













Towards100 4 Sharing an amazing treasure 8

# **BCA Directory**

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**Cover:** From 1919 BCA has been going the distance across Australia

# Editorial

I wonder what's the best celebration you've ever enjoyed? What made it so special? Was it the food, the location, or was it the people who were celebrating with you? Perhaps it was the occasion itself – there are some milestones that bring us joy all by themselves.

In this edition of *The Real Australian* you'll read about some of our plans for celebrating BCA's centenary in 2019. No doubt there will be some good food and good times to enjoy with good friends. Beyond that, I want to suggest some ways in which we can celebrate well no matter what the occasion.

We celebrate well when we give thanks to God for the past. When we make ourselves or our achievements the centrepiece, we miss out on the joy that comes from recognising the goodness and grace of God. He is the giver of every good gift, including the ability to persevere.

We celebrate well when we are honest before God in the present. No individual human life and no human organisation are free from sin and failure. Part of the reason we acknowledge where we've gone wrong is that it helps us to receive God's forgiveness and also to marvel that He still uses flawed humans to achieve His purposes.

We celebrate well when we trust God about the future. For almost 100 years men and women have been going the distance to reach Australia for Christ under the banner of BCA. Until Christ returns that mission will remain as compelling and as urgent as ever. Godly celebrations are the seed-bed of renewed commitment.

In Psalm 78, which is a song of remembrance, God's people commit to telling the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord (verse 4). I can think of no better reason for a celebration than that!

Mark Short National Director



We celebrate well when we give thanks to God for the past. He is the giver of every good gift, including the ability to persevere

## Towards 100



Our centenary next year will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to thank God for His goodness and re-commit to reaching Australia for Christ until He returns. In just over 12 months BCA will mark a significant anniversary and we would love every supporter, Field Staff, former staff and those who have a heart for the bush to be part of the celebrations.

It was on 26 May 1919 that 26 people gathered in the Chapter House at St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney to establish The Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania – we later dropped Tasmania from our title although not from our mission field!

In many ways it was not an obvious time to start such an ambitious venture. The guns of World War One had fallen silent just seven months earlier and many service people had not yet returned home. It was the year that an influenza epidemic would sweep across the globe. God was faithful, however, and from those small beginnings He has grown a work that has seen thousands of Australians discover and express new life in Christ.

Our centenary next year will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to thank God for His goodness and re-commit to reaching Australia for Christ until He returns.

We are already planning a number of initiatives:

- Later this year we will launch a new regular donor program to sustain God's work down under for many years to come.
- We are preparing print and video resources that will tell inspiring stories of men and women who have gone the distance and made a difference for Jesus through BCA.
- We'll be launching new Field Staff appointments intended to reach a new generation of Australians for Christ and equip them



(The 0.3L)

I suppose that the commonset excuse given by young people to day for having little to do with religion is that religion is duil and drah, and they would rather seek the excitement of pleasure. They want to be continuing thrilled, or to put it in vulgar slang, they want life with a "kick" in it.

Cocktail parties provide the elimitant for doing those things for which ecoroge is tacking when coldly sober, or is it that good sense and deconcy go out when the cocktails come in ?

Many of the films we see suable us to transfer to our selves by immutation rooting adventure which is beyond our ability to actually experience.

Night life, the boaches, week-ends away from home, the races, the dogs, give the thrill of doing things which we know sught really to be forbidden us or provide the excitement of "pleasing correlves."

The motive is good. Why should not life be thrilling and exciting ? But why on earth should we allow it to be understood that thrills and excitament have no place in Christian religion ?

Christian reupon i A LeftHerReat AUSTRALIAN Miles A trained as a burse. Now that montr four point hard work and study for a very few abilities per week but at the end of it she could lock forward to being able to earn quite good fees in an

has high qualifications as a pilot-mechanic, and rould get quits a good job as a commercial pilot. The day comes when 'on the job' he wheels out the plane to take Doctor 250 miles to perform an operation. The wind is blowing hard against them; there is a great deal of dust in the sit : the thermometer says it is well over 105 degrees. Mr. C uses all his chill to get Doctor to his destination as soon as possible. The job is done; Doctor steps into the machine for the homeward trip. The pilot learns that another life has been saved.

Does he get any "kick" out of it ? Is there any thrill in the knowledge that by the grace of God our skill and ability have saved life ?

Or again, one day a distracted father calls at the Hospital busing in his arms has daughter. Sonny boy has been playing with a loaded rifle, and sister is shot between the eyes. The Hospital has no X-ray plant al that time, but if the child is sent in to Adelaide It will die before arriving there. So Doctor prays, then probes, and the hubbet is extracted without further damage to the patient.

When the job is done and Dotter looks down on his small patient-still living, with the propert of full womanhood hefore her-because God put him there to serve dow he get any thrills <sup>2</sup>. Is such a life dul even though it means that account of source these to have a full of the day must for faithful and fruitful ministry in the bush.

The centrepiece of our celebrations will be Sunday 26 May 2019 when we expect thousands of churches across Australia to give thanks to God and pray for His mission down under.

Please keep an eye out in future in the editions of *The Real Australian* for more resources and information to help you join in the party. In the meantime we'd love to collect your stories of how God has blessed and used you through the ministry of BCA. You can do this by filling out the survey in the centre pages of this edition or by emailing me at:

#### mark.short@bushchurchaid.com.au

I look forward to sharing this milestone with you!

#### Mark Short







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# From the coast to the heart of the Pilbara

In December last year Roger and Amanda Kyngdon, together with their children Ada, Eliza and Ben, moved from Geraldton in Western Australia to Newman in the heart of the Pilbara. After serving two years in a Ministry Training Agreement with BCA, Roger has now taken on the role of Minister in Charge of the Anglican Parish of Newman.

We were three years out of College when the Bishop of the North West approached us about moving from Sydney to Western Australia. We have never looked back.

It was such a blessing to come to Geraldton. It's a great place to grow and learn. We felt so supported by the whole church and I received great support from my boss. I enjoyed working with him and learning from him. I've worked with a few ministers over the years and have pieced everything together and formed my own philosophy of ministry.

As Assistant Minister at St George's I led preaching a couple of times a month, established a men's Bible study and coordinated kids' church. A great highlight was running *Playtime* with Amanda. Watching her at work was just incredible. We started *Playtime* in September 2016 and at first it just trickled along. Amanda then did lots of advertising on Facebook and things exploded. The last day of *Playtime* in 2017 we had 50–60 kids aged under five.

Another major highlight from our two years in Geraldton was seeing one guy progress further along his faith journey. At first he attended church with his family but declared to me that he was not a Christian. By the end of our time in Geraldton he had joined the men's Bible Study.

We have also been deeply blessed by the





contact from BCA supporters and our link churches. We have received emails, messages and phone calls. Some supporters have even come to visit us. We hope they might come again now we are in Newman!

Our last Sunday in Geraldton was 10 December. We drove to Newman on 12 December and our first Sunday on deck was 17 December.

The congregation has been really welcoming and loving of us. Since we arrived we've had around 10 adults and 10 kids in church each Sunday. We expect

this number to grow when other people who are called 'regulars' return to town.

While we are educating the parish that we bring different gifts to former Newman Field Staff Derek and Amanda McArtney, we are hoping to run some four-wheel drive

We have been deeply blessed by the contact from BCA supporters and our link churches. We have received emails, messages and phone calls. Some supporters have even come to visit us and camping trips with the help of people from church. We also want to plan some whole church activities and social events.

We are keen to be involved in the community as Newman is a really community focused town. There are many activities being run for kids currently so for a start it's going to be a case of getting to know people slowly, working out what the needs are and where we can be best used.

The Kyngdons were

commissioned in the Parish of Newman on Wednesday 7 February. Roger's and Amanda's parents were present for this special occasion.

Roger Kyngdon

# Sharing an amazing treasure

New Field Staff Jamie and Claire Bester have a God-given heart for the lost. They are keen to share the amazing treasure of Jesus Christ with everyone. Together with the Diocese of Tasmania they have established a new church in the Southern Beaches area of the Island.

We became Christians about 10 years ago in quite a stark way. We realised that something wasn't complete in our marriage – something was missing. We had some

great Christian friends who explained the gospel to us and we thought – wow that's truth, that instantly made sense. It was really interesting because the reaction to learning this truth was to ask: What do we do with it? God clearly had given us a heart for the lost and so once we had found this truth, this amazing treasure, it was a logical progression to share it.

Because of my background in starting and restructuring businesses and spending time

engaging with the broken world around us, God seemed to have prepared us for planting and reinvigorating churches. I asked my Rector if we could look after one the churches that was really struggling. Encouraged by an older couple who did hospitality well and by inviting non-Christians to a discussion group in the area, Claire and I started running services with a few committed Christians. The church had averaged five or six people per service. In six months God grew this to a consistent service with forty people who love Jesus and want to share this treasure. We didn't do much. Claire and I both believe hospitality is cool and also realise the importance of providing a comfortable space for people

God clearly had given us a heart for the lost and so once we had found this truth, this amazing treasure, it was a logical progression to share it

to fellowship. Moving the service from the old church building with no toilets and no kitchen to the community hall across the road was scary but it helped grow God's church and new people regularly came along.

For the past few years I have been studying a double degree in theology and ministry through Ridley College, Melbourne. As part of my ordination requirements the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania supported us to live in Melbourne and go to Ridley

> for 12 months whilst doing a church placement at Inner West Anglican. This church is run by an ex-Tasmanian and our Bishop, Richard Condie was part of planting that church. It's great studying and reading about church plants but I learned so much from being part of Inner West. Pete Greenwood is an amazing mentor and it was a huge time of growth for us. It was by God's grace we were led there, because the Soma model of

church planting (used by Inner West) has so many benefits that will help us reach the very different communities of the Southern Beaches.

While we were living in Melbourne we got to know a young couple – Joel and Tegan. Just six months after meeting and becoming mentors to them Joel and Tegan said: "We've just made an offer on a house in Southern Beaches to come and help you guys out with the church plant. We're really excited to spend time with you guys and God is leading us." When we asked them why, their answer describes them so well: "We want to tell people about Jesus". It was and still is so exciting. They quit their jobs and moved here in faith. By God's grace, at a very similar time, the Diocese had some youth worker grants. They will be trainees developing youth and young adult ministries in the Parish with a specific focus on the Southern Beaches plant.

After our year in Melbourne I started working back in the Parish of Sorell, Richmond, Tasman as an assistant in a lay ministry. I've been spending two days a week working in the parish, two days a week studying and two days a week on the church plant. Building a team for the church plant has been very important. We started with a prayer team 18 months ago and now have a core team of around 40 people to launch the new plant. We are so blessed that God has brought people together who each have amazing gifts to use as part of the body. At times we look at the work God is

The Bester famil

doing and just think what a great reminder of where the real power comes from. We grow in our confidence in Christ every day, through good and bad.

I would love BCA supporters to pray for us. One of our major prayer points is that God would raise up leaders. We have a couple of tough communities on the Southern Beaches. We want leaders in those communities who 'speak the language' and know what the idols are in those communities. There are also a lot of Christians in our area that don't go to church – so we ask that God would give people a new found love for gathering together as His people. Finally, starting a new church puts a new strain on our marriage and family. We pray that God would help us flourish through this period and that He would provide protection for the whole Southern Beaches church planting team.

Jamie was ordained on Sunday 17 February and Southern Beaches Anglican will be officially launched on Thursday 8 March. To find out more about this new church plant and watch their launch video visit southernbeachesanglican.com

Jamie Bester

# From engineer to minister and equipper – a journey to serving God with BCA



In January this year we welcomed Ted Brush to the role of NSW/ACT Regional Officer for Bush Church Aid. Ted and

his wife Michelle have three adult children and are looking forward to spreading the good news of Jesus throughout the bush.

I was born in Sydney but grew up on the South Coast of New South Wales where I did my schooling. I moved back

to Sydney in early 1974 where I studied electrical engineering and I've been here ever since.

In 1979 while I was working as an engineer in a research and development lab, I met Jesus. A friend invited me away to a Christian camp and the fellow who was leading the Bible studies was teaching from Psalm 1. At that point God put His finger on me and said: "Ted you know the facts of the gospel but I'm not the number

I have a real heart for people in the bush. I want to see the gospel proclaimed everywhere one priority in your life." I had gone to confirmation classes when I was 14, clearly heard the gospel and got 98 per cent in my confirmation exam, but it hadn't made any impact on my life.

From that time on I always strove to give my best to God, but as my corporate

career grew I was in the centre of this ever growing tension between what I wanted to do in the corporate world and my strong desire to be more involved in ministry. Something had to give and I resigned from my role. Initially I was planning on parttime work and part-time study. A friend suggested the Bible and Missions Diploma at Moore College. Halfway through that year I was enjoying it so much that I asked the College if I could complete a degree. Friends then suggested ordination and I was accepted and ordained at the beginning of 2002.

I worked in the parishes of St John's Park and the Lower Mountains before coming to BCA. After God grew the congregations in the Parish of the Lower Mountains over the eight years I was there, I thought it was time to think about the next step. While I was happy where I was, I saw the ad for the NSW/ACT Regional Officer role and I thought I'd apply and see whether God would do something with that.

I have a real heart for people in the bush. I want to see the gospel proclaimed everywhere. Sydney is really well resourced and under God I would like to make a difference in the bush.

There are so many opportunities in this role. I would like to see Field Staff encouraged and equipped to the best of my ability. I would like to see more Field Staff raised up not just for parish ministry but in teaching ministries, chaplaincy, Scripture or whatever opportunities are out there. I would also love to see people in the city become more enthusiastic about rural Australia and the opportunities there. I hope I can share a vision of ministry in the bush and see people jump on board.

#### Ted Brush NSW/ACT Regional Officer

# **Reviving Christian ministry in Brighton**

Chris and Naomi Duff have moved to Tasmania with their family to revive Christian ministry in Brighton. Under God they want to make disciples for Jesus in an area that currently has little Christian presence.

I grew up in a church family and when I was about 12 I announced that I was going to be a minister. I went through a bit of rebellion in my late teens and was a bit distant from God. In my early twenties I fell in love with a girl who broke my heart and in response I turned to God for comfort and had a reawakening of my faith. That is how I came to committed discipleship. At the time I was doing a teaching degree but realised I didn't want to teach in a classroom. I'd always wanted to study theology so I pursued that and was accepted into Ridley College.

I spent nearly six years at Ridley doing a double degree in theology and ministry, some full-time study and some part-time. In my last couple of years I met Naomi. She had moved to Melbourne from Adelaide and lived in the flat above me. We got to know each other and were married before I started my last year at college.

After college I did my first curacy at a Parish in Clayton on the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Clayton is very multicultural and around 80 per cent of the congregation were Indian or Sri Lankan.

Continued over

## Reviving Christian ministry in Brighton (cont)



I developed a great love for curries! We then did a second curacy at St Matt's Endeavour Hills. I became the associate minister after a couple of years and then after two more years I became the senior minister. We stayed for about 11 years. Then I felt we needed to take the next step in mission and ministry. We decided to make

a shift to regional Australia and spent five years in South West Rocks (NSW).

As South West Rocks is fairly isolated we felt we needed to have greater resources for our kids now they're teenagers. We didn't feel called back to the city. We looked at

places like Tassie and Bendigo. I was asked to apply for this position of church planter. I had dabbled in my mind over the years about serving with BCA. I felt called to missionary work but not to go overseas. I've always wanted to share the gospel with Aussies. This new role is a perfect fit.

We've moved to a semi-rural area north of Hobart. Brighton is a growth corridor where young families are buying their first home. Currently around three or four thousand people live here. We are connected to Edge Anglican in Claremont

We hope that the church grows organically as we share the gospel and build relationships

which is about 10 minutes closer to Hobart. As an associate minister there my main responsibilities are to do some preaching, teaching and mentoring. The aim is to develop a core team from Edge Anglican who will either live in Brighton or come to support us as we build what we hope will be a series of missional communities over

> the next decade or so. We want to make disciples for Jesus.

> Our initial aim is to revive Christian ministry as there's not a lot happening here from any denomination. We want to plan well so we set up a good foundation. We are

getting to know people, finding out what the area is like and what God has done in the past. We hope that the church grows organically as we share the gospel and build relationships.

Please be praying for courage and focus. We are spending lots of time with God and listening to what He's telling us. Whatever we do we will be confident because we've brought it before God.

Chris Duff

# Scholarship winner looks towards a career in medicine

#### The Bottom family and BCA are proud to announce the 2018 recipient of the April Bottom Scholarship – Sophie Nelson from Broken Hill.

university, it would have been extremely demanding upon her. I would not be able to work enough to fully support myself while studying full-time and so would have to rely on my mum. This amazing scholarship is a gift for my mum who has worked my entire

Sophie, who completed her Higher School

Certificate last year, has been striving towards her goal of studying medicine. She topped her year in a number of subjects and was awarded a gold plague for exceptional achievement through her ongoing academic, cultural, extra-curricular and service contributions to the school community. In 2016 Sophie was selected to attend a global youth leadership conference in the United States. While there she was elected to be part of the executive body which comprised only five people. Sophie was also elected School Vice-Captain last year.

Sophie will use the April Bottom Scholarship to go towards her on campus



This amazing scholarship is a gift for my mum who has worked my entire life to give me everything I have needed and wanted. Now I am able to give back to her life to give me everything I have needed and wanted. Now I am able to give back to her."

April Bottom established this scholarship before her passing so that students such as Sophie, who have the potential to achieve but not necessarily the opportunity, can undertake secondary or tertiary education away from home.

Sophie's long-term goal is to do medicine and eventually specialise as a cardiothoracic surgeon. "Since a very young age I knew I wanted to become a doctor and this desire has

accommodation at The University of Wollongong where she is enrolled in the Bachelor of Pre-medicine, Science and Health.

"I was simply over the moon when I was notified I had received the scholarship," says Sophie. "It means so much to both my mother and me as it lifts an enormous weight off our shoulders financially. It means I now do not have to stress as badly over the financial component of university. Even though I knew my mum would do whatever necessary to get me through only grown as I have grown older. I would like to work in regional areas so people do not have to travel for specialist care," she says. "There are also very few females in Australia in this specialisation which makes me aspire to fulfil my goal even more."

The Bottom family and BCA wish Sophie all the best as she commences her study. We thank all the candidates for their applications and encourage them to apply for the 2019 scholarship.

Janine van den Tillaart

# The new voice of people living with disabilities



Nicole Tillotson, Associate Professor Bonita Sawatzky, Monica Short and Dr Janice Ollerton at the public lecture

#### Scientist and researcher Bonita Sawatzky uses her personal experience of living with a spinal cord injury to help others.

In 2017 Bonita explored faith and disability in greater depth together with Nicole Tillotson, Janice Ollerton, Cass Hearn and myself from Charles Sturt University. This research, *Faith Matters: From a disability lens*, was published in the Journal of Disability and Religion. The research engages through personal stories with the medical model by discussing issues such as genetic counselling. It engages with the social model of disability around identity and disability, and it explores theologies of disabilities with the Biblical view that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).

Late last year BCA partnered with Rob Nicholls from CBM Australia's Luke 14 Program and Shane Clifton from Alphacrucis College in supporting a free public lecture by Bonita.

At this lecture Bonita spoke about her work as a scientist and her research into

mobility in kids and adults with spinal cord diseases. She discussed the importance of listening to the patient's voice. She also shared about her family life: how she became a Christian, her enjoyment of being an active member of a Mennonite Church, her personal experiences of living with a spinal cord disability and how she survived a serious car crash and cancer. Bonita's lecture was very moving. I believe disability discussions have the ability to bring Christians from many denominations together in community, out of reverence for God. This lecture drew together members of the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Charismatic, Independent, Mennonite, Pentecostal, Presbyterian and Uniting Churches. Two panels of people thoughtfully explored complicated sociological and theological concepts. One of the panellists, Jason Forbes from Presbyterian Social Services, reminded us all that we are made in the image of God.

Monica Short

# Answering the call

Just six months ago George Ferguson and his wife Carmel heard the call to ministry. They have just commenced a two-year Indigenous ministry traineeship with BCA. George is working at St Peter's Anglican Church, South Tamworth, the Coledale Front Yard Fellowship and is completing the online Diploma of Bible Theology.

I was raised in a Christian family. My parents both loved the Lord and served Him faithfully in a little country town called Collarenebri. I saw my need to be saved at the age of thirteen, and committed my life to God.

Unfortunately, in my later teens I had to leave home in pursuit of work and it was

only a matter of time before I wandered away from God. However, God in His grace and mercy never wandered away from me, and at the age of 21 He spoke to me in a vivid dream. He challenged me about the life I was living and where I would spend eternity.

Immediately I repented and asked God for forgiveness. With His help I've been following Him ever since.

For the past eight and a half years I worked at Tamworth Hospital as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer. About two and a half years ago, the senior minister at St Peter's Rod Chiswell, asked if I would be interested in assisting with Coledale Front Yard Fellowship. I felt that this was an opportunity to help out with ministry in Tamworth, so I agreed to give the team a hand. This was mainly playing guitar and helping out with the singing, but also led to role playing and sometimes narrating the children's story.

About a year ago Rod asked if I had ever



considered going into full-time ministry as he thought God had given me a gift. Carmel and I both prayed about it and felt that we were in the place where God had placed us. So we decided against entering into ministry.

In September last year my sister was unwell and during that month God spoke to

God in His grace and mercy never wandered away from me me in one of my quiet times. He just said: "George, you need to be doing more for me". I never told this to Carmel.

In October 2017 we attended my sister's funeral. That morning Carmel and I got up early and had a coffee on the back porch of the

motel. Carmel said to me: "George, God has spoken to me and has called us into ministry". I replied to her and said: "Yes, God has spoken to me too".

I contacted Neville Naden (BCA Indigenous Ministry Officer) and spoke to him regarding what Rod had asked us concerning ministry. Neville suggested that I go back to Rod and tell him of God's call. Rod said: "Praise the Lord! I never stopped praying and he has answered my prayer".

As Carmel and I set out into ministry we seek God's guidance, as it is a new journey for us. We pray that He will settle us into work and study.

George Ferguson

# **BCA Supporter Survey**

We would like to know how BCA can better serve vou. our valued supporters, and also learn how God has blessed and used you through the ministry of BCA.

We would appreciate if you could complete the following survey and return to us in the reply paid envelope found in this edition of The Real Australian. Your answers will be kept strictly confidential.

#### How familiar are you with BCA's mission?

- □ Extremely familiar □ Very familiar
- □ Moderately familiar □ Slightly familiar
- Not at all familiar

How important is it knowing that, when you support BCA, it means you're supporting spreading the gospel in the bush?

- □ Extremely important
- Very important
- □ Moderately important
- □ Slightly important
- Not at all important

Do you agree with the following
statement? "BCA is efficiently spreading
the good news of Jesus in the bush."

□ Strongly agree

□ Agree

- Disagree
- □ Strongly disagree
- Unsure

#### How often would you like to hear from BCA?

Dailv

□ Weekly

- Fortnightly
- □ Bimonthly
- □ Yearly
- □ Monthly
- □ Quarterly

#### How do you engage with BCA?

(Please tick all relevant)

- □ The Real Australian/Prayer Points
- □ Money Boxes
- Email Newsletters
- □ Email Prayer Points
- □ BCA website
- □ Video content on Vimeo
- □ Facebook
- □ Appeal letters

#### How satisfied are you with the relationship between yourself and BCA?

□ Verv satisfied □ Somewhat satisfied

Somewhat dissatisfied

- □ Satisfied
- Dissatisfied □ Undecided

#### How has God blessed and used you through the ministry of BCA?

#### How often are the articles in The Real Australian informative and engaging?

- □ Alwavs Verv often
- Frequently Occasionally
- □ Not very often at all

#### What other article topics would you be interested in hearing about?

#### How long have you been a supporter of BCA?

- □ Less than 1 year
- □ 4–6 years
- $\Box$  1–3 years □ 7–9 years
- 10–15 years
- □ 15+ Years

#### Have you given financially to BCA?

☐ Yes

□ No

How likely are you to contribute to BCA again? Extremely likely Very likely Moderately likely Slightly likely Not at all likely Which other charities do you currently support financially?	How satisfied are you with the recognition you receive for your financial support? Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Dissatisfied Undecided		
	How likely is it that you would tell a		
How likely is it that you would	friend or a colleague about the work		
consider leaving a contribution to BCA	of BCA?		
in your Will?	Extremely likely     Very likely		
Extremely likely     Very likely	□ Moderately likely □ Slightly likely		
□ Moderately likely □ Slightly likely	□ Not at all likely		
Not at all likely			
	Please tick the appropriate age bracket:		
How well does BCA explain the need for	□ Under 18 □ 18–37		
your financial support?	38–47 🗆 48–57		
Extremely well     Very well	□ 58–67 □ 68–77		
□ Moderately well □ Only slightly well	□ 78–87 □ 88+		
□ Not well at all			
	Do you identify with any of the		
How much of an impact do you feel your	following denominations?		
donation makes?	□ Anglican □ Baptist		
□ A great deal □ A lot	□ Catholic □ Churches of Christ		
□ A moderate amount □ A little	Independent Lutheran		
□ None at all	<ul> <li>Presbyterian</li> <li>Uniting Church</li> <li>Prefer not to say</li> </ul>		
Please tell us in your own words why	<ul> <li>Prefer not to say</li> <li>Other (please specify)</li> </ul>		
you choose to donate to BCA?			
you choose to utilate to ben:			
Please provide your details if you feel hap	py to do so:		
Name			

Address

Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_\_Supporter No\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Blessings, family and fellowship – the Watsons' journey with BCA



After 13 years serving as Co-Workers in Kununurra, Jim and Natalie Watson have moved to Darwin with Jim taking up the position of Property Manager at Nungalinya College. Here they share a few ministry highlights from their time in Kununurra as well as what they are doing now.

**'A Spring in the Desert'** Our Bible study group of Aboriginal families in Kununurra met together to be refreshed by

God's word, to share our most heart wrenching joys and sorrows, and to cry out to our Lord for His mercy and grace. These precious brothers and sisters brought their children, the children that they cared for and the children who sought their refuge on the way. After Bible stories and prayer, we enjoyed conversations by the fire with a simple meal, sharing life's dilemmas and searching for the Bible's answers, while the children enjoyed safe but raucous play. One friend said it was 'a spring in the desert' for him.

#### Beloved – God's Family

We learnt so much watching The Revd Ron Johnson and his wife Robyne minister as a team, skilfully and sacrificially during their time as BCA Field Staff in Kununurra. Ron wove the gospel smoothly into any conversation and Robyne's perseverance inspired. We delighted in and were sustained by the strength of Christian community in this isolated town.

#### Pressed not Crushed – Receiving the Displaced

While we were in Kununurra, Oombulgurri Community was closed and the last of the Forrest River Mission families moved to Wyndham or Kununurra. Their life experience and cultural heritage is vastly different from our own but our common faith in Jesus allowed us to walk with some of them during this painful transition.



#### Unexpected Blessing – Home Schooling

Started for specific family needs and modelled on Godly, experienced local families, we home-schooled our children in Kununurra. We didn't anticipate the great joy in teaching and training our children in this way. 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.' Proverbs 22:6

#### Refined by Fire – Fostering

We cherished 14 months with our two little foster daughters who were completely embraced as part of the family and whom we miss. That time was intense in every way; love, laughter, demands, behaviour, change, growing, and sorrow in leaving them.

#### Serving in Darwin

Jim is employed full-time as Property Manager at Nungalinya College, a combined churches training college for Indigenous Christians. Most of the students live in remote communities and stay on campus for study blocks. Jim is responsible for maintenance of the property infrastructure and management of new projects. This year new accommodation units are to be built and there is opportunity for BCA Nomad

We delighted in and were sustained by the strength of Christian community in this isolated town

involvement at the College. Jim is looking forward to getting to know students and families with the hope of pastorally supporting the men.

Our four children have commenced study at Marrara Christian College after their years of home-schooling, with Natalie supporting the family in this transition. We attend St Peter's Anglican Church Nightcliff, and enjoy the fellowship and friendship there. We ask for your prayers as we settle in to life in Darwin and that our ministry here will bear fruit.

Jim & Natalie Watson

# New books celebrate God's goodness to His people

ABORIGINAL EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

#### A Celebration of God's Faithfulness

AEF History, Testimonials, Indigenous Theology, Sermons and Bible Studies



OCCUPY TILL I COME

Editors: Kathryn Naden, Michelle Wighton, Francine Riches and Monica Short

BCA is proud to be involved in the publication of two new books which celebrate God's goodness to His people.

The first book – A Celebration of God's Faithfulness: Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship History, Testimonials, Indigenous Theology, Sermons and Bible Studies was edited by Kathryn Naden, Michelle Wighton, Francine Riches and Monica Short.

Kathie and Neville Naden, BCA National Office staff, BCA Nomads and supporters, Monica Short from Charles Sturt University and the Australian Research Theology Foundation, all supported the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Australia with their inspiring publication.

According to an excerpt, the book "recounts the call of God on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

and how they advocated for equality in the church...it tells the story of men and women, strong Christian leaders, serving God faithfully through the AEF for many years – often against resistance and without support."

A hard copy of this book can be purchased for \$25 by emailing the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Australia at aef@aef.org.au or you can obtain a PDF copy of the book from the BCA National Office or the AEF.

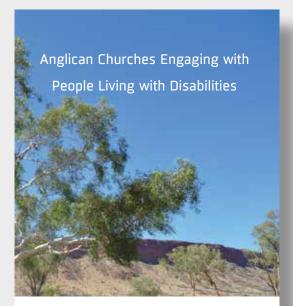
The second book is entitled *Anglican Churches engaging* with people living with disabilities. This book is part of Monica Short's PhD studies and is the second in a series about the Anglican Church. BCA partnered with The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, CBM Australia's Luke 14 Program and Charles Sturt University in support of this research. The book presents ideas about how local churches can further their engagements with people living with disabilities in rural and urban locations.

It also includes an essay by Dr Louise Gosbell.

The book shares examples of how social inclusion can be a living expression of mission. It presents the complex beauty of Christian faith through the perspectives of 20 people living with disabilities. Their valuable voices tell a story of inclusion, belonging, justice, social capital, integration, strength, hope, belief and mission.

A PDF copy of the book is available and can be downloaded from the BCA website. Please contact the BCA National Office for a copy if you are unable to download it. *Anglican Churches engaging with people living with disabilities* is being launched at the Australian Anglican Bishops' Conference in March.

BCA National Director Mark Short said these books express BCA's commitment to an understanding of God's mission where all people can find new life and purpose in Christ: "We believe there are no barriers to God's love in Jesus, and we want to be supporting churches where that vision is lived out."



By Monica Short With an essay by Dr Louise Gosbell



We believe there are no barriers to God's love in Jesus, and we want to be supporting churches where that vision is lived out

# Telling the Good News - it's not rocket science

The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as written in the standard Bible is GOOD NEWS! Therefore it is exciting, something to tell everyone you meet, whether you know them or not. It is your enthusiasm

that makes the story interesting so that others will stop to listen. Like the day my first child was born – while stopped at the traffic lights I told the drivers beside me the best news of the day.

Our personal story of coming to faith was, and still is, a miracle. God changed your life! Don't downplay God's work as the devil does a good enough job without our help. Our stories are real, first-hand and cannot be contradicted.

Remember the difference between witnessing and evangelism. To witness is to tell someone what God has done for you personally. To

evangelise is to tell someone that God can do the same for them. How simple is that!

To get started, just introduce yourself —"Hi, my name is..." and start a conversation. Meet people with grace and compassion. It won't take long to find common ground.

The Bible tells us to be bold, not ashamed of the gospel. The early chapters of Acts tell us that the believers were bold in 'gossiping the gospel' after an encounter with Jesus.

In December last year at the supermarket

checkout, the staff member wished me a Merry Christmas. I smiled and asked did he know why we have all this retail celebration? He didn't really know, so I explained it was the birthday of Jesus Christ; it's for all those people who believe in Jesus, God with us, in person. I finished by saying "May God bless you as you celebrate Him."

Remember too, that our time on earth is limited, but eternity is not limited. Someone said: "We are not human

beings having a spiritual experience but rather we are spiritual beings having a human experience".

Our time and therefore opportunities to witness to others is short indeed. We need to be creative and proactive in looking for opportunities to speak up for Jesus.

However our greatest motivation for witnessing is that it manifests the depth of our love for our Father God, our gratitude for Jesus paying the debt we couldn't pay, as we experience the grace and power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. You don't have to be a gifted evangelist to witness, just

The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as written in the standard Bible is GOOD NEWS!

one who is a blabber-mouth for Jesus. Finally, God's faithfulness is new every morning and evening.

John Vine

BCA Nomad

John Vine wrote this piece in response to Graeme Liersch's article in the Summer 2017 edition of **The Real Australian** entitled **Evangelism is not a dirty word**.

# 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 2017 and to elect Councillors.

Wednesday 16 May 2018 from 9.30am Tennison Wood Room, Anderledy Lodge, 80 William Street, North Sydney.

#### Queensland and Northern New South Wales

#### Saturday 3 March 2018 from 9.30am

St Philip's Rochedale, 270 Rochedale Road Followed by Bush & Bible Day 2018 – The Rt Revd Richard Condie, Bishop of Tasmania will give the key address on 1 Corinthians 15

The Revd Capt Graeme & Mrs Susan Liersch, BCA Field Staff, will speak on going the distance in Central West Queensland. \$20 includes lunch.

RSVP to Craig Buchanan on 07 3349 9081 or craig@bushchurchaid.com.aui

#### Western Australia Saturday 14 April 2018 from 11am

St Alban's Anglican Church, Highgate Guest speakers to be announced. Cost: \$30 per head (\$20 concession) **RSVP to the WA Regional Office on** 0428 288 473 or email wa@bushchurchaid.com.au by Monday 3 April 2018

#### South Australia and Northern Territory Saturday 14 April 2018 from 12noon

Christ Church, 62–72 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide Guest speaker BCA Field Staff The Revd Bruce Chapman NT Diocesan Youth Minister. Lunch \$20 per person **RSVP on 08 8221 5444 or sa@bushchurchaid.com.au by Tuesday 10 April 2018** 

#### New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

Thursday 19 April 2018 from 11.30am St Philip's Anglican Church, York Street, Sydney Hear The Revd Neville Naden, BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer speak on the state of the Indigenous Church in Australia Lunch provided – donation to cover cost RSVP to Heather Joyce on 02 9262 5017 or heather@bushchurchaid.com.au by Thursday 5 April 2018

#### Victoria

#### Friday 27 April 2018 at 6.15 for 6.45pm

St Paul's Boronia, 273 Dorset Road, Boronia BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer The Revd Neville Naden will speak on reaching Indigenous Australia for Christ \$35 for a spit roast meal **RSVP to the BCA Victorian Office by Friday 27 April 2018 on 03 9457 7566 or victoria@bushchurchaid.com.au** 

# North West Australia



#### Christian Fellowship Tours and BCA 28-day Holiday Departing 3 August 2018

The tour will take you to Darwin \*Kakadu \*Katherine \*Kununurra \*Fitzroy Crossing \*Broome \*Port Hedland \*Newman \*Tom Price \*Karratha \*Exmouth \*Carnarvon \*Denham \*Kalbarri \*Geraldton \*Perth

#### The tour cost includes

- Return domestic airfare (Flight to Darwin/return flight from Perth)
- Quality accommodation with private facilities
   27 breakfasts
   20 lunches
   26 dinners
   A Christian Tour Leader
   Sightseeing and all entry fees

If you are unable to make the entire 28 day tour, CFT is also offering a Darwin to Broome package or a Broome to Perth package.

> For further information go to **christianfellowshiptours.com** or call **1300 635 358**

## A snapshot of BCA 'numbers' in 2017

# The Bush Church Aid Society has been blessed by generous support since our formation nearly 100 years ago. Here is a snapshot of 2017 and some of the things that we are very grateful for as we continue reach Australia for Christ.

Number of donations processed	22,000
Total donation income	\$2,549,000
Bequests received	\$636,000
Box group donation income	\$416,000
Other Income	\$853,000
Copies of The Real Australian printed in November 2017	26,750
Prayer Notes printed in November 2017	25,500
Number of Field Staff and spouses	88

# More opportunities to engage with the community

figuring out how we keep on presenting the shop as a place to get clothing and home wares but also a

With your support our 2017 End of Financial Year Appeal raised over \$150,000 to help more families get their lives back on track. In our appeal we highlighted the work of the Op Shops run by BCA Field Staff in Moranbah and Sunraysia South. Luke and Julia Collings in Moranbah have been looking at more opportunities to engage with the community through their shopfront.

We look forward to the opportunity to connect with more people in Moranbah The Op Shop has gone through some changes in the last couple of months. Our previous manager Rochelle moved away. It was initially a hard time as Rochelle had been

a much loved member of the community and had done a lot of work to make the Op Shop profitable. The church and community were very blessed while she was here. But it's one of the challenges of being here in Moranbah, people tend to move on.

Jessica, who volunteered in the shop previously, has taken over the role of manager. She's not a mother figure to the community like Rochelle, but has brought new ideas about how we can keep stock turning over. I've had so many positive comments from people about how well Jessica is managing things. She's brought such dedication to the role and it's been a great start for her.

As the town empties out over December and January, we've had time to reorganise the shop and change stock. We are also community space where people can come and find someone who is willing to listen to their problems and provide support.

I'm in the Op Shop two mornings a week which gives me a good opportunity to speak to people. Julia also spends a few hours a week looking after the second-hand books. This gives her a good opportunity to get into conversations with people who are looking for something to read.



We're planning to open the Op Shop on some Saturday mornings moving forward. On our first Saturday opening the church is planning to run a barbecue outside to raise money for a local charity. Most importantly this will provide a great opportunity for members of our church to meet and connect with people in the community. They will be able to let them know things that are going on in church life and invite them to our Easter programs. The plan is to build more of these types of events into our calendar, if not once a month, once a term. We look forward to the opportunity to connect with more people in Moranbah.

Luke Collings

# From the Archives

As faithful Christians attending St Alban's Belmore in the 1940s, Pat and Arthur Williams were captivated by the work of Bush Church Aid. The minister at Belmore had worked with BCA in its early days and spoke highly of its mission across Australia. Arthur felt not only called to the ministry but to BCA.

Arthur and Pat served BCA at the Minnipa Mission (SA) from 1956–1960, in Mt Magnet from 1960–1963 and as NSW State Secretary and Assistant Federal Secretary from 1963–1966. After a time of parish ministry in Sydney they returned as Field Staff in 1982 where they served in Newman until 1988. Arthur went home to the Lord

in 2010. Pat continues faithfully serving BCA at the Anglican Retirement Village in Castle Hill where she runs the BCA supporters group that meets once a month.

When Arthur and I became engaged I understood that even though he was

working through an apprenticeship he felt called to ministry. He not only felt called to ministry but also to BCA. Arthur finished his four year TAFE course, his five year apprenticeship as a precision instrument maker and went to night school four nights a week to get his matriculation. He then applied to BCA who were sponsoring people to study at Moore College. He was accepted and commenced study in 1952.

Our first role with BCA was at Minnipa Mission in South Australia. It was a huge parish with 12 branches and a few times a year Arthur would do a three-week trip visiting those in his parish. When Arthur



was on these long trips there was no way I could make contact with him. He had a transceiver and could sometimes get a message to Ceduna and they'd call to let me know how he was.

I was very blessed as we had a BCA Hospital in the next town and the matron and nurses there were the Christian light for that district. They looked after me when Arthur was on his trips and they also delivered our two youngest children Peter and Ruth. The hospital became a second home for us. When Arthur was home he ran Scripture there, we ate with the nurses and did Bible study with them. It was a great grounding for our work with BCA.

In the March 1960 edition of The Real

Australian Arthur recalled one of his long trips away: "Just sixteen days ago I had left home and I wondered how my wife and two boys would be. For me those days were packed tight with driving and visiting, I had covered just

over 1200 miles of outback roads and met people on nearly 30 stations." Arthur's last visit of that trip was to a shearing station where he was asked to put on a pair of old trousers and help out. He helped load bales of wool onto a semi-trailer and draught some sheep. The day finished with hymns, Bible reading and prayers – "What a joy and privilege it is to minister in the outback," Arthur said.

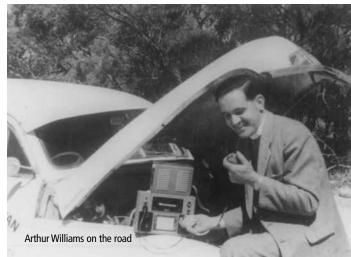
When our four years at Minnipa were coming to a close an opening came for Western Australia – Mt Magnet. The old church had been destroyed by fire and was still a burnt out shell. The Bishop said he

# Arthur and Pat Williams

wanted a new church by Christmas! We prayed about this and Jack Butler, a nonbeliever and local SP bookmaker, put his hand up to help. Not only did he put up the money he also drew up the plans and assisted with construction.

Jack's expertise in building and his friendship with the carrier drivers that came from Perth to Mt Magnet saw many supplies come our way – including the building itself that came up on one of the carriers. We got the new church up before Christmas and that building still stands today.

At Mt Magnet, like Minnipa, the conditions were quite different to today. We had a fuel stove, kerosene fridge and a wood copper. I had to go and cut the wood to do my washing. The





centres. It was hard work but Arthur never complained. From the word go he spent a lifetime helping people.

Arthur was interviewed for the March 1961 edition of *The Real Australian* about Mt Magnet: "We are often asked – 'what's it like at Mt Magnet?' My answer at the moment would be 'whew, it's hot'". But even with the heat

famers provided mallee logs which were not easy to chop. But chopping that wood was no problem for me. If the kids had been naughty I could go hammer and tongs at the wood! You did it tough when you went out with BCA, but it never worried me.

At Mt Magnet Arthur travelled between Cue, Meekathara, Willuna and Sandstone on tough dirt roads – real desert country. Arthur took school classes in all those and the ants which invaded the house, the Williams' and their three children made the most of it. Arthur led the cubs and scouts, and was on the Hospital board and P&C committee. Pat ran the Ladies' guild, taught Sunday school, was part of the CWA and weighed babies at the Baby Health Clinic. So what was Mt Magnet like? "Well it's home for us and there's no place quite like home," said Arthur. Continued over

### From the Archives (cont)



Home for us after this became BCA House in North Sydney, then Cammeray and West Ryde. While serving at St Columb's West Ryde Arthur received a letter from an Assistant Bishop in the North West. He was asked to consider serving again with BCA. We accepted a position in Newman.

Like Mt Magnet, in Newman we were tasked with building a church. We were in Newman for six years and for most of those years we worshipped in the community hall.

We certainly had lots of adventures with BCA but the biggest one was the opening of our new church in 1988. It was opened by The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Robert Runcie. He was so willing to be part of that big occasion for us. He was flown to Newman by BHP in one of their private jets, accompanied by his chaplain and private secretary and of course the CEO of BHP came along too. Arthur collected them from the airport and I entertained them in the rectory. The Archbishop was so gracious and kind.

Arthur had the feeling that once a new church was built it was time to leave and have a younger person come in and lead so we left Newman a week after the opening of the church and so came to an end our What a joy and privilege it is to minister in the outback official time with BCA.

Former National Director Brian Roberts was asked to speak at the memorial service for Arthur in 2010. He remembered Arthur and Pat as 'revolutionaries' "Arthur was amongst an emerging new group of clergy who saw parish ministry as a joint husband and wife effort not just one where Pat was supportive, which she was, but one which involved her in the ministry, its application, its strategies and its joys

and frustrations. Arthur and Pat with others of that time unknowingly led a quiet but revolutionary change in thinking at BCA. Wives became involved in the selection and sending process."

Today I am a BCA box collector and organise a monthly BCA meeting here at ARV. I feel that while there are people here who are interested in BCA I will run the meetings as we get around 20 to 30 people each month. BCA has been our life. Why should I stop now when I'm 90?

Pat Williams & Janine van den Tillaart

# Post & Rails

#### WELCOME

Chris & Naomi Duff together with their children Joshua, Isabelle, Ruby and Charlize



are working as pioneer ministers to plant a new Anglican Church in Brighton, North of Hobart. Chris is also an associate at Edge Anglican, Claremont. Chris trained for ministry at Ridley College and he and Naomi have previously lived and served in the Dioceses of Melbourne and Grafton. Sent out from the Anglican Church at Sorell,

Jamie & Claire Bester

are leading a new church plant in the Southern Beaches area of Southern Tasmania. Jamie has been studying a double degree in theology and ministry through Ridley College and was



ordained in mid-February. The Besters have three young children – Xavier, Adlai and Phinehas.

#### Ted & Michelle Brush have joined the BCA family where Ted is the NSW/ACT Regional Officer.

Ted originally

trained as an



electrical engineer and worked in a variety of areas in the corporate world before going to Moore College to be trained in theology. Previous to coming to BCA Ted led the Lower Mountains Anglican Parish that meets across three locations in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney.

#### George Ferguson is

being supported by BCA as an Aboriginal Ministry Trainee at St Peter's Anglican Church in South Tamworth. George is married to Carmel and



they have three children Samuel, Benjamin and Darlene.

#### Nola Starmans

has joined the BCA National Office Team in the role of Archivist. Nola has the important role of digitising BCA's nearly 100 years of archival material. She is a minister's wife –



married to Jack who works as a full-time chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers. Nola and Jack worship at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Airds.

#### FAREWELL

David & Traci Mitchell together with their children Daphne and Edward have been supported in their role in



the parish of Dongara-Mingenew since October 2015. Before this David and Traci served with BCA in a Ministry Training Arrangement in both Geraldton and Karratha. They have now concluded their term as BCA Field Staff but continue to live and serve in Dongara and Mingenew. Jordan Gallagher has concluded her time working with the NSW/ACT Regional Office. During her time with BCA she spread the word about our mission to youth across New South Wales through Soul Survivor and The Roadie.

# Councillor's Column



It was through his passion for BCA, that we realised the importance of having a Christian presence in isolated and outback areas of Australia I was born in Donald, country Victoria. My father was a farmer who grew grains and raised sheep. I grew up in a Christian home and we went as a family to a small Methodist church at Mt Jeffcott, and later in Donald.

I believed I was a Christian until I was challenged by the open air campaigners who came for a week and ran sessions after school. I was 11 years old when I accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord. I am profoundly grateful to have made that decision at a young age as I have been conscious of God's leading in the decisions I have made since then.

When training to become a nurse at The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne I met Murray. He worshipped at Holy Trinity Doncaster. The minister there was The Revd Tom Morgan. It was through his passion for BCA that we realised the importance of having a Christian presence in isolated and outback areas of Australia.

We married and two years later Murray went to Ridley College. After ordination we did a curacy at St Thomas' Werribee under The Revd Wes Girvan. One of his best friends was Bishop Ged Muston who in 1986 was the Bishop of North West Australia. He was visiting the Girvans, saw potential and after meeting Brian Roberts and various other interviews we accepted God's call to Kununurra in Western Australia. Our son James was two years old and our daughter Rebecca was just four months. We were there five years.

Returning to Victoria we went to St Thomas' Langwarrin. Five years later Murray became the Victorian and Tasmanian Regional Officer for BCA. He served in that position for six years.

We still have a strong heart for the work of BCA where I have the privilege of being part of the Victorian Regional Committee and the National Council. I still see the power of prayer through Christians praying faithfully. Thank you so much and may God continue to bless and uphold the work of BCA.

Jane Lamont

BCA Councillor

# **Donation Form**

Yes, I would like to help share the gospel across Australia.			
Encl	osed 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 give 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 bushchurchaid.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).

#### My details

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

Last name

Address

Fmail

Telephone

Postcode

Supporter number\* (if available)

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

#### 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

88203

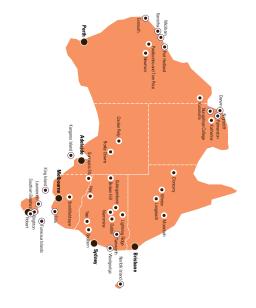
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