the President of the Castle Hill Villages BCA Auxiliary. May and Roy fostered seven children during their marriage, a number of whom are in full-time Christian ministry.



May Buckingham

**I grew up in Launceston, Tasmania, attending St Aidan's Church, which supported and promoted both BCA and CMS. Many of our parishioners served with CMS in Tanzania. That's what I wanted to do but God had other ideas.**

After failing to be accepted as a missionary, and told to get a job, I took over the family photography studio, and worked for 12 years as a professional photographer, becoming a member of the Institute of Australian Photographers.

The Lord kept up his call on my life, and I spent a couple of weeks fasting and praying. It was only when I accepted the call to enter the ministry as a mature-aged student, that I had peace.



I have served in Tasmania and Tatura in Victoria. I am currently in Western Australia looking after two parishes.

The parish I grew up in was a strong supporter of BCA, and I believe that BCA has a powerful part to play in the mission of the church under the guidance of God. With my wife Jennifer, we served as BCA Field Staff on King Island from 1999 till 2006. It was a place I never wanted to leave. We worked with the local community, and also restarted a Sunday School which grew to about 20 children. I also started services in the aged care section of the hospital, where we had one gentleman commit his life to the Lord at the age of about 86. I currently serve on the BCA WA Regional Committee and National Council.

Many people do not know what it is like to live in an isolated area. BCA Field Staff play an important part in helping build community, (which enables people to know they are cared for as people), and show faith in action. Thank you to all who continue to serve and to all who support.

*The Revd Richard Minol*

# Catalogue



**BCA011** Six assorted cards from 'by gone' days \$6

**BCA 018** Banjo Bilby \$15

# Merchandise Order Form

## Please complete this merchandise order form

Your purchase helps gospel work across Australia

BCA Code	Description	Quantity	\$	Total
BCA011	By Gone Days Cards			
BCA018	Banjo Bilby			
			Sub-Total	
PLUS postage and handling charges – \$8.50 per order				
<b>Total</b>				

### I would like to pay by:

Cheque/Money Order     Credit card – please complete details below

Mastercard     Visa     American Express

Name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number

Expires on \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Please deliver to:

Revd / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Supporter number\* (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

We will be pleased to deliver your order to any number of destinations but ask that you include \$8.50 per delivery address. We can also include a gift card should you wish.

\*supporter no. (can be found above your name on the back cover of this magazine)

Orders can also be placed by visiting our website [bushchurcaid.com.au](http://bushchurcaid.com.au)

# Donation Form

**Yes, I would like to share the gospel and provide care to isolated families across Australia.**

**Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to BCA's ministry**

Please tick here if you need a tax deduction  
(Donations to tax deductible funds cannot be used for general gospel ministry).

## **I would like to pay by:**

Cheque/Money Order  Credit card – please complete details below

Mastercard  Visa  American Express

Name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number

Expires on \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **Other ways to give:**

Online **bushchurcaid.com.au** • Phone **02 9262 5017**

Direct Deposit **Westpac BSB 032 008 Account 000706**

Donations can be made directly into our bank account. PLEASE use your supporter number as a reference (or, for anonymous donations, the reference ANON followed by the first letter of your State).



BILLER CODE  
88203

## **My details**

Revd / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Supporter number\* (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

## **I would like to receive:**

**The *Real Australian* magazine & *Prayer Notes***

**A money box for my donations**

**Information about how I can support BCA through my Will**

