

The Real **Australian**



*Humbling ourselves during
a time of drought*

Impacting lives across Australia 8
Astonishing stories from 100 years of BCA 20

BCA Directory

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Cover: Humbling ourselves during a time of drought.

Editorial

Sometimes where you are changes what you see.

Gabrielle Chan is the city-born daughter of a Chinese migrant who trained as a metropolitan journalist and later worked in the Canberra Press Gallery. Then in the 1990's love and marriage took her to a wheat and sheep farm in country New South Wales. In her new book *Rusted Off: Why Country Australia is Fed Up* she describes the process of shedding her city skin, including the time she first felt outrage at the way her new home was portrayed by an out-of-town reporter:

"Using the true story of the tragic disappearance of a teenage girl, the journalist neatly packaged my home into the quintessential redneck settlement with a dark past, in the tradition of weirdo country towns featured in horror stories such as *The Cars That Ate Paris*, *Harvest Home* or *Wake in Fright*."

Gabrielle's is the latest in a series of books and articles seeking to describe and explain a growing divide between city and rural Australians. How real is that gap? Certainly city people are less likely to have country cousins or spend school holidays in the bush than they were a couple of generations ago. Natural disasters such as the current drought bring the bush to urban screens but once the immediate crisis has passed it remains an open question whether any new relationships or understandings have been established.

Since its beginnings almost 100 years ago BCA has always sought to address needs as they arise. In this edition you can read how your generosity means churches in drought-affected areas are providing care in Christ's name. However, we are also committed to supporting the kind of long-term ministries and partnerships that will see lives and communities transformed over time. That's why we are thrilled to get behind new church planting ventures in Tasmania and that's why we are thankful when families like the McDonalds make a big move to the outback for the sake of Jesus.

Where are you? If you are a follower of Jesus, you are 'in Him' and are part of His mission. That will change how you see everything and everyone.

Thank you so much for sharing the journey so far and don't forget to come to the party on May 26 next year!

Mark Short
National Director



Since its beginnings almost 100 years ago BCA has always sought to address needs as they arise. However, we are also committed to supporting the kind of long-term ministries and partnerships that will see lives and communities transformed over time

Join the party as we celebrate our Centenary!



As we edge closer towards 100 years of BCA we remember the people who have gone before us and those who shared the vision of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ across our nation.

It was nearly twenty years after Federation that members of the Church of England in Australia felt that it was time to provide pastoral and spiritual care to the original inhabitants and new settlers located in the remotest parts of Australia. It was a wet night on 26 May 1919, when a Bishop, some clergy and a few prominent lay people gathered in the Chapter House at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney to share a vision of sending men and women to the bush. So began The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia.

BCA's role grew and developed as different needs arose. Over the last century BCA has enjoyed responsibility for ministries ranging from flying padres, church services, Scripture in schools and family counselling,

to welfare and medical services.

Mission vans, hostels, hospitals, the Flying Medical Service, Mail Bag Sunday School, clergy, nurses and others played their part in taking the love of Christ to all corners of our vast continent. Men and

women took the good news of Jesus and shared His love in practical ways. BCA worked hard to meet people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs in locations that were starved of services and support systems.

A number of our original ministries remain today in addition to new ministries that have been added over the years. We continue to investigate and embark on initiatives to further our mission in relevant and meaningful ways. Some of these exciting new initiatives

will be announced as we commence our 100th year.

Today Bush Church Aid continues to adapt its ministry to meet the needs of those it seeks to serve. In 2017 we employed Neville Naden as a full-time

What a great celebration Sunday 26 May 2019 will be! All at BCA look forward to celebrating the men and women of God who have gone before us in the name of Christ



Indigenous Ministry Officer, looking to find ways to support Indigenous ministers and those ministering to Indigenous people.

The basic characteristics of the men and women who serve Bush Church Aid – their great love of God, their unwavering determination and perseverance – have not changed in nearly 100 years.

What a great celebration Sunday 26 May 2019 will be! All at BCA look forward to celebrating the men and women of God who have gone before us in the name of Christ. We want you to join in our celebrations. There will be special services at St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney and we have invited churches across the country to take part in BCA Sunday. We are in the process of putting together resources that you can use in your church, Sunday School or Bible study group.

In the next issue of *The Real Australian* you will be able to order your own copy of a coffee table book charting 100 years of BCA. You can read a short excerpt from Chapter 1 on page 20 of this issue!

Five new ninety-second videos are also being produced which will feature different aspects of our ministry over the years. Our

archivist Nola Starmans has also started digitising some old 16mm BCA films which make very interesting viewing (read about two of them on page 26). These films will be made available via our website.

As you would have seen on the cover of *The Real Australian* and *Prayer Notes* we have designed a 100 year logo which we will use across 2019. We are also releasing a commemorative BCA bookmark with a specially written centenary prayer and a Bible verse. You also have the opportunity to purchase a BCA Centenary Calendar – see page 28.

And if you would like to enjoy celebrations with like-minded supporters, Christian Fellowship Tours are running an Outback NSW BCA Centenary Celebration Tour and a BCA Sydney Stay Tour. More information on these can be found on page 23 of this issue.

We hope you will join in on the celebrations. If you have some ideas on how you and your church can celebrate we'd love to hear from you!

bushchurchaid.com.au/100

Humbling ourselves during a time of drought



I look up at the windy grey sky and wonder if anything will come of it.

How many times have I heard this from friends or family in the city: "It's pouring down here in Sydney. Are you getting anything?"

"No," I say. "Just a few drops. ☺"

Today the clouds do drop something – dust! This particular afternoon I'm planning to go and visit some graziers and deliver some hampers and vouchers. These have been kindly supplied or funded through generous donors on the coast, Bush Church Aid, Anglican Aid and other contacts. Farmers are always appreciative of this help. Sometimes farmers can be proud, but when I ask people if they could do with some vouchers, almost all have said "yes please!". Times really are tough.

I decide to call before I go on my visit.

We are thankful for the help sent by city folk to struggling farmers. God uses it to give us opportunities to talk and pray with people in need. We keep praying for rain. But droughts come and go. More importantly, we call people to humble themselves before God

People in the bush don't like cold calling. I'm also hoping I'll have to postpone the trip. Not because I don't want to go, but because I hope those clouds overhead burst over their area. Often that happens – one farmer will get some relief while his neighbour misses out. But, sadly, there's no rain today.

As I drive out to the properties I pass paddocks of stubble. There has been one crop in our district in the last four or more years. I drive past skinny livestock, I see piles of hay for feeding in a few places.

At the farm I chat for a while over a cuppa – about the weather, about the grandkids, about better times. The wife says "things are bad now, but I don't know what we'll do if we don't get rain before summer." I don't know what to say. As I go I say "we'll keep praying for rain". But it feels lame, like an apology on behalf of my God.

I ponder this. Surely I can say something more helpful! On Sunday after church, a farmer gives me the seed of an idea. We are talking about the drought aid we're handing out. He says "what they really need is that passage we looked at" – referring to 1 Peter 5, which I preached on that morning:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6–7

'Humble yourselves' is the key! Here are some things I can say to those who are drought-affected:

1. We need to humble ourselves by recognising our dependence on God for our very life, breath, and the rain we need. When God does not send rain when we want, that is not a reason to blame Him, but to acknowledge that He is God, and we are not.

2. We need to humble ourselves by confessing our faults and failures to God. Drought and other troubles remind us that the world is not as God intended. I am not saying there is a particular sin that has led to this particular drought. I am pointing to Jesus' teaching that disasters are God's reminders to us that *unless you repent, you too will all perish* (Luke 13:1–5). I have heard

many prayers for rain, but fewer prayers for repentance. I worry about appearing too judgmental by calling people to repent. But Jesus and the prophets didn't seem to have a problem with it! I should not be embarrassed about reminding people of their need to confess their sins before God.

3. We need to humble ourselves by throwing our worries on God. The burden of worrying about a farm can be a massive weight on one's shoulders. But we have a choice: either seek to control our circumstances or ask God to take control of them and do what is best for us. Handing our situation over to God is scary – He might not do what we want him to! But He will do what is best for us.

We are thankful for the help sent by city folk to struggling farmers. God uses it to give us opportunities to talk and pray with people in need. We keep praying for rain. But droughts come and go. More importantly, we call people to humble themselves before God, admitting their need for God, their need of forgiveness, and their need to hand over control to Him.

David Piper

BCA has been providing drought relief through our Kirkby Trust. So far funds have been donated to areas including Lightning Ridge, Warialda, Gilgandra, Bearbong, Narrabri, Barwon, Boggabri, Uralla, Denilliquin and Scone. Funds have been used to purchase gift cards for local supermarkets and retailers, food vouchers, barley to feed stock, fuel vouchers, and dog food for the 'Give your best mate a feed' campaign. We are also sponsoring 20 kids from drought affected areas to attend the ROUNDUP Christmas Celebration camp at Mill Valley Ranch in Victoria.

Impacting lives across Australia



It is the generous help and care of thousands of supporters like you that enables BCA to continue sending Field Staff into the bush to spread the lifesaving message of Jesus.

There are hundreds of great stories to be told about how our Field Staff are impacting the lives of Australians – Christians and yet-to-be Christians – and we try to share them with you through *The Real Australian* and our twice-yearly appeals.

You would have recently received our Christmas Appeal in the mail. This appeal features stories from the Southern Beaches of Tasmania and the heart of the Pilbara.

God has changed the life of Lucy Lester through the work of Jamie and Claire Bester (pictured above) and their church plant in Tasmania. Lucy had isolated herself for nearly four years before Southern Beaches Anglican came along.

Right from the beginning, Jamie and Claire made it clear I was supported and part of the family. The Besters have a church that is humble. It gives access to the fruit of the Spirit by encouraging each member of the family to play to their strengths. They also make themselves accessible by being real and sharing the bumps in their road. It's comforting to walk under the guidance of a family who don't brush hardship

under the rug as if it's a failure and not faithful. They really have a great gift in encouragement and shepherding.

A distressed mine worker recently sought out the counsel of Newman Field Staff Roger Kyngdon who was able to give this man the comfort of Jesus...

This man said he wasn't a man of faith but wanted to know if the wrong he had done would be used in judgement by a 'greater being'. He seemed very worried about a God who he said he didn't believe in. I spoke to Ephesians 2 – we are all dead in our sin and that it is only by the goodness of God that we are forgiven through Jesus.

Every week I send him a text message and one Sunday he turned up at church saying he needed some perspective. I was preaching on the burning bush and he told me that God's word had spoken to him that day.

It is stories like these that remind me of the great goodness of God and the blessings of your prayerful and financial support. Reaching out in Christ's name across the bush continues through your partnership with us in Christ.

Mark Short

Respecting our First Nations People



Since Neville Naden took on the role of BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer nearly two years ago he has been kept busy working with Field Staff, undertaking speaking engagements and most importantly developing a Reconciliation Action Plan.

BCA's Reconciliation Action Plan, devised in conjunction with the BCA Indigenous Ministry Committee, contains statements that seek to present the way that BCA is trying to work and do ministry within the Aboriginal space. Part of this plan is an Acknowledgment of Country. The committee wanted to develop an acknowledgement that was theologically sound and that sort to show respect to the First Nations People of Australia.

This acknowledgement is as follows:

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and His ownership of all things. (Psalm 24:1) We recognise that He gave stewardship of these lands upon which we meet to the First Nations Peoples of this country (Acts 17:26). In His sovereignty, He has allowed other people groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are

thankful for the community that we share together now. We pay our respects to (please insert name of the nation here) and their elders/leaders, both past and present, and those who are rising up to become leaders.

This Acknowledgement of Country was first officially used at the biennial Field Staff Conference in Marysville last month. It seeks to show that God is the creator and owner of His creation. It also acknowledges His sovereign right to give stewardship to whoever He wants. It also admits that He had given custodianship/stewardship of these lands to the First Nations People of this country.

While this statement is short, it captures the very heart of BCA's resolve to address the issues of past injustices by recognising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have endured much as a result of the colonisation of these lands.

BCA's Indigenous Ministry Committee suggests that the Acknowledgement of Country be used at any formal church gathering that celebrates Indigenous culture, such as during NAIDOC Week, National Reconciliation Week and on National Sorry Day.

Neville Naden

A church on the Jordan River

After drawing together a core team of four couples, the church plant in Brighton, Tasmania is moving forward with its vision of growing disciples of Jesus who will grow other disciples for Jesus.

Our core team have been meeting regularly and sharing meals for the past eight months. I'm very conscious of trying to start the church well. I've been in ministry for 25 years and have seen how difficult it is to build on a rotten foundation. We have the privilege of laying a foundation and building on Christ as the foundation stone.

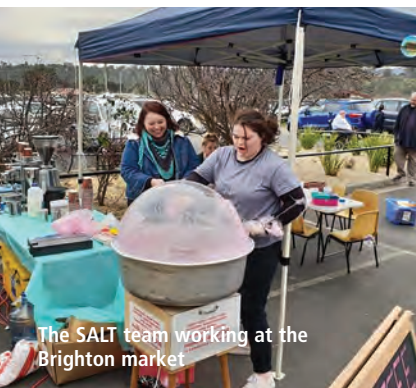
We threw around some ideas for a name and came up with *Salt* – taken from Matthew 5:13. We thought that was good because we want to be flavoursome, spicy and make the steak taste better! Salt makes you thirsty too so hopefully people come to drink from the well of life. Our official name is *Salt – Jordan Valley Anglican*. Not many people talk about the Jordan Valley in Tasmania but the Jordan River runs through the suburb that we live in – biblically named by the surveyor 200 years ago.

While gathering together the core team, I've been connecting with the local community by joining a number of not-for-profit social groups including Brighton Alive, the local Lions Club and the local poultry club. As part of our church meeting we go on mission together once a month. We have started attending the local market where we have three or four little stalls. We sell well-made, cut-price coffee and give away free fairy floss and snow cones. We also run a couple of activity stalls. We hand out little business cards and wear hats and aprons with *Salt – Jordan Valley Anglican* on them. This is our way of getting to know the community and letting them get to know us.

We have been very warmly welcomed at the markets by stall holders and the community – especially since we are handing out free stuff! We draw in the footy clubs who are playing on the nearby local oval. Families are also starting to come into the market. As the population grows I can see that the market will grow. I can see us running a dozen stalls or even taking over the whole market. It could be a Christian market that runs once a month. Who knows what God will do?

Ours is a grassroots approach. It will take time and it's relationship based. We are not just plonking 50 people down and having a big launch of the

We have the privilege of laying a foundation and building on Christ as the foundation stone



The SALT team working at the Brighton market



The Duff family (minus son Joshua)

church straight away. We hope that we can truly create disciples by winning people and walking with them. We are building ourselves around the triangle of **up, in,** and **out.** Church life has an **up** aspect with God, **in** with each other and **out** with the community.

We recently moved to Stage 2 – opening up our meetings to the broader public. A couple of Sundays a month we will have low key church with lunch afterwards. One Sunday we will have ‘in’ – an extended family meeting in a big home group. It will be more relaxed than a regular church gathering, but intentional, running around

prayer and meeting with one another. It will be something to which you can invite people who are on the fringes. The other Sunday will be ‘out’ – our mission Sunday at the markets.

The world is changing and we have to do things differently. We are going back to the first century model when people were meeting in houses! We are following Jesus’ model – an accessible church that isn’t demanding on time but has set the bar high in terms of discipleship.

Chris Duff



Core team members the Timms family who sold their house and moved into the area to fully immerse themselves in the community

This idea deserves to fly



Donaldda at her book launch in Crows Nest

Donaldda Rogers has travelled extensively around Australia undertaking bird surveys. She is therefore very acquainted with the unique challenges facing outback churches. In my own travels it is striking that those who have personally experienced 'the bush' are among the most passionate about Bush Church Aid's ministry.

Donaldda has produced *Bird Tales*, a delightful book of short articles about the birds we see around South East Queensland. It was launched by The Revd John Corner at St George's Anglican Church in Crows Nest in early September. Why launch in Crows Nest? Believe it or not, Donaldda lives there and it is reputedly the only town in Australia named after a local Aboriginal person – Jimmy Crow.

Bird Tales is on sale for \$10, with all proceeds going to BCA. It is a handy A5 size, easy to read, with small coloured pictures of various birds. I believe *Bird Tales* would make an excellent gift or coffee table companion.

Donaldda has produced *Bird Tales*, a delightful book of short articles about the birds we see around South East Queensland

Congratulations to Donaldda on her book and a hearty thanks for gifting the proceeds to BCA! Copies of the book are available through the BCA QLD/Nth NSW Regional Office on 07 3349 9081.

Now to you: What hobby or passion

in life might you combine in some way with your support for BCA and Christian ministry in the bush? There would be as many possibilities as there are birds in South East Queensland and the sky is the limit (no pun intended). We at BCA very much look forward to hearing and seeing how God inspires you to use your talent or passion to help us reach

Australia for Christ.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 6:25–26

David Rogers-Smith

New Field Staff for the saints in Roxby Downs

The bush holds great significance to our newest Field Staff Glen and Beth McDonald. It was in Narrabri, on the northwest slopes of New South Wales, that Glen first understood the gospel and God's saving grace. Beth, who can't remember a time when she didn't trust in the Lord as her saviour, has a strong memory of the old faithful Bush Church Aid money box that sat on her kitchen windowsill.

"Even before becoming Field Staff we valued the ministry of BCA in how they enable God's word to be shared with so many people in rural and remote areas of Australia," says Beth.

Glen, Beth and their five children Zac, Lili, Jaxon, Jesse and Asher move to Roxby Downs in December.

Glen leaves his positions at Juneë Anglican Church and the Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre to become the minister-in-charge at Roxby Downs Christian Community Church. When they arrive it will be 2.5 years since there was a full-time minister-in-charge.

"God really attracted us to Roxby Downs," says Glen. "After being asked to consider the position, through much prayer and investigation, we felt very strongly that God was leading our family to serve there. The way that God has broken down so many fears and obstacles has been nothing short of amazing!"

While many city-dwellers would think of Juneë as a remote parish, the McDonalds could not quite believe how isolated Roxby Downs is.

"The first thing that struck us as we



arrived in Roxby was the remoteness," says Beth. "I don't think either of us had travelled anywhere so remote before!

However, we were warmly welcomed by the saints in Roxby and immediately felt at

ease. The town has a lovely feel to it and we both said we could imagine our family thriving in the young community there."

The McDonald family would value your prayers as they prepare to leave Juneë – their church, community and friendships. Pray also for them as they arrive and settle into Roxby Downs. Their son Jaxon requires therapy and a special educator and they pray that there is no significant disruption

to his program.

Glen and Beth hope that the saints at Roxby Downs Christian Community Church will continue to grow under God's word as they minister to them. "We pray that as we serve them, we will become part of the community and together we will strive to share God's grace, for His Glory."

Janine van den Tillaart

Even before becoming Field Staff we valued the ministry of BCA in how they enable God's word to be shared with so many people in rural and remote areas of Australia

Stepping out in ministry with much to be thankful for

After four years studying his theology degree at Moore College in Sydney, Nathaniel (Jum) Naden is embarking on his calling to ministry together with wife Pip. He commences working as an assistant minister in South Tamworth in the New Year.

As I finish my studies I feel a mixture of many emotions. I feel tired but grateful and accomplished. I am extremely thankful to God for the many people who have supported us over the years not least the BCA family.

BCA have supported us in many different ways. I have had so many people ring me and offer their support – encouraging me with scriptures, prayers or financial support. We have also valued the many saints all over the country praying for us. All of these people have made our time at college so much easier. There are so many people that deserve recognition and we want to thank all of them! Pip did not know much about BCA until we met, it always amazes her when we visit a church and people come and introduce themselves and they tell her how we have been in their prayers. BCA really is a very generous, thoughtful and gospel minded community of people who deeply love the Lord. We are so very thankful to be a part of it!

There have been many joys as well as challenges of studying at college. My main joys came from learning and growing in my knowledge and love of God and others and of course meeting and marrying Pip. Being part of the community at Moore and getting to know fellow students and staff has also brought me great joy. The challenges have included learning a new language, living in a new environment away from family and friends, learning how to be a good student and reading many, many books.

For other Indigenous people thinking about theological study I would say to them, 'go for it'. Think about the needs of your families and the church. Seek out a college that will help shape you for a lifetime of ministry. Theological study will help you become a better reader of the Bible which will result in a solid foundation from which to build your ministry.

I am excited and cannot wait to see all that God has for us to do and learn in Tamworth. I am a really big fan of country music and so moving to the country capital of Australia is a massive plus for us. It will also be really good to get out of busy Sydney and start a new chapter in a new place with new

As I embark on full-time ministry I look forward to being among God's people telling them about Jesus



people. Pip is also looking forward to the new adventure and becoming part of the community but understandably sad to be moving away from family, friends and our church community in Sydney.

While my role is not fully defined at the moment I will be working as an assistant helping in the formal ministries of the church. I am very excited to have a go at whatever is thrown at me.

As I embark on full-time ministry I look forward to being among God's people telling them about Jesus. I look forward to serving in the many ministries in whatever way I can for whoever and with whomever I can. There are so many things to be thankful for.

Long term we think God is calling us to try and reach Aboriginal people full-time. There is a lot of hurt and history between the wider church and Aboriginal people and

I would love to be part of what God is doing within those two circles. We are open to what this looks like and where this is. Please pray that God would continue to guide our every footstep and that He would place us at the centre of His will.

Nathaniel (Jum) Naden

For those who were wondering why Nathaniel is also referred to as Jum...

Jum, Jummul, Tjumul, Tjummul is a Pitjanjajarra word that means Grandfather. And I was given it as a young boy because I displayed the mannerisms of an older gentlemen. The name has stuck with me ever since.

Gathering the team together



It is no mean feat to gather all of BCA's Field Staff in one place for a week. It takes months of planning, arranging and rearranging – flights, transfers, accommodation, catering, speakers, activities and outings – for 160 people.

During the first week of October, Field Staff, Nomads, National and Regional Office staff from across the country gathered together in Marysville, Victoria.

The conference is a time for renewing existing relationships and developing new ones, being built up in the word (rather than being the ones doing the building) and

worshipping our great God together. While the adults were taught by Bishop Peter Brain, The Revd Andrew Cameron and a team from the Parakaleo ministry, children and youth were looked after by BCA Nomads, volunteers, Quizworx and youth workers from St John's Diamond Creek.

"It was so wonderful to finally meet in person the people I had been chatting with online," says first time Field Staff Conference attendee Julia Collings. "We really relished being spiritually fed and nurtured rather than feeling the burden of feeding and nourishing others."





"I thought the conference was a great week," says Naomi Duff. "I loved getting to know people from BCA. It was really well thought out and organised. As a family it was nice to have things for all ages but also to have time to hang out as families together with other families!"

"Our conference is such a vital time for keeping Field Staff and their families encouraged, equipped and informed so they can persist in serving Jesus with joy," says National Director Mark Short. "This year's gathering in beautiful Marysville was no exception. I am so thankful to God for the many staff and volunteers who put their shoulders to the wheel to make the time such a success and for the generosity of our supporters which resources all our care of Field Staff."

We really relished being spiritually fed and nurtured rather than feeling the burden of feeding and nourishing others

Janine van den Tillaart



Return to the Pilbara



Don and Libby with current Newman BCA Field Staff Roger and Amanda Kyngdon

Earlier this year former Field Staff Don and Libby Wilson visited North West Australia as part of a BCA Christian Fellowship Tour. It was forty years since they relocated to the Pilbara to serve with BCA and memories of their time there came flooding back.

As we arrived in the town of Newman both of us felt like we were coming home. Once the North West is in your blood it never leaves you.

We started our BCA journey at Easter 1978 after a definite call from God to serve with Bush Church Aid. Newman was going through a mining boom at the time and there were about 8500 people in the town. It was a company town with only one bank, one supermarket and one petrol station.

When we worked there it was called the Parish of the East Pilbara. It was bigger than the state of Victoria in terms of area and there was a lot of travelling. As there were no mobile phones you had to contact the police if you were leaving town to make sure that the road was open.

Marble Bar was the northern boundary of the parish and I visited there once a

month, weather permitting. On a good day it was a 5.5 hour drive to Marble Bar on a corrugated gravel road. After our 9am Newman service I got on the road and was in Marble Bar for the evening service. On Monday I would take Scripture classes at the Marble Bar Primary School and visit in the town. I'd then visit the Comet Goldmine where the owner's wife was a Christian. On the Tuesday morning, on my way back to Newman, I'd stop at Nullagine (2.5 hours north of Newman) and take Scripture classes at the one teacher school. I would also visit one or two station properties.

Our Church services in Newman were conducted in the recreation club. Even though a sanctuary had been built just for the purposes of services, we still had to get to the hall an hour before the service each Sunday and set up. Often there had been a party the night before and we had to clean up first. We had a good congregation but it would have turned over twice in the four years that we were there. One of the things that I learned early was to ask people to help out straight away because in six months' time they could be gone.

Just before we left, Newman became an open town. Together with the Registrar from Geraldton, Stan Hummerston, we negotiated for the company to give us a prime block of land in the heart of town for a church and Rectory. They tried to go back on their agreement but in God's goodness the church was built and opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1988.

On our return to Newman we walked in and sat in that church. We were overwhelmed with joy. To have a building that was dedicated for worship was just so amazing and wonderful to see.

One of the lessons we learned while we were in Newman was to rely on God and Him alone. That stood us in the greatest stead in the rest of our ministry. On my road trips I would stop at a little hill before Nullagine, climb up and shout out Psalm 121 at the top of my voice because I had the absolute freedom to do so – *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

The help came from the Lord and it was never, ever lacking. What an important lesson that was to learn. When we have the Lord we have everything we need. We couldn't ask for more.

Don & Libby Wilson

Current Newman Field Staff Roger and Amanda Kyngdon are long time friends of Don and Libby. Roger assisted as a youth worker and Ministry Training Strategy student in their parish in Shellharbour. Don and Libby attended Roger and Amanda's wedding and the Kyngdons sought their advice before embarking on their ministry in Newman.

One of the lessons we learned while we were in Newman was to rely on God and Him alone. That stood us in the greatest stead in the rest of our ministry



CFT BCA tour group outside the church in Newman



Don and Libby address the church service in Newman

Astonishing stories from 100 years of BCA

How do you fit 100 years of rich history into one book? Christian writer Robyn Powell has been trawling through the vast BCA archives reading the fascinating stories of thousands of Field Staff. Here are some snippets from the first chapter of the coffee table book due to be launched in 2019.

Her name was Madeline Rose Delacour de Labilliere. She was born in 1898 in New Brunswick, Canada, baptised in Scotland and educated in France, Switzerland and England. During World War I she trained as a driver for the Royal Air Force. She could ride and care for a horse, ride a motorcycle, and service car engines.

Sometime in 1925, while living in Canada, this adventurous young woman applied to The Bush Church Aid Society for service in Australia. We know this from her file in the archives at the BCA National Office. It is a very slim file. It contains just three items – two pieces of paper and one photo. The two pieces of paper don't tell us much, but what they do say is interesting. The first sheet is her application to BCA.

'What hitherto has been your occupation?' the form asks.

I have been teaching a little in a private English school in Vancouver, BC and this summer was occupied in driving the Sunday School by Post motor mission van across 2 or 3,000 miles of prairie.

(Oh...hang on. What is a Sunday School

by Post? What is a motor mission van?

Two or three thousand miles! Across the Canadian prairies! In the early 20s! This is a gutsy girl.)

'If you think you have been called to any particular department of work, please specify it.'

When in Canada, driving the van and visiting house to house with those great distances in between, I had a great longing to be able to continue this same manner of work when I arrived in Australia, if such a work existed, or even

to start it if the way opened. I found in many ways that I was very well suited to this work on the prairies and that all my past experiences both in training at Ridglands College and my outdoor war work (with cars and horses) were of great value, and could be truly used in this department of work.

Curiously, Madeline leaves one of the questions on the application form unanswered. And it is not a minor or unimportant question. 'What do you think of Christ and His work? What do you understand by personal salvation and how it is obtained?'

It would seem a very strange omission if a second piece of paper was not attached. For it is on this crinkled and age-stained leaf that we see why she did not answer the question on the form provided. There was not enough space! She takes a whole sheet of paper to outline her understanding of the gospel.

So, the question has to be: 'What happened next?' Madeline got her wish.

The first 100 years of the Bush Church Aid Society are packed full of stories about the godly, brave and hardy people who through the past 100 years have left the comfort of towns, homes and families to take the gospel into remote areas of Australia



VALE

Deaconess Pamela Crew (nee Eagleton) 17 February 1944–10 August 2018 served with BCA as parish worker at Nightcliff between 1973–1977. Pamela was admitted to the Order of Deaconesses by Bishop Bruce Rosier in December 1971. Her's was the first ordination of a deaconess in the Diocese of Willochra. Pamela is survived by her husband Richard, children and in-laws Charlene, Mark, Fiona, Scott and Clare and her nine grandchildren.



CONGRATULATIONS

Kristan, Kathryn, Levi, Ezekiel and Jeremiah Slack welcomed the arrival of Eliah Jade Slack on Tuesday 4 September. Eliah weighed 2.76kg and was 48cm long. Please pray for the Slacks as they adjust to being a family of six.



WELCOME

Glen and Beth McDonald together with their children Zac, Lili, Jaxon, Jesse and Asher commence their term as Roxby Downs Field Staff in December. The McDonalds previously served at Junee Anglican Church and Glen also worked part-time at the Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre.



FAREWELL

After nearly six years working in the National Office as Mark Short's Personal Assistant, **Rebecca Jeavons** has left BCA to take up a new role. Rebecca is now working as PA to the Executive Director of School Services at St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney.

2019 CFT BCA Centenary Tours



Outback NSW BCA Centenary Celebration Tour

10 Day Holiday Departs 23 May 2019

To celebrate BCA's Centenary Year Christian Fellowship Tours offer a tour of Outback NSW – you will visit BCA Centres and meet up with the Field Staff you support through prayer.

John Cronshaw created the first BCA Outback Tour in 1977 and went on to serve on the BCA Executive and Council for over 30 years. He will lead this special tour.

**Sydney * Blue Mountains * Bathurst
* Dubbo * Gulargambone * Lightning
Ridge * Bourke * Cobar * Willcannia
* Broken Hill * Western Plains * Nyngan
* Parkes * Young * Yass * Canberra**

BCA Sydney Stay

3 Day Tour Departs 25 May 2019

Join CFT for a short stay in Sydney to commemorate BCA's Centenary in the city where it all began. Sightsee in the Harbour City and enjoy memorable dinners at Sydney Tower and on a Vivid Lights Dinner Cruise.

During the tour you will join others at St Andrew's Cathedral for a special service on the day Bush Church Aid was founded 100 years ago. The day's address will be given by The Revd Neville Naden, BCA's Indigenous Ministry Officer.

This is a birthday party you won't want to miss!

**For further information on both tours
contact Christian Fellowship Tours on 1300 635 358.**



Councillor's Column



I was born and bred in Port Macquarie. I came from a strong Catholic background. When I was fifteen years old, I left home, I left the church and I left God. I just went and did my own thing. I went out into the wilderness and I mucked around with alcohol and things like that. On my 16th birthday I started working in Sydney as a meat worker and studied to be a meat inspector. I found God again on my 18th birthday.

I met Joy, married her when I was 20 and then moved to the Gold Coast. I worked in a number of jobs: as a bobcat operator, a concreter, steel fixer and general roustabout. Then I got work in a couple of juvenile prisons in Brisbane.

In 1988 we sold everything and went to Bible College. We had two children during that time. In early 1991 the Church Missionary Society asked us to work in Numbulwar, situated on the mouth of the Rose River in the Northern Territory.

Numbulwar was very isolated but our living conditions were okay. Air conditioning arrived by the time we left. Our kids Sarah and Joshua grew up there. We worked and trained people in how to care for and help

people get off alcohol and petrol sniffing.

The biggest scare during my time there was when I was looking down the end of a shovel-nosed spear – threatened to be killed by a lady who was high on drugs and alcohol. I thought I was going to die; as simple as that. I thought it was all over. But it wasn't. I just listened and waited. Eventually she put the spear down and walked away.

We moved back to Brisbane and worked for Anglicare, managing a hostel for 52 university students. I finished my training and became a priest.

We then moved to Wyndham as BCA Affiliates (non stipended). Joy and I worked in both Wyndham and in the Oombulgurri. Joy was a teacher and I was as jack of all trades while at the same time building a church. I was a butcher at the local supermarket, I worked on the wharf unloading explosives and I was an orderly at the hospital. I can tell you, it freaked a lot of people out when they saw their priest cleaning the toilets!

I was also a volunteer in the fire and emergency services and became the chaplain for a lot of the units throughout the Kimberleys.

I became a prison officer at a minimum security prison but I left when I had a black death in custody. A prisoner had a heart attack and I was blamed for it.

I then became the second full-time chaplain for the police and emergency service organisations in WA. They gave me a vehicle, money and a map and said, "That's your area of responsibility there." "Wow", I said at seeing that it covered the entire northern top of WA, from Broome right over to the Northern Territory border. It was a big area – huge.

In a major emergency I'd drive or be flown to the situation. I'd be one of the first to arrive and delegate responsibilities as other services arrived.

After a helicopter crash at Kununurra I held a memorial service for the four victims. It freaks you out when you're only a young priest, new to a town, and you see something like a thousand people waiting for your words of support and comfort.

We then moved to Coober Pedy (fully funded by BCA) and when the mining boom started BCA asked me to start a FIFO Mine Chaplaincy. We moved to Adelaide and set it up. At the peak of the program I was flying in and out of four mine sites on a regular basis.

I didn't wear any of the usual priest's get-up, not even a collar. My helmet had 'Rev' written on it. That's what they called me, Rev or The Rev or The Apprentice Pope, Chief Devil Dodger, Sky Pilot, Padre – you name it, they called me whatever they wanted to call me. I didn't mind.

Bust follows boom and the mines laid off hundreds of people including me. So I became a locum in the Adelaide Diocese awaiting God's orders. Then I was asked to move to Beenleigh and was appointed as the priest-in-charge of St Georges Anglican Church.

Today I still have my connection with BCA as a member of the QLD Regional Committee and the BCA National Executive.

Peter Palmer

BCA Councillor, Member of the National Executive and former Field Staff



My helmet had 'Rev' written on it. That's what they call me, Rev or The Rev or The Apprentice Pope, Chief Devil Dodger, Sky Pilot, Padre – you name it, they called me whatever they wanted to call me. I didn't mind

From the Archives: A treasure trove of all things BCA



The archives room in the National Office is a treasure trove of all things BCA. You can find the various incarnations of the BCA money box, information on every person who has worked for BCA over the last century, books, glass and 35mm slides, photographs, film, the hat worn by our flying padre and even surgical instruments.

Over the years much work has been done to catalogue everything in the archives, first by the late Clem Kirkby (son of our organising Missioner Sydney Kirby) and later by our former National Director Brian Roberts.

In the lead up to our Centenary BCA Archivist Nola Starmans has been looking at long forgotten BCA films and organised the digitising of rare 16mm film. Four 16mm films have been found the first of which features BCA's first flying padre Len Daniels heading up to the skies in a light plane branded with Church of England on the side. This film pays tribute to 30 years of our Flying Medical Service.

After the success of Len Daniels and his

flying pastoral ministry a medical missionary plane was dedicated in 1938 with Alan Chadwick becoming the first medical missionary pilot. The plane flown by Alan would ferry patients from the outlying hospital in Cook to the main BCA hospital in Ceduna. By 1944 the word had spread and medical services were established across outback South Australia. A second medical aircraft was purchased in 1947 and flew 30,000 miles and saw 1600 patients each year. Over the years the planes were upgraded and with faster flying speeds saw up to 76,000 miles covered by the BCA Flying Medical Service.

The film charts the planes, the number of hospitals opened, serviced and run by BCA and its dedicated staff who left the 'big smoke' to serve in the outback.

One story is told of a man who travelled six hours in the back of a truck after a shooting accident. It was his second visit to Tarcoola Hospital and he thought he should leave his pyjamas in the hospital ready for his next visit!

These films are testament to the pioneering work of Field Staff who have gone before and the hard work of current Field Staff



The BCA Flying Medical Service in action

While BCA hospitals were able to treat most ailments (particularly in Ceduna) patients were still transported to Adelaide when specialty treatment was needed. With the onset of better aircraft it became much easier to transport patients – just a two-hour journey.

Ceduna was a small coastal town when BCA first gave its assistance. God was served in this outback location for nearly 50 years. Ceduna was the headquarters for all BCA's medical work – not only were the doctors and nurses BCA staff, so was the dentist, pharmacist and radio operator.

When it grew to a population of 3000, had modern business premises and a 28 bed hospital, BCA's task was achieved. Love in action was key to the task.

The second film titled *A Different World* contrasts the city to the real outback, highlights the work of BCA and the importance of reaching out to new areas of mission. 'New' mission areas at the time were Coober Pedy and South Hedland. Today BCA has been serving at these two locations for 48 and 46 years respectively.

What was the lot of a BCA Missioner asks the film? Long distances of travel by

air, rail & road and fellowship with station owners, construction workers, mine workers and uni graduates. Loneliness was common at times but back then as today BCA Field Staff spread the news of a vital faith in the living Christ.

The 'lot of a BCA Missioner' or Field Staff as we call them today, has not changed in 100 years. These films are testament to the pioneering work of Field Staff who have gone before and the hard work of current Field Staff.

The films will be available to view via our website in our centenary year. If you would like further information please contact the BCA National Office on 02 9262 5017.

Janine van den Tillaart



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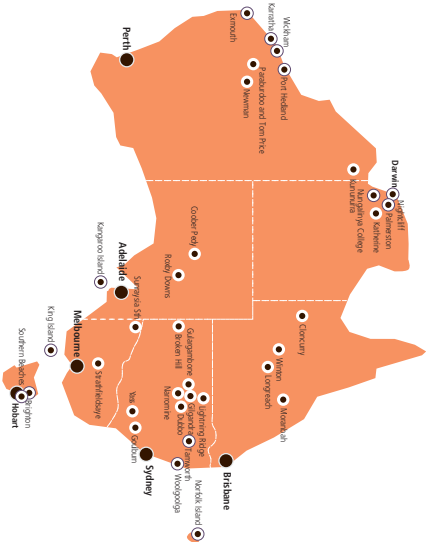
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