

*The Real*

bca   
bush church aid  
*Going the distance*

winter 2018

# Australian



*Heading towards 100*

Sowing the seeds in Ceduna 15

Amazing journey of God's provision and faithfulness 10

# BCA Directory

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**Cover:** The ladies' meeting at the Ceduna Easter Gathering in Koonibba. Photo taken by Maria Anderson-Tanner.

## By God's grace a little grit can go a long way

On 12 July each year the Anglican Church remembers and gives thanks for the life and ministry of Sydney Kirkby, BCA's first Organising Missioner. One of Kirkby's slogans was "Grit, grace and gumption." These were the qualities he was seeking in men and women who would be sent to the bush with the good news of Jesus.

Gumption refers to initiative and resourcefulness, the classic pioneer spirit which does a lot with a little. Grace is the underserved goodness of God that brings us into new life through Jesus Christ and empowers us for mission.

But what of grit? Who wants more of the dirt and dust that irritates our eyes and tickles our noses? As a rail fan I know the real value of grit. Steam trains that are losing traction on an uphill stretch will put down grit on the rails to improve their traction and allow them to keep going. It's a reminder that it's not always the smooth and easy road that gets us safely to our destination.

BCA has always valued gritty ministry. Our people are more likely to walk the winding track than the wide open motorway. They serve in places where the going is not always easy or straightforward. They do so knowing that the obstacles and bumps in the road are sometimes the very means that God uses to keep them persevering, one dusty footprint at a time.

In this edition of *The Real Australian* you'll read stories of gritty ministry. I pray you'll be encouraged by the grace of God that enables us to go the distance with Him.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who's already given to our Mid-Year Appeal to support the work of men and women who are making Jesus known in communities all across Australia (you'll find details of how to give on the response form on the back page). That is grit and grace!

**Mark Short**  
National Director



**BCA has always valued gritty ministry. Our people are more likely to walk the winding track than the wide open motorway. They serve in places where the going is not always easy or straightforward**

# Reaching Australia for Christ for another 100 years

**In just under 12 months BCA will celebrate 100 years of reaching Australia for Christ. We want every person in remote, regional and rural Australia to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.**

In late April we launched our Mid-Year Appeal featuring the stories of Mark Unicomb in Narromine and Colin Lee in Kununurra. These men have both been personally touched and encouraged by the ministry of BCA Field Staff.

Mark, a member of Narromine and Trangie Anglican Church has been encouraged by BCA Field Staff James Daymond to accompany him in his evangelistic ministry visiting farms right across the district.

"The evangelistic ministry of James and Brittany in the Narromine and Trangie area is of utmost importance. People mostly work seven days a week in our farming community and tend to have very little time for anything other than work," says Mark.

"We have visited people on remote farms who have never thought about Jesus or know who He is. Often their first contact with Christianity is when James and I knock on their door. The importance of feet on the ground and personalised visits in regional

areas cannot be emphasised enough. People feel more comfortable and receptive to talk about Jesus if they are in their own home.

"It is amazing as we watch the power of God work in people we have visited, and see prayer answered as the Holy Spirit works in their lives.

Colin, a parishioner at St James' Kununurra said: "Daniel (Faricy) has

brought a fresh approach to ministry here. He has a strong knowledge of the Bible, encourages the congregation to get involved, and is willing to put himself out there.

"For the past six months I have been meeting with Daniel every Thursday morning to go through the Bible. We have been looking at the Book of Mark and really delving into what the passages mean.

While I am being personally encouraged, I am not the only person in the congregation that Daniel is doing this with.

"We are so grateful to Bush Church Aid who allows people in areas like Kununurra to have quality ministers. We only have about 15 regulars at St James' Kununurra, so there is no way we could fund a full-time minister. We have been blessed as the calibre of the ministers that we get has always been fantastic."

Through the help of generous supporters like you, Bush Church Aid will be able to go the distance for another hundred years to bring the good news of Jesus to people across Australia.

*Mark Short*

**It is amazing as we watch the power of God work in people we have visited, and see prayer answered as the Holy Spirit works in their lives**



James Daymond and Mark Unicomb talking about Jesus with Loose, a local Narromine/Trangie lady

# Fifteen years of giving a helping hand to high school students

The family of the late April Bottom and Bush Church Aid have offered a scholarship to a student from the Parish of the Far West and Broken Hill looking to undertake study away from home for the past fifteen years .

April Bottom and her husband David experienced first-hand the difficulties of having their children educated. Before her passing from cancer in 2003, April expressed a desire to set up a fund to assist families with the education of their children. Bush Church Aid is proud to administer the scholarship on the family's behalf.

2018 scholarship recipient Sophie Nelson is currently studying at the University of Wollongong. "Moving so far away from home was definitely a big step," says Sophie. "I do not regret this decision though, every day I fall more in love with Wollongong, my course and Uni.

"There are so many incredible opportunities at University that aren't academic related; I am a part of clubs, attend and work at the gym, am a student representative and so much more.

The April Bottom Scholarship has been instrumental in being able to do all these things as it has taken a major weight off my shoulders in regards to the financial pressures of uni. There are so many costs that many people don't even think of. Though

The April Bottom Scholarship has taken a major weight off my shoulders in regards to the financial pressures of uni. I am so thankful for this scholarship and would definitely encourage others to apply



I do still work so I can save for later years, it is far less of a necessity meaning I can spend more time building friendships and experiencing all that university has to offer. I am so thankful for this scholarship and would definitely encourage others to apply."

Applications for the 2019 April Bottom Scholarship are now open. To be eligible you must:

- Be a resident of the Parish of Broken Hill and the Far West
- Undertake study outside the Parish in 2019
- Submit your completed application by the closing date and have it verified by your parents/carers
- Provide academic records from the previous year and any information to support your application including club memberships, sporting or academic achievements

The winner of the 2019 scholarship will be notified in late 2018 and the amount of \$11,000 will go towards their tuition fees/boarding fees/text books, etc. as they commence their studies in 2019.

**If you know someone who would benefit from the April Bottom Scholarship or you would like further information please email [greg.bridge@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:greg.bridge@bushchurchaid.com.au) or phone the BCA National Office on 02 9262 5017.**

**Applications close 15 September 2018.**

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# Returning to the family



Chris and Wendy Thiele

**BCA is delighted to welcome back Chris and Wendy Thiele as Field Staff. They served in Beaconsfield Tasmania from 2006–2010 and now take on the previously vacant parish of King Island.**

I grew up on the semi-rural outskirts of Melbourne, went off to college with Church Army when I was 18 and have been in full-time ministry ever since being commissioned in 1976. Twenty-seven years ago I had a clear calling to come to Tasmania as Youth and Education Officer for the Diocese. After a period of time I was ordained and together with Wendy have served in the parishes of Georgetown, Beaconsfield and at Port Sorell/Latrobe in Tasmania.

At Beaconsfield we became part of the BCA family. We loved working with BCA and the pastoral care was just excellent. We felt cared for and really valued that people were praying for us.

We have been at Port Sorell/Latrobe for the past eight years. Wendy and I had been praying about our future when I felt the call to King Island.

**An essential part of our work will be growing the congregation – we trust and pray that in God's timing this will happen**

The church community of King Island have been without someone for three years now. The faithful, loyal congregation of about 20 have been doing a great job.

My first priority is to visit all members of the congregation, hear their story and get to know them, their spiritual journey, hopes and dreams for the church and their ministry possibilities. I will also go and see those people who used to go to church as well as the ones who never go to church. It's a very important part of my ministry moving forward.

Wendy is keen on art and craft so she wants to integrate into the community doing some of those things. I enjoy a bit of fishing and plan on getting alongside men that way.

You can be praying a lot of things for us as we make the move to King Island. It's a huge transition and we leave behind our two children and five grandchildren. Pray as we settle in and make contacts. An essential part of our work will be growing the congregation – we trust and pray that in God's timing this will happen.

*Chris Thiele*

# Blessed to be a blessing to the people of Gilgandra



Ayumi and Peter Tamsett

**BCA has commenced supporting the work of a chaplain at Gilgandra High School. Ayumi Tamsett, wife of local Presbyterian Minister Peter Tamsett, has taken on this role.**

I grew up in Japan, born to Christian parents which is quite unusual because only one per cent of the population in Japan are Christian. I was really blessed to be born to my parents. From a young age I knew that God created everything so there was no confusion as different beliefs like Buddhism and Shintoism are quite strong in Japanese culture.

In high school I came to realise that while I had my parents' faith I myself needed Jesus and I became a Christian. After I finished high school I moved to Canada to study. I didn't know much English and in that time of loneliness I met Christian people who helped me settle in and guide me in my walk of faith.

In 2002 I thought and prayed about how I could use my faith to teach the Bible to people in Japan and was led to go to Bible College. I came to Australia and started

studying at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. There I met my husband Peter and together we first served in parish ministry in Sydney before moving to Gilgandra five and a half years ago.

For the last three years I have worked with Generate at Gilgandra High School

teaching SRE (Scripture) on a weekly basis and now have taken on the role of Chaplain as well. I think in many ways these roles will overlap. On my chaplaincy day I look after students who have been referred to me by the school counsellor, principal or well-being support teacher. Depending on the level of their problem or struggle I talk with them, help in practical ways

and try to be a good friend to them.

I would really appreciate prayer for good relationships at the school. As an SRE teacher people thought I was just a nice kind lady who came to teach classes. Now teachers see me as a useful person. I'd like to see more relationships built and I'm hoping to commend the gospel and speak the love of God through the things I do.

*Ayumi Tamsett*

I'd like to see more relationships built and I'm hoping to commend the gospel and speak the love of God through the things I do

# Through God, things are falling into place

**After three years establishing and growing a number of ministries in Goulburn, Brian and Ali Champness have started new chapters in their lives. Ali has remained as BCA Field Staff and works teaching Scripture one day a week in Goulburn. It has been a rollercoaster seven months as Ali explains:**

Bishop Stuart Robinson told us at the end of September that he was concluding his time as Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn and that our roles with F5 ministries wouldn't be renewed in their current format. It was a fairly big surprise and we wondered what the Lord had in store. But at the same time we knew that our three year contract was coming to an end and had a sense that God was calling us on to something else.

We had only planted a church in East Goulburn the year before – Rocky Hill – which was like our baby. The first year you have your teething and you battle through and then God confirms the hard work is worth it.

At the New Wine Spring Gathering in October, Mick and Ange Hookham, a couple who had been attending Rocky Hill Church came along. They hadn't been involved in outreach and serving at church. At our spring gathering God did something amazing and Mick felt a refreshing, a renewal in the Holy Spirit. During a meeting with Bishop

**The first year you have your teething and you battle through and then God confirms the hard work is worth it**

Stuart soon afterwards, Mick was asked to take on Rocky Hill Church and he agreed. Mick then did an intensive on preaching at St Mark's Theological Centre in Canberra and has now started a Diploma in Christian Ministry. In early December 2017, we handed Rocky Hill Church over to them. God had it all lined up so quickly. It was so much easier to hand it on to someone that God put before us and said 'these ones!'

Brian is now working at St Paul's Ginninderra (in the northern suburbs of Canberra) which Bishop Stuart thought would be a really good fit for us. St Paul's is a very active church. It's not in a traditional building but a community centre and for a number of years they have been running 'Helping Hands' food pantry. On Thursday and Friday the pantry is open and up to 90 families come each week to collect food – it is a huge community outreach.



Ali ready to teach Scripture at Wollondilly Public School



I was blessed to have BCA support me in continuing my work in Goulburn when school started up again in early 2018. My focus is purely Scripture in schools. Each Tuesday I travel to Goulburn to teach four classes. I teach a combined Year 3/4 class at Wollondilly Public School with about 30 to 40 kids. I then teach a Year 3 class at Bradfordville Public School with about 25 students. Then I go to Goulburn North Public and teach a Year 3 class with about 25 kids. It is wonderful that there are still plenty of parents who want their kids to do Scripture. I also go to The Crescent School which caters for children from K-12 with physical, intellectual or behavioural difficulties. They just love Scripture – we sing lots of songs, do a Bible story and pray at the end. I have a pillow the shape of a heart and we pass that on when we want to pray and thank God for something. It's a very special class.

As part of my Scripture teaching role I prepare a PowerPoint presentation each Monday for all the Scripture teachers in Goulburn to use. I use the Godspace Curriculum and download great pictures for PowerPoint from [freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org). I also incorporate a video song. Kids are visual and it's great that at each school we can use the electronic smart boards.

The last few months have been a wrestling. When you go from one season to another and it's quick, there is a wrestling to work out God's will. But now things are falling into place as Brian and I begin a new stage in our exciting journey with Jesus!

*Ali Champness*



Ali with former BCA Youth Promotions Officer Jen Schabel at The Crescent School



Music time at The Crescent School

# Amazing journey of God's provision and faithfulness

**At the end of June this year BCA will conclude its financial support for the Goodacres' ministry in Launceston. Here Andy and Liz share how God has grown the work so this is possible:**

1 April 2018 marked eight years since we arrived in Launceston, Tasmania, with a two year old and another on the way. Originally from the UK and having spent a couple of years in Geelong, Victoria, God called us to take on the replanting of St Barnabas' Anglican Church in the northern suburbs of Launceston. On our first Sunday we met in the little weatherboard church with around 10–15 mostly pensioner-aged people who had been faithfully serving and praying for the church to remain open and see a new lease of life. So began an amazing journey of seeing God's provision and faithfulness as we sought to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

**...After eight years, our overwhelming impression is of God's abundant provision and faithfulness and that the benefits of following Him far outweigh the costs**

In the early days, we connected with university students in our home over a meal and then established a midweek gathering for them. A missional community grew amongst them and soon we were also casting our vision on a Sunday for being God's missionary people to the local area. We made space in our Sunday gatherings for people to connect with one another and encouraged them to think and pray about who God was calling them to bless and serve. Slowly but surely God began to bring people – families, students, young couples – with an interest in mission and a heart for discipleship.

The next few years saw new missional communities spring up and small groups (huddles) develop where people were encouraged to identify what God was saying and what their response would be.

It wasn't all easy of course. There were times, especially in the first few years, when we were very lonely, and when we felt that not many people understood what we were trying to do. Not all of those who came to join us stayed, and there were some difficult relationships to be navigated along the way. However, after eight years, our overwhelming impression is of God's abundant provision and faithfulness and that the benefits of following Him far outweigh the costs.

As we look ahead to the next eight years, we feel

The Goodacre family





A recent Sunday service at Barney's

strongly called to stay at Barney's, but are well aware that the next season will look different to the last for us as a family. As we have seen leaders raised up, Andy's role has shifted from being a full-time vicar to being the leader of a team of ministry equippers. This team is a joy to work with, and we are committed to sharing not only leadership but also finance with them as we move forward. While this means that we will receive a smaller income from Barney's in the future, the great blessing for Barney's is that they will continue to be ministered to, and equipped for ministry, by a diverse and highly gifted team.

At the same time, we have been aware of God giving us invitations and opportunities to bless and serve pioneering leaders within the body of Christ and beyond. Over the past two years we have established a small coaching and consulting business called Lifeincolour. Through this we are able to coach and encourage pioneering leaders who create communities where people become who God created them to

be. Andy thoroughly enjoys being able to work as a leadership coach to numerous pioneering leaders across Australia, as well as partnering with other churches, denominations and non-profit organisations to offer leadership coaching and training in a diverse range of contexts. We are excited at the prospect of being able create employment opportunities for other local leaders in this work as we move forward.

We put together a couple of short videos telling some of the stories of lives which have been transformed through our Barney's community over the last eight years. These videos are available on the home page of our Barney's website: [tasbarneys.org](http://tasbarneys.org)

You can learn more about our wider leadership coaching and consulting work at [lifeincolour.com](http://lifeincolour.com)

*Andy and Liz Goodacre*

# Six years of our lives living underground but no regrets



Geoff and Tracey stand below two of the Catacomb Church's airshafts

**“Why have you stayed there for six years?” says an older Sydney relative who cannot understand why we would stay so long in the desert. What could we possibly be getting out of it?**

Now of course Christian ministry is a mystery to those who don't know the wonders of Christ and His gospel but some ministry jobs could be a bit more impressive perhaps to the non-Christian mind.

It is interesting to us how God makes us all different. For some not in their wildest imaginings can they see themselves living in Coober Pedy, especially for six years. But we couldn't imagine it six years ago living a comfortable life in the suburbs. We investigated working in an ex-pat church in Tanzania or Amman Jordan with CMS but finally felt God's leading to Coober Pedy with BCA. I'm not even sure if I had heard about Coober Pedy before going there. I definitely didn't know what state it was in!

Geoff was commissioned on 31 July 2012 by John Stead who had only been Bishop of Willochra for a very short time. Numbers were small but people were welcoming. What were we in for?

“People asked whether we had chosen to come here or been sent,” says Geoff with a smile. “It is indeed a very unique place. Ministry here is quite challenging and yet there are also amazing opportunities everywhere every day.”



Geoff conducts a service in the Catacomb Church

Some of the challenges:

- There are few people resources at church to support ministry ideas. Some possibilities for ministry would be so easy to achieve but there isn't anyone who can stand with you. There are good people at church but often their jobs are so demanding they have little more to give after hours.
  - Friends are made but they move away. This is a constant reality and locals are quite hardened to it. One Christian man said openly that he doesn't get close to the ministers because they leave every four years. Many people needing support don't have local family or friends.
  - Living in a fish bowl where it is 5 ½ hours to the nearest town.
  - Not being a South Australian! We take for granted the connections we can have with people being from the same state. When a teacher from school said her partner had just moved to Coober from Penong, I thought he had moved from Malaysia! (No that's Penang!)
  - Being 2000 kms from family has meant we have missed special occasions. As we write our son and daughter-in-law are being commissioned to go and live in East Asia long-term. How we would love to be there!
- So why stay six years? Because the opportunities are huge.

[Coober Pedy] is indeed a very unique place. Ministry here is quite challenging and yet there are also amazing opportunities everywhere every day

Continued over...

## The faithful at the Catacomb Church



Every day there are people to rub shoulders with who are at all different stages of considering Christ. Some are:

- tourists coming to see an underground church...thousands of them each year
- long-term locals who have known many of the previous ministers at the Catacomb Church (what seeds has God already planted?)
- Sri Lankans or Indians here working to get their residency visas (so far away from home; such a different world they have come to live in)
- church members with a great variety of Christian understandings
- local kids swimming in the pool with us or attending the Scripture Assembly each term
- young mums with babies stuck at home in their dugouts because there is nothing much happening for them
- struggling adults who need physical, emotional and spiritual assistance
- youth groups passing through town and using our facilities for the night
- friends of friends popping in to meet us and we show them through our church and dugout
- Nomads who come to help or the Salvation Army truck on its way to the Aboriginal lands delivering furniture for sale. They come and worship with us on a Sunday.

The list could go on and on.

Our church has been full of 80 Year 10 kids from Marrara Christian School in Darwin as they come through on their annual excursion. Last week we had 15 people attend.

The big challenge of ministry in Coober Pedy has been not to look at numbers but instead to look at opportunities and when we do that it is difficult to leave Coober Pedy.

*Tracey Piggott*

**Geoff and Tracey left Coober Pedy on 16 April to take up a position at Kiama Anglican as a job share – three days each. They are very grateful for your support over the past six years.**

# Sowing the seeds in Ceduna

## Ceduna, South Australia

**Total population 1850**

**Indigenous population 415**

Set on the south coast of South Australia, on the Eyre Highway heading to Perth, Ceduna is a vibrant, small community. In the past, it has been a centre of BCA-supported ministry and former Field Staff Barry and Avril Luke currently serve at the Anglian church there.

Kathie and I travelled to Ceduna to assist Pastor Max Wright and his wife Naomi with their Easter services.

Our first meeting took place on Friday morning. It was good to see 50+ people in attendance. Those gathered were from New South Wales, Kalgoorlie WA, Port Augusta, Adelaide, as well as Ceduna locals. It was great to celebrate communion with those present and to encourage them to stay the course of following Jesus as we await His second coming.

Over the weekend three people were given the opportunity to speak. I spoke at the morning services, Pastor Leon Heyward preached at the night services and Kathie spoke at a ladies' gathering.

While numbers on the first morning were small, by the evening numbers had swelled to around 100+ people. The first two meetings took place in Ceduna itself and the Saturday gatherings took place in an Aboriginal community called Koonibba. Koonibba is a wonderful little community 40 kilometres west of Ceduna. As we met for services people travelled from Ceduna to attend. The little hall was full to capacity.

One of the highlights of the trip was the number of women at the ladies' meeting. We estimate there must have been around 60 ladies in attendance. There was singing, testimonies as well as a Bible talk. It was really good to see people leave the meeting encouraged.

On Sunday morning I spoke on the purposes of God. We considered that we are all made in the image of God and that sometimes we don't reflect that image very well. That morning about 30 people recommitted their lives to Christ.

Please pray that the Word that was preached will not return void. Pray that it will reap a harvest in the lives of all of those who attended.

*Neville Naden*

The ladies' meeting at the Ceduna Easter Gathering in Koonibba



We considered that we are all made in the image of God and that sometimes we don't reflect that image very well. That morning about 30 people recommitted their lives to Christ

# Christmas miracle of the outback

**The great Australian outback is something to be experienced; it has an unusual beauty about it that stretches from north to south and east to west – from sand dunes to the Mitchell Plains, from the mud holes and mulga scrub of the channel country through to the aridness of the Simpson Desert. When the sun rises above the region and sets in the west one can't but marvel at how awesome our God is.**

God was in the day in so many ways, what more can we do than say: "Praise the Lord!"

But while there is beauty there is also danger; heat can drain you without warning, snakes are deadly and temperatures can be extreme.

On Sunday 17 December 2018 we completed our morning service in Longreach and prepared to head southwest to conduct a Christmas service at Jundah. It was particularly hot, hovering around 42 degrees celsius so I packed extra water, something I normally wouldn't do. I also did another strange thing; I checked under the bonnet of the All Wheel Drive to ensure water levels were good. All seemed to be in order.

We set out on our 460 kilometre round trip to conduct a service which would have roughly three to six people in attendance. The road is narrow – one lane of sealed road at best, which means you need to put two wheels in the grass if a car comes in the opposite direction. If it is a truck you get right off the road and wait for it to pass.

Several times before we reached half way we needed to put the wheels in the grass to allow other vehicles to pass safely and it was on one of these occasions I heard a bang. We hadn't hit anything but it was enough to make me wonder what had happened.

The aridness near where we broke down





At the half way point there is a rest area in the middle of nowhere. After using the amenities I saw something on the ground and as I looked down I noticed liquid running out of the car. Was it just the air-conditioner or something from the radiator or worse, was it fuel?

I jumped in and started up the car. It seemed to go ok and the temperature was steady, so we decided to drive on. I knew that 60 kilometres away was the village of Stonehenge and I'd be able to use a phone there. As we pressed on I couldn't help but notice a smear appearing on the back window, in addition the fuel gauge was going down at a reasonable rate. It didn't look good.

We made it to Stonehenge and I pulled up at the pub. I spoke to Frank, the publican who looked under the bonnet while I started the car. He got me to shut it down straight away – fuel was going everywhere.

It didn't look like we'd get to Jundah. And how would we get the car home, let alone ourselves?

Frank gave us the good news, not the 'Jesus Christ Good News', but good news anyway. This little village in the middle of nowhere with a population less than 50 has

a RACQ depot (Royal Automobile Club of Queensland)! And it was right next door to the pub.

We told Geoff and Judy our predicament and they were amazing. They loaned us their car to travel to Jundah to conduct the service and organised for our vehicle to be towed to Emerald. When we arrived back at Stonehenge we had dinner in the pub and again Geoff and Judy loaned us their car to drive home.

So, where is the miracle in all this? 1. God kept us safe – being a diesel vehicle it could have blown up at any time because of the extreme heat. 2. Unusually we had plenty of water on board. 3. There was a RACQ depot – Geoff and Judy were home on a Sunday and willing to help us get to Jundah – matter of fact they had an urgency that we get there. 4. We were able to arrive home by 10.30pm that night. 5. We were able to witness to Geoff and Judy (RACQ), Frank and Stella (Publicans).

God was in the day in so many ways, what more can we do than say: "Praise the Lord!".

*Graeme Liersch*



The culprit – Broken fuel filter



Stonehenge, Central West Queensland

# Raising BCA's profile in Far NQ to reach Australia for Christ

**"Who is BCA?" was the frequently asked question put to Julie and me at the Queensland Tropics Keswick Convention in Atherton over the Easter weekend. After a brief explanation, many enquirers were very impressed with BCA's ministry, its longevity and equally surprised that they had never heard of it.**

Over the three days, many conversations ensued at the Bush Church Aid display table and a considerable number of people subscribed to *The Real Australian* and Prayer Notes as well as enewsletters and daily email prayer notes.

One lady named Ann was particularly excited to see BCA represented at this long-running (58th) Convention. She was Bush Church Aid Field Staff in Normanton in the 1970s, and returned to our table the next day with a treasured copy of *The Real Australian* from 1980 that featured her

work there. A mother and daughter came to the BCA display table on the Saturday to give to us a large airtight container filled with homemade slice (lovingly made the night before), muesli bars and fruit. They explained that they had been in Roxby Downs when Ian and Glenda McGrath were there as BCA Field Staff and were deeply appreciative of the McGraths' care of them during that time. The generous food gift was their way of showing their thanks to Bush Church Aid.

This interdenominational convention attracts around 300 people from near and far and features both Australian and international speakers. It has a special focus on families and there were many young families and young people in attendance.

BCA was one of this year's four mission partners and along with a display. I also had the opportunity to give a 15 minute presentation from the platform and speak





Julie speaks to an interested convention attendee at the BCA stall

with the youth for 40 minutes.

A number of people and couples explained that they were exploring their options for Christian service in their impending retirement. They included a Baptist couple from Townsville who are trained counsellors. The husband currently counsels Baptist pastors. It was a timely opportunity for them to hear about the important ministry of BCA Nomads and be encouraged to consider using their expertise and experience. It is not difficult to imagine how helpful they would be getting alongside BCA Field Staff and the people in the churches they lead.

Only God knows the fruit that will come from this weekend for BCA and the Kingdom. Certainly, many North and Far North Queensland Christians of all ages from numerous denominations, churches and backgrounds now know that remote, rural and outer regional Australia is a vast mission field. They know that God is concerned about 'the bush' and its people

knowing the love and truth of Jesus and that through BCA, God is reaching them for Christ one town, one mining camp, one island, one Indigenous community, one precious person at a time.

How many other Christians haven't heard these things? How many might partner with us by praying, giving and going, if only they knew? Will you resolve to be an ambassador for BCA, taking every opportunity to tell Christians you meet about this mission field and their opportunity to join in? Dear BCA supporter, along with personally telling others about Jesus, will you tell other believers about His mission in 'the bush', so that through their support, many more people will be reached for Christ?

Julie and I often speak of the immense privilege that it is to represent both Jesus and BCA to others. May you experience this privilege for yourself.

*David Rogers-Smith*

# 123 Café – a fresh expression of faith

**Rich and Julie Lanham's 123 Café ministry has been in operation for two years now – empowering young people in the community and providing a place of spirituality. The Lanhams are concluding their time as BCA Field Staff. Julie recalls their early days and explains where they are at now:**

When we first moved to Sale in 2012 Rich identified that there needed to be more spaces where young people could learn skills to make them job ready. He started looking at buildings and quickly found that to rent the type of building needed was between \$20,000 and \$50,000 a year. Rich spoke to a local man who had a vacant building in the same street as St Paul's Cathedral. He liked our idea and let us have the building rent free for five years. It was just amazing.

The project took a while to open because the building, which hadn't been used in five years, was quite dilapidated. This proved to be a blessing in disguise because of the people who were involved in getting it ready. People from within and outside the church gave of their time and money to get 123 up and running. A lot of young people came through the local school and TAFE. They now come in and say: 'I remember when I scraped that wall or cleaned that table'.

We opened the café in 2016 using a sustainable model so we didn't have to rely on government funding. We connected with the local state high school, Sale College, and have a successful program running – up to 10 students work in the café each day. These students have been identified as kids who need to be engaged in a different way. They learn how to make coffee and relate to customers.

The 123 Café opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am – 2pm. The kids come to help during the first and third periods of each day. Some of these kids need extreme love and care when they come to us, even the noise of the coffee machine upsets them. We work with and alongside them and the program has been really successful – some of these kids even come back in the holidays to volunteer.

The café has also helped those in the community, particularly women, who need to get a job and are insecure about joining the workforce. A few women have come to get their confidence up. One lady has since got a job and I was one of her referees!

We connected with the local state high school, Sale College, and have a successful program running – up to 10 students work in the café each day



Rich and Julie Lanham at 123 Café – photo courtesy of Gippsland Times.

123 also runs a community breakfast each Tuesday, hosts the local breastfeeding association once or twice a month, has run an open mic night and had women come and run a health and well-being night. The RAAF base is even renting the space to host a community event. We really encourage groups to come up with their own ideas and use the space.

The council identified that there was a demographic of women over 70 who are often widowed and lonely. They asked a friend of mine to come up with an idea to engage with these women. Her idea was a knit and natter group – this is held at 123 after the café has closed for the day. We provide tea, coffee and cakes and up to 30 ladies come each week and they're not all over 70 – one of my workers attends and she is 28!

We have more plans for 123 and our next idea is to host a community meal one night a week. We would invite people from the RAAF base and older people who don't have family around. It would be a real family meal – you may not have family in Sale but you can sit with someone who could be your grandma or aunty. This will be another way of reaching out as a fresh expression of faith.

### *Julie Lanham*

*Rich and Julie were recently featured in the Gippsland Times and on the WIN TV news. We wish them God's continued blessing as they reach out to the local Sale community.*

# Nomads lend a hand



Elizabeth and Peter Bell

**BCA Nomads provide an invaluable service to Field Staff right across the country – from assisting with cleaning or painting to joining in church services and events. Earlier this year Elizabeth and Peter Bell travelled to Hay and Kangaroo Island. Their willingness to lend a hand and Peter’s expertise in organs proved a valuable asset to both congregations.**

“One of the delights of being a Nomad is meeting beautiful, faithful people,” says Elizabeth. “On our journey towards Kangaroo Island in early February we were able to worship with the congregation of St Paul’s in Hay. As the Caspersons were away one lady led the Sunday service and read a prepared sermon. They had planned to sing hymns with the help of a CD but Peter offered to play their small electronic organ, which delighted them.”

The Bells arrived on Kangaroo Island in mid-February and having already arranged to meet Brad and Jo Henley, knocked on their door and enjoyed a cuppa with them. While showing the Bells where to park their camper and plug into power, Brad mentioned a problem with the church

**One of the delights of being a Nomad is meeting beautiful, faithful people**

organ. After setting up camp Peter went to investigate the issue.

“Soon after we arrived I found the electronic organ was in an almost unplayable state,” says Peter. “Four out of the 11 octaves did not sound, and there were a few other minor problems. I partially dismantled the organ. The problem was obvious in general, but I did not have suitable test equipment to make a detailed diagnosis. I found and ordered a suitable diagnostic tool from a Sydney-based company – one that would be useful for me back in Sydney as well.”

During their few weeks on the Island Peter was determined to sort out the issue with the organ while Elizabeth cleaned the windows in the hall and helped out with mainly music. Both Peter and Elizabeth did some gardening, joined in the church services and Bible Study.

It was to be a long wait for the organ. Brad played guitar at the first Sunday service that the Bells were on Kangaroo Island and Peter played Brad’s electronic keyboard at another two.

“The first problem arose when I saw the email confirming shipping of the diagnostic tool,” says Peter. “It was being sent to my home address in Sydney! So three days after my order was placed and following calls to the shipping company and supplier, the parcel was diverted to Adelaide. Nine days later on 28 February the tracking system said successfully delivered Kingscote SA. The problem was we had not received the parcel. Two days later we found that it was still in Adelaide and on 5 March we got a message saying that it was undeliverable. Finally the package arrived into my hands on 6 March – 16 days after I first ordered



The repaired organ in Kingscote

it. Apparently there is another Peter Bell on Kangaroo Island, and the delivery man took the parcel to him first and was told 'sorry not mine wrong name and address'."

After only a few hours with the long awaited diagnostic tool, and a quick swap of two circuits, half the problems disappeared. Peter then re-wired part of one printed circuit board and fixed all the problems on the manual keyboards. The organ is now quite useable but Peter plans to fix one more part of the problem – "It will take some redesign of a printed circuit board, next trip perhaps."

On their last Sunday on Kangaroo Island (11 March) Peter was able to play the organ at both the Kingscote 9am service and the Penneshaw 11.15am service. After the service Elizabeth and Peter treated the Henley family to lunch!

"We've been greatly blessed by BCA Nomads visits in recent times," says Brad Henley. "We now have a very happy organist as the instrument was in desperate need of costly specialist repair and Peter Bell came to the rescue! Nomads have not just been useful for fixing organs but have blessed us at Bible Studies, in mainly music, at funerals, in fellowship with us, and

contributed to much needed maintenance and repairs in many areas. Thank you BCA Nomad brothers and sisters."

*Elizabeth and Peter Bell with Janine van den Tillaart*

Do you have skills and gifts that you could use for God as a BCA Nomad? Go to [bushchurchaid.com.au/serve](http://bushchurchaid.com.au/serve) or call the BCA office in your region for details of how to play your part.

# From the Archives – Esma Job



Esma Job inside the pharmacy in Ceduna



Esma together with her daughter and a friend outside the pharmacy in Ceduna

**Moving to outback South Australia is a big ask in 2018 but in 1948 it was a huge challenge. Through God's leading Esma Job took on the challenge and became BCA's first pharmacist. She founded the pharmacy in Ceduna in May 1948 to service both the township and the BCA Flying Medical Service which was at the time responsible for all flying doctor work to the west of Port Augusta.**

"I was 22 years old living in Haberfield, Sydney, part of a lively youth group and working in the pharmacy at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital when Graham Delbridge (Chaplain of Youth for the Sydney Diocese) told me that BCA was looking for a pharmacist," says Esma.

The pharmacy work in Ceduna was previously done by the BCA medico Roy Gibson and his wife. After being bitten by a death adder Roy's kidneys were permanently damaged and he needed extra help.

"It was interesting work and much the same as home but it was difficult in some ways," Esma says. "As well as doing stuff for the outstations up to 100 miles away, I was doing the regular work of a normal town pharmacist. Supplies came in every fortnight on the 'Yandra' – a ship from Adelaide. You could also get things on the aircraft that came in twice a week but sometimes they would offload the supplies if they got extra passengers."

A week after Esma arrived the pharmacy was set up in an empty shop on the main street so it could serve the Ceduna district as well. Esma, together with the help of a good friend, packed hundreds of bottles of powders, pills and mixtures into packing cases, put them on a trailer and moved them 1.4 miles down the street to the new shop. Esma had hardly put the boxes inside



when the first patients began to arrive with their prescriptions.

"I was left searching through case after case for each ingredient, dispensing lotions and mixtures on improvised packing cases. Life for that first week was very busy, getting things straight and working on a packing case amidst sawdust and shavings, and sometimes thinking rather humorously of conditions in a certain sanitised city dispensary," says Esma. Things soon settled down and according to Esma the pharmacy was bright, with new cupboards, counter and linoleum and compared favourably with any city dispensary.

Esma had been working in Ceduna for six years when BCA sent out a second pilot – Macarthur Job (Mac) and very soon there was romance in the air. He arrived in 1954 and they were married by Tom Jones (BCA Organising Missioner) on 25 February 1955 at St Oswald's Haberfield – the church where Esma grew up.

"It was a whirlwind romance and the locals took a lively interest," says Esma. "I still have about 30 letters townspeople sent us when we got engaged."

Esma details many highlights from her time in Ceduna including the opening of the radio base. This was such a blessing as it meant that people in the outback had access to medical help at the end of a telephone. She was also there when the then Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, The Most Revd Howard Mowll, opened the radio base. Esma was an assistant organist and Mac was a lay reader at St Michael and All Angels' Church during their time there. Esma also led the local Girl Guides.

In 1958 the Jobs left Ceduna as there was only one plane and two pilots. "I had one child when we left Ceduna, says Esma.



Mac Job

"We went to Merimbula in New South Wales where Mac flew for the fisheries. We never re-joined as BCA Field Staff but have been supporters ever since."

*Janine van den Tillaart*

Photos courtesy of the late Mac Job and BCA Archives.

# Post & Rails

## WELCOME

### Chris and Wendy

**Thiele** have returned to the BCA family accepting the role of Field Staff on King Island.



They previously served with BCA in the Anglican Parish of West Tamar in Tasmania (2006–2010) and reached out into the area of Beaconsfield following the industrial accident. They were commissioned in Tasmania on 15 April and commenced on King Island on 7 May.

### Ayumi Tamsett

has joined BCA as a Chaplain at Gilgandra High School. Prior to her appointment, Ayumi worked



with Generate teaching Scripture in the school. She continues to teach Scripture classes each week alongside her tasks as chaplain. Ayumi is married to Peter who is the Minister at Gilgandra Presbyterian Church. They have four children – Luka, Micah, Liam and Hannah.

### Debbie Edwards

has commenced work in the BCA SA/NT office as the new administration assistant. She



has a special love for the Northern Territory having moved there with her family as a teenager so her parents could undertake missionary service. She has called Adelaide home for the past 20 years having moved back to South Australia for study.

**Sue Rice** has re-joined the National Office team after an absence of nine years. She previously worked as an Accounts Assistant but is now organising our biennial Field Staff Conference as well as updating our supporter database. Sue and her husband Ray worship at St Alban's Anglican Church Lindfield.



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Luke Collings and Susan Liersch** were ordained in the Anglican Church of Central Queensland in December 2017.



**Jamie Bester** was ordained on 17 February at St David's Cathedral in Hobart.

**Geoff and Tracey Piggott** became first time grandparents in January this year. Their son James and daughter-in-law Sarah welcomed baby Elizabeth 'Betty' Myra on 26 January at RPA in Sydney. James is in his second year at Moore College.



## FAREWELL

After six years in Coober Pedy, **Geoff and Tracey Piggott** have commenced in a pastoral position at Kiama Anglican in New South



Wales. In this job share role Geoff will look after Seniors/Pastoral care and Tracey will look after Children's/Family ministry.

### **Andy and Liz Goodacre**

who started a pioneering ministry in Launceston in 2010 no longer require the support of BCA as their ministry at Barney's in Launceston is now self-funding. Together with their children Olivia and Caitlin they will continue serving their community by being God's missionary people to their local area.



After 25 years of serving BCA in North West Australia, **Les and Jenny Gaulton**

concluded their time as Field Staff at Easter. They served in Leinster, Leonora and Laverton for 10 years before spending the last 15 in Karratha. Les and Jenny have retired to Perth and ask for God's help as they adjust to retirement.



**Rich and Julie Lanham** have concluded their time as BCA Field Staff after 12 years. They first served in

Gilgandra where Rich was BCA's first youth officer. Today they serve in Sale and will continue their roles with the 123 Café and as Chaplain for Gippsland Grammar.



The NSW/ACT Regional Office bid farewell to **Heather Joyce** in late April.

Heather accepted a position at the Wesley Mission in the Sydney CBD.



### **VALE**

**Tom Williams** (25 April 1941 – 3 February 2018) and his wife Carol served with BCA in Paraburdoo (1979–1980), Wickham (1980–1981), Kununurra (1981–1982) and Tennant Creek (1993–1999). Tom went the distance to reach people for the gospel. He even completed a course in stock and station skills so he could have the opportunity to help and chat when he visited stations. Tom is survived by his wife Carol, children Jo, Alice, Elizabeth, Graham, Martin and their families.



**Betty Tierney** (3 January 1925 – 7 February 2018) served as a nurse with BCA in Ceduna, South Australia from 1948–1964. Betty trained at St George District Hospital and upon hearing the need in the bush and after prayer to God felt called to go. She was supposed to be there as a relief nurse for a three month stint but stayed for 16 years. She is survived by her sister Coral and much loved nieces and nephews.



**Joyce Arabella Hayman OAM** (12 January 1923 – 5 April 2018) together with husband Theo (deceased) were



first called to serve God with BCA in 1947. They served in Streaky Bay (1947–1950) and Ceduna (1950–1957) before Theo took on the role of BCA Adelaide/SA representative from 1957–1966. In 1971 Joyce and Theo moved back to Sydney when he took on the role of Federal Secretary of BCA.

Continued over...

# Post & Rails

Throughout her life Joyce was involved in Mother's Union (MU) and in 2011 received an OAM for service to the community. She initiated and coordinated the MU Courts Program, supported the adult migrant service of non-English speaking migrants and the Camperdown Family Crisis Centre. Joyce is survived by her children Rosemary, John, David and Julianne, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I couldn't resist the opportunity to congratulate Pat Williams on reaching 90 years of age. My Father was the Police Officer at Wudinna from 1958–1961.

The matron and nurses at the Wudinna BCA Hospital were good to us too. We attended Bible Study there with Arthur.

My parents, Beth and Jock Turner, both passed away in 2010. Dad was 90 and Mum was 89. This photo was taken in 1960.

Pat may not remember us, but I remember her. Lovely lady and when Arthur did those long trips we all waited to hear of his return.

I think that is why I like to fill my BCA box two or three times a year.

Thanks for the article on Pat and Arthur.

Keep up the good work.

*Beth Morgan  
(nee Turner)*



# Book launched at Anglican Bishops' meeting



Rob Nicholls, Church Relationship Manager, CBM Luke 14 Program; Monica Short, lecturer CSU; Mark Short, National Director, Bush Church Aid; Mrs Jane and Bishop Stuart Robinson, The Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn

*Anglican Churches Engaging with People living with Disabilities* by Monica Short was officially launched at the National Anglican Bishops' Meeting in Canberra on Monday 19 March. The meeting, held in different locations across the country each year, was attended by bishops from all 23 Anglican dioceses of Australia.

BCA partnered with The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, CBM Australia's Luke 14 Program and Charles Sturt University in support of Monica's research which forms part of her PhD.

A PDF copy of the book can be downloaded from the BCA website – [bushchurchaid.com.au/book2](http://bushchurchaid.com.au/book2)

## 2018 Bush Church Aid Victoria Spring Lunches and events

For further information contact the Bush Church Aid Victoria Regional Office on 03 9457 7556 or email [victoria@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:victoria@bushchurchaid.com.au)

### Hear Bruce and Jodi Chapman speak about their ministry with youth and young adults in the Northern Territory:

Saturday 1 September	Take Us to the River Bible Teaching Conference, Mooroopna
Sunday 2 September, 6pm	Greensborough Anglican, Deputation and Preaching
Monday 3 September, 12–2pm	Glen Waverley Anglican Church, Spring Lunch
Tuesday 4 September, 12–2pm	Flora Hill (South East Bendigo), Spring Lunch
Wednesday 5 September 12–2pm	Sandringham, Spring Lunch
Wednesday 5 September, 7pm	Ivanhoe, Youth and Young Adults Dessert and Coffee Meeting
Thursday 6 September 12–2pm	Warragul, Spring Lunch



**My dad is a farmer, and I grew up on a farm, but this is not the reason I love BCA. I love being in the bush, and I find the countless stars at night inspiring, but again this is not the reason I love BCA. I love BCA because of the ministry it enables.**

The apostle Paul tells Timothy that those who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. I wonder what more he might have added regarding those who do ministry in the demanding and difficult circumstances that are experienced by our BCA Field Staff?

I suspect Paul would further increase their honour because he is driven by a passion to see our Lord Jesus Christ glorified in each and every situation! I think Paul's commitment to knowing Christ and making Him known, counting everything else a loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus, means he would be a great fan of the ministry we do as we send people into rural, remote and regional areas in order to make Jesus Christ known.

I write this because it is the reason I am a fan of the Society. I love the fact that BCA sends people into places where the Church is weak, in order to strengthen and encourage my brothers and sisters there. We send people to stand with those who stand alone so that there can be an ongoing witness to Jesus among people who might not otherwise hear of God's love for us.

I only joined the BCA Executive last year, but it has been an easy responsibility to take on. I am encouraged and inspired by the gospel ministry done by our Field Staff, and I am excited by the opportunity to make decisions that help BCA continue our ministry of reaching Australia for Christ.

***Rod Morris***

*Senior Minister St Stephen's Greythorn*

*Member of the BCA Executive and Victorian Regional Committee*

**I love the fact that BCA sends people into places where the Church is weak, in order to strengthen and encourage my brothers and sisters there**

# Donation Form

**Yes, I would like to help share the gospel and provide care to reach Australia for Christ.**

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

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

## I would like to 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 **bushchurchoaid.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 \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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**

