

The Real

bca
bush church aid
Going the distance

autumn
2020

Australian



An overflowing church provides a 'good dilemma' 6
God's service in the outback is never boring! 8

BCA Directory

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I have been fortunate to live in parts of this beautiful land where the autumn colours are magnificent. One particular house I lived in had a claret ash in the front yard that words do not do justice in describing. The deep red of the leaves and the incredible shape of this tree caught my attention every autumn.

Psalms 19 might rightly remind us that the 'heavens declare the glory of God' yet I could mount a strong argument that the claret ash did the same throughout the year as it changed. From the rich red leaves of autumn to the dormant leafless months of winter, to the light green sprouts of spring and the full bloom of summer. Each change spoke not only of God's timing in this world but also pointed me to the glory of the one to whom I was praying.

For many of our Field Staff there is also a change in the air. For those in the northern parts of Australia, with the cooler months comes an increase in tourists and residents who return. Please remember to pray for these Field Staff and churches as numerous programs will be in full swing and increased opportunities will exist to proclaim the glory of God.

Yet there are other changes that should focus our prayers. We pray for a change in those regions still impacted by the drought and specifically pray for a change in the weather and good winter rains. Equally, we continue to pray for those communities who have seen their landscape drastically changed by the summer bushfires.

In many ways, the seasonal changes of the claret ash remind us that not all seasons will be easy. Yet even in what appears to be the lifeless months of winter; new life is waiting to burst forth. Pray that God's Spirit will continue to bring about the necessary change of hearts so that not only the heavens and the claret ash speak of God's glory, but the hearts of this nation will also.

Greg Harris
National Director



Pray that God's Spirit will continue to bring about the necessary change of hearts, so that not only the heavens and the claret ash speak of God's glory, but the hearts of this nation will also

Bush Church Aid's Drought & Disaster Relief Program



2020 has seen the continuation of one of the most severe times of drought in our nation's history and has contributed to the catastrophic bushfires seen in late December and early January.

Bush Church Aid has a public charitable trust established for "the direct relief of sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, disability or helplessness in rural and regional areas of Australia" and/or "to do all things necessary for the achievement of these objects".

It is through this trust that BCA is working with churches to assist them in reaching out and serving their communities. We are currently making funds in this trust available to provide aid and resources used in direct pastoral care and assistance. Examples have included gift cards to be used in a local supermarket, gift/pamper packs for people doing it tough, dog biscuits/food to be distributed to local people, conducting events that contribute

We gave out about 80 slabs of water, food hampers and food vouchers. To our amazement, all of those present for the community dinner stayed on for the Christmas Lessons and Carols Service where they got to hear about the promise of Christmas

to the wellbeing of people affected by disaster, and providing other resources used in pastoral care and assistance.

Churches from across the country, in particular New South Wales, have taken up BCA on its offer of grant money.

In Uralla, on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, the Anglican Church

held a community dinner using funds provided by BCA. Just before Christmas 65 people attended the dinner in the town of Wollun. "We gave out about 80 slabs of water, food hampers and food vouchers," says Vicar Brian Kirk. "To our amazement, all of those present for the community dinner stayed on for the Christmas Lessons and Carols Service where they got to hear about the promise of Christmas. It was a great opportunity for bridge-building. It was a great night!"

Brian tells of many dry dams in the Parish of Uralla with people having to buy water for their domestic use. The cost of providing feed for stock is also becoming very

expensive forcing many to decide whether to keep stock or de-stock altogether.

One family received 17,000 litres of water for domestic use thanks to a grant from BCA's Kirkby Trust. "The family were down to about 15 days of water left in their tank," says Brian. "They are very grateful to BCA and the Uralla Parish for the support."

The Anglican Parish of Macksville, halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, were very grateful for \$2000 which was used to buy 20 x \$100 vouchers to be used at local rural supplies company – Norco. "We became aware that many people were going hungry in order to feed their dogs and animals," says Samantha Bonanno from the Anglican Parish of Macksville. "Many of these people impacted by the fires continue to live on their properties and their own land to be able to care for their animals. The focus of their concern is the welfare of their animals and so this aid targets that particular need."

The vouchers were distributed through local area support hubs ensuring they were given to those who needed it most. The vouchers could be used to purchase fodder, dog food, weed spray and fencing materials.

It is not only financial support that makes a difference to those doing it tough, encouragement goes a long way. Schoolgirl Hannah Connolly who is in Year 7 at St Andrew's Christian College in Wantirna (Victoria) organised for students from Prep to Year 12 to write more than 300 letters of encouragement to farmers. She then contacted BCA Victoria Regional Officer Adrian Lane to see how best to distribute them. These letters have gone to Field Staff in Longreach, Echuca and Narromine to be given out to those who are struggling.

"I remember from my own parish ministry receiving funds after major floods," says BCA National Director Greg Harris. "Those funds not only helped us to bless but better connect with many in our local community. It is also my hope that BCA can continue to play a role long after these disasters no longer feature in the news cycle."

If you know a parish that could benefit from a BCA Drought/Disaster Relief grant please visit www.bushchurcaid.com.au/drought or contact BCA Chief Operating Officer Greg Bridge on 02 9262 5017.

Janine van den Tillaart



Community Dinner in Wollun

An overflowing church provides a 'good dilemma'



What do you do when your family service has filled the church to capacity with no room for growth? You move your service to the hall. Then what do you do when the hall is overflowing? That was the 'dilemma' that faced St George's Bluff Point, and one Assistant Minister/BCA Field Staff Brendan Hurley and Senior Minister Paul Spackman have needed to address.

"Our 9.30 am service used to be in the church building, it's a stunning building which was built in 1935 but on the inside it's not really functional for ministry," explains Brendan. "Halfway through last year we started meeting in the church hall which gave us an extra 20–30 seats and now the hall is full. We have about 80–85 people joining us each Sunday, many who are non-Christians."

While ideally St George's would love to grow the 9.30 am congregation further, they are restricted by their buildings, so this year they are starting a 6 pm service.

So what has encouraged such fantastic growth? "We have really good engagement

with the community, we try to preach the gospel clearly, persuasively & effectively and engage people's world view," says Brendan. "We also aim to make the church a place that makes sense to people and where they feel welcomed the very moment they step in the door."

"I have a ministry friend in Perth who took a bunch of students to the TAB and told them to place a bet. They all found it overwhelming – so many screens and confusing pieces of paper. My friend then stopped them. He wanted them to remember – this is what it's like every time a non-Christian comes into a church. It's so overwhelming. 'Where do I sit? What are all these books? What is this book in the Bible called Matthew?'. It is our plan to make church accessible for people so they can understand what is going on from the moment they walk in the door."

The 9.30 am service is designed to encourage families. Initially the service wasn't built for the more boisterous kids and for non-Christians that was a bit of deal-breaker. So the Bluff Point team have made the kids feel part of the service with a visual



and interactive kids' talk in church every Sunday and a revitalised Sunday School. "We've got more people involved and are benefiting from their ideas, perspective & energy," says Brendan.

Another change at St George's has been the introduction of a revive prayer meeting every Wednesday morning at 7 am. For half an hour around nine faithful people pray for Geraldton, St George's and the other churches in town. They pray non-Christians would keep coming and that more would come. "We believe that God honours our prayers and that these prayers bring glory to His name," says Brendan. "It aligns us to His will and gives us love for the lost. It is a special time and it's a good health indicator. If you can get people to a prayer meeting you know the church is firing."

Brendan's wife Laura who boasts skills in photography, web design and event management, has also had her hand in

encouraging growth in the church. She's built a new website (stgeorgesbluffpoint.com.au), increased the church's presence

on Facebook, is meeting with a non-Christian to study the Bible, and last year ran a women's night which 87 ladies attended.

"We are really stoked with the growth at St George's," says Brendan. "We have not only seen the church grow but non-Christians are coming and they are inviting their friends. Last year one lady who started coming to church after having a miscarriage became a Christian. She came once and kept

coming, we had her over for dinner, she told us her story and she's turned to Jesus. It's so exciting seeing God work through His powerful gospel. Praise God for all He has done!"

Janine van den Tillaart

We have really good engagement with the community, we try to preach the gospel clearly, persuasively & effectively and engage people's world view

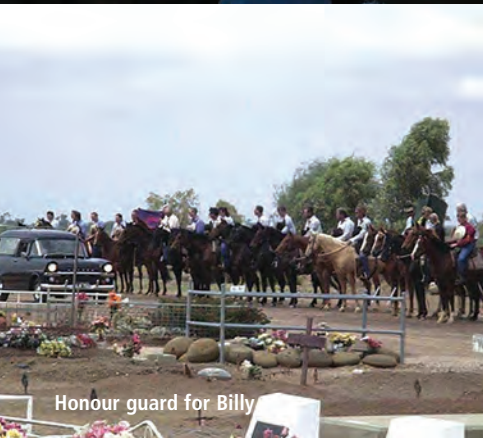
God's service in the outback is never boring!



Dennis & Lois receiving an Australia Day Award in 2007



Dennis officiates a wedding on an outback station



Honour guard for Billy

After nearly 10 years as Honorary Tasmanian Regional Officer, Dennis Quinn retired from the position at the end of 2019. Here Dennis & Lois recall the time they spent on the Field with Bush Church Aid.

Our first association with BCA was in 1998 when we undertook a three-month locum in Kununurra and on our arrival we discovered many encouraging letters from BCA supporters.

In 2000 we were approached to consider being appointed Priest-in-Charge in Winton, Queensland. We accepted the invitation and moved to Winton early in February 2001. On the morning of our arrival it was 40°C at 8:30 am and our dog refused to get out of the air-conditioned car. Thus began seven fruitful years of enjoyable ministry with the people of this dry outback region.

As we look back on this experience our focus is drawn to the people we met and engaged with, both in the church and in everyday life in a small community. There were two main towns – Winton and Boulia along with smaller places that we visited, as well as the pastoral stations in-between. Travel from one to the other was time-consuming. It was 680 km from Winton to Bedourie and the 365 km trip to Boulia was a monthly commitment on a single width bitumen road that was difficult in the wet as you were likely to get bogged once off the bitumen.

It is the people of the region and the relationships that we developed that brought us much joy and a real sense of God's blessing in being with them. Early in our time at Winton we discussed joining local groups so as to build our relationships and our knowledge of the area and the people. It wasn't long before we became

members of several groups such as the local Lions Club, the Corfield & Fitzmaurice Association (one of the original hardware shops that had a tourist display) and the local art gallery. It is in these groups that the locals realised we were ordinary people interested in who they were and what they did, and a number joined us in weekly worship at church.

At the art gallery, Dennis was able to use some of his knowledge of lighting to improve the displays and Lois' organising skills saw her help with changes of material every few months. Dennis also designed the hanging racks for the art and photographic acquisitions that belonged to the gallery.

In August 2001 we were encouraged to participate with the census delivery and collection. Lois walked the town with her bundle of papers and Dennis drove over 2700 kilometres of gravel roads and on one occasion open and shut about 50 gates in one day. He quickly learnt to discuss with the property people the quickest way to find the next station homestead rather than driving back to the road and around the proper way. It was on this initial Census trip that he met a six-year-old who wanted to know – 'where's yer hat mate?' – Mum & Dad were out on the property and he was 'in charge'. It was very sad only three months later to have him die of encephalitis from a local hidden mud bug. His funeral is one we will never forget.

Our first Christmas in Winton brought a request for us to prepare the towns Carols service under the overriding supervision of the local Lions Club. At every town event

up to this time alcohol was sold, but we requested that the bar be shut during the service. This was put to the vote at the Lions Club meeting and it was agreed that there would be no bar operating that night for the first time in many years. The response from the women of the town was very encouraging.

On another occasion, there was a request for a baptism at Corfield which had a local race track, a tennis court, two houses and a pub. A Christmas party for the

locals was arranged at the race track and the baptism was to be held there. We ended up baptising nine children ranging from three months to 11 years. Christmas at Middleton (on the halfway point between Winton and Boulia) where a ramshackled pub is the only habitable dwelling, there was another Christmas party on the 'lawn' beside the pub. About six mums and some children gathered to sing carols and join in a short service, the men stood on the veranda with their beer and listened.

Following this the opal miners

had a spit roast and Dennis was asked to bless the meat, but what they wanted was someone to carve the meat for them!

Baptisms, weddings and funerals tended to draw large gatherings as did special services. For the celebration of the centenary of Federation, we had a joint service at the Catholic Church which we filled (it was newer and had air-conditioning). When a service was arranged on a station property people would come from the surrounding area and make it a full day of sharing

continued page 10...

On the morning of our arrival it was 40°C at 8:30 am and our dog refused to get out of the air-conditioned car. Thus began seven fruitful years of enjoyable ministry with the people of this dry outback region

God's service in the outback is never boring! (continued)



40 year memorial service of one of Australia's worst plane crashes at Nadjayamba (2006)



Baptism at Corfield



Christmas service at Middleton



together and on most occasions between 50 to 100 would participate. One time a wedding was organised for a couple at the bride's parents' station about 120 km from Winton. However, a week prior to the wedding day there was a severe storm which caused 13 creeks to flood between the road and the property. The parents organised a truck to collect the guests from near the road for the drive to the homestead. It was a very lavish affair with an outdoor service where the bride was led by a pet lamb and the reception was held in the shearing shed.

Being involved in community groups and events led to a variety of experiences from leading a memorial service on the anniversary of a serious plane crash to participating in the placement of a new cenotaph at Boulia. We also participated in the first concert of the Queensland Music program held on the site of the original

homestead in the local national park.

Some interesting observations: what do you do with 23,000 litres of molasses or 240,000 bales of hay sent for drought relief? I've also learned how to drive a large forklift and a truck with trailers, run sheepdog trials, guide tourist buses and have shared the gospel at the pub!

Life in God's service is never boring in the outback!

Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life

Matthew 19:29

Dennis & Lois Quinn

What is BCA doing in the midst of these difficult times?

Over the summer of 2019/20 there has been continuing drought and many areas have been badly affected by bushfires. This is not new news.

The question that arises out of this is what is BCA doing in the midst of these difficult times? There are a number of ways to answer that question. One of the key aspects of BCA's response in these situations is that we continue to provide ministry and support long after the news cycle has moved on. BCA isn't a first responder. There are others that do that well. What BCA does is to seek to deliver ministry that is relational and happens over a period of time.

BCA has an established process that enables parishes and church organisations to seek financial support so they can reach out to their communities. The process is quick and easy, with just a one-page form to complete. BCA doesn't go out to rural and regional areas and try to determine how to provide support or who support should be provided to. We rely on existing churches to know their communities and decide

how to best provide support. We have had applications from parishes that have wanted to supply gift cards for groceries and pet food, hampers, events, water, bedding and clothing (see article on page 4). We also expect to receive applications to assist with the funding of community chaplains to work in bushfire impacted areas.

The 2019 End of Year Appeal titled *Dry, Dusty but Hopeful* saw a terrific response from BCA supporters. A total of \$280,000 was raised, well over our target amount. Much of this money went into the Kirkby Trust, which has the purpose of providing relief of suffering and distress. Donations to the Kirkby Trust are tax-deductible. We are so grateful for your generosity in this way but it is important to note that donations to the Kirkby Trust can only be used in limited ways. Normal donations go to fund general ministry and can be used in a much wider range of ways, and support Field Staff in all sorts of locations and circumstances.

Greg Bridge
Chief Operating Officer



Kangaroo Island after the devastating fires

A true heart for BCA



The late Phyllis Collie (20 August 1920–2 October 2019) had a true heart for BCA and in particular for Wilcannia where she and her husband Bob served from 1986 to their retirement in 1993. Retirement did not mean sitting still though and together they did deputations for BCA and locum work across the country. They even returned to Wilcannia to do a locum placement in late 1996. Phyllis was well known for her strong faith, graciousness and hospitality.

When applying to serve with BCA in 1986 Phyllis was required to supply four references. These references, found in the BCA Archives in Sydney, paint a picture of a well-regarded woman of faith. One referee from a former parish said “Phyllis is a most gracious lady, a wonderful helpmate to her husband. I feel their time at Forest Hill was a dual ministry – a husband and wife team working together. The Vicarage at Forest Hill was a second home for many folks, mainly because of the friendliness of Phyllis and her

love, care and concern for people.”

This care, concern, teamwork and hospitality are things that daughter Angela remembers most fondly about her mother: “Mum and Dad complemented each other and formed an effective team. This was most evident in their last parish in outback New South Wales. Together they visited over three hundred sheep stations. They dined in opal miner’s dugouts and Mum conducted religious instruction classes over school-of-the-air.”

Phyllis and Bob would write regular letters to fill in friends and supporters about their work in Wilcannia as well as exciting news of engagements, marriages and grandchildren. Reading through these letters you find stories of encouragement but also ones that highlight the vast distances and difficulties faced when they travelled through the outback. “We can only praise God for the way He has enabled us to endure the rigours of outback travel, the heat and frustrations of the somewhat unstructured nature of our ministry....



It was a great privilege for me to have Tibby share her story with me. Her life was one of great sadness and suffering, but Tibby's simple faith in a God who cared for her was the strength of her life

We never tire of this country, there is a harshness about it, but ever-changing colours, the beauty of the sunsets, especially when reflected in the flood waters – the wildlife and vegetation all adapted to survive the extremes of heat and drought.”

In Wilcannia they ministered to people of all denominations, in towns and on sheep stations and even in the hospital.

Phyllis befriended an Aboriginal woman, Tibby Briar, who spent the last two years of her life in Wilcannia District Hospital. Tibby was a woman of strong faith even through numerous health issues and struggles over her lifetime. She shared her faith with everyone she met. Phyllis visited Tibby in Hospital and got to know her well. When Tibby asked Phyllis to write her story, they spent many hours talking together, making notes and recording Tibby's memories on tape. In 1989 a book on Tibby's life was published and at the time Phyllis said “It was a great privilege for me to have Tibby share her story with me. Her life was one of great sadness and suffering, but Tibby's

simple faith in a God who cared for her was the strength of her life.” Tibby Briar died on 11 August 1989 days after she checked Phyllis' final draft of her story. Her final words in the book were: “This oxygen 'ere is not going to save me. God gives me life. It's His breath in me and my heart. He's the one who breathes in my life and spirit. I'm not afraid to die...until the day He takes me, I'm ready.”

The great faith of Tibby and that of Phyllis continues to be an inspiration to those who knew and loved them. Son Michael writes: “Working as a nurse and midwife made Mum streetwise. Nevertheless, she gave everyone the benefit of the doubt. I know my mother prayed for me every day. When I finish the race, I hope that, like my mother, I will be content. And thankful. Ready to meet my Saviour. And counting my blessings.”

Janine van den Tillaart

New partnership is an answer to prayer



Two of BCA's key priorities are to equip local leaders for fruitful ministry and to support ministry by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This year one of the ways that BCA is fulfilling those two priorities is by partnering with Lucie Wheeler as she undertakes theological study.

I am 18 years old and live in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales and have been a Christian for five years. I am of Aboriginal descendant from the Darug clan in Katoomba and proud to be so. I have lived in the Blue Mountains my whole life and love living in the bush, surrounded by wildlife. It is my natural place to be. I come from a non-Christian family which can be hard especially as I try to explain what I want to do with my life.

I was so thankful that Uncle Neville (BCA Indigenous Ministry Officer Neville Naden) came to Holy Trinity Wentworth Falls last November and spent time with me and our senior minister, Jon Guyer. To spend time with someone like Uncle Neville and to get to know him is such a blessing.

My plan is to train in youth ministry to pass on the good news of Jesus to others who haven't grown up knowing what He has done for us. That is, dying on the cross for our sins so that we can have eternal life with God.

I am very thankful for BCA agreeing to partner with me in my study this year. I am thankful because this means that I can travel to Kununurra with our church in July to do a week-long mission, as well as study the online Diploma of Biblical Theology with Moore College. For me, it is a prayer answered, as I am able to study and work with Holy Trinity ministering to the youth in our church as well as serving the community.

I pray that during the year I am able to help people get to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. I pray that my work in the church might glorify God. I pray that your support and partnership might help me to do this in everything I do.

Lucie Wheeler



Happy Birthday to everyone born in March, April and May! All of us at BCA for Kids wish you God's richest blessings on your special day.

March

Alvoli A
Merrie-Lee M
Marcus M
Heidi T
Sienna W
Owen M
Toby S
Ayla C
Hamish M
Kirby M
Drew E
Cooper C
Matilda L
Nathan R
Isobel L
Genevieve M
Hamish C

April

Eli H
Ashlyn C
Sophie BG
Gabrielle D
Desmond L
Jonathon T
Gem T
Dustin F
Jane S
Archie N
Lara T

May

Michael A
Emmanuelle M



Be still and know that I am God



**He says,
"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be honoured among the nations.
I will be honoured in the earth."
Psalm 46:10 (NIRV)**

Have you ever felt worried or nervous? I wonder if you have ever felt unsure of the future or even a little scared about something going wrong? I know I have! In fact, after talking to lots and lots of people, kids and adults included, I have learned that everyone feels worried or even nervous sometimes. It's actually a normal part of life and is our body's way of helping us to understand and get ready for a dangerous situation. It would be normal to feel worried if you saw a lion crossing the road and coming toward you, your body would tell you to be worried (fair enough!) and that extra bit of nervousness would help you to run away from the danger. But sometimes we can feel worried for a bit longer than that, even when we don't understand what we feel worried about. God speaks to us in His word about that kind of worry and He reminds us to "Be Still". Imagine a stormy ocean with waves tossing all about, the waves are really big and they keep coming, the water is going high and low and it is really loud, then imagine it all goes still and calm, like a lake. That is a picture of what

God is saying, He is reminding us that we can be calm, even if our worry feels like a stormy sea, we can be still just like the lake you imagined, and we can be calm for a really good reason. We can be calm because He is God and we are not. He is in control, He is the boss of all things and He is very, very good, He loves us and He is with us, that is who He is. In fact, when Jesus came to earth He was named Immanuel because it means 'God with us'. So even His name reminds us that He is with us and that is a very good reason to be calm. I hope this helps at times when you might feel nervous or worried. Remember talking to your friends and trusted grown-ups is really important too, they can get us the help we need if and when we need it.

Here is a prayer you might like to pray to ask God for help.

Dear God,

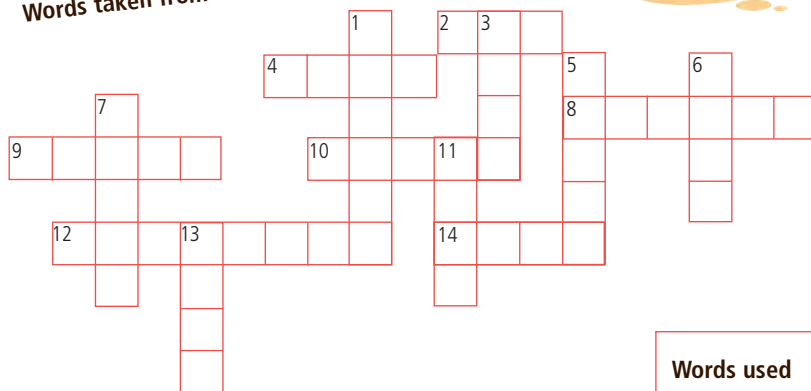
Sometimes I feel worried or nervous about Help me to remember that even though it seems really big, you are even bigger and I can trust you with my fears. Thank you that you are with me, thank you that you are good and you are always working for my good. Amen.

Rachel Dirks
BCA for Kids Coordinator

Easter crossword

He is not here.
He has risen!

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. Heavenly beings
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb
10. The colour that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

Words used

early
week
dark
stone
angels
white
woman
cry
gardener
Mary
tomb
father
rise
dead

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR VERY OWN BANJO BILBY!

A plush Banjo Bilby is available for just \$15 from the BCA online shop or the National Office.
bushchurchof.com.au
(02) 9262 5017



I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF BCA FOR KIDS

If you are between the ages of 8 & 12, simply fill out the slip below and return to:

BCA FOR KIDS Level 7, 37 York Street Sydney NSW 2000 OR

Email your info to: BCA4Kids@bushchurchaid.com.au

Every member receives a welcome letter, a welcome certificate and a cap.

Name: _____

Parent/Caregiver: _____

Age: _____ Birthday: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Boy or Girl: _____

Email: _____

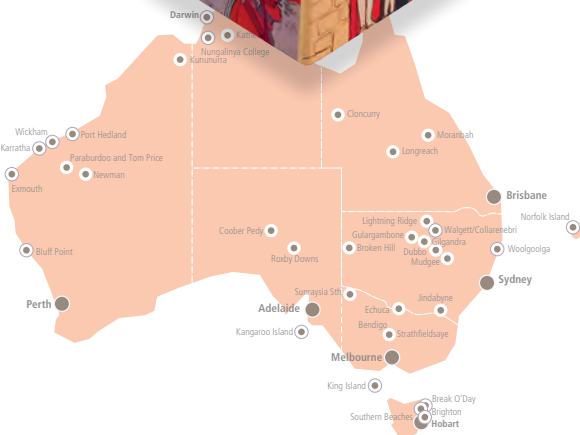
What church do you go to? _____

BCA MONEY BOXES

Kids give great support to BCA, and every dollar you put in the box is a dollar across Australia telling people about Jesus! Thanks to you wonderful young supporters!



bca
for
kids



Baptist youth head to Newman



Early Monday morning 23 September 2019 a group of seven young people from New Peninsula Baptist Church on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria set off on a 10 day trip to Newman in Western Australia.

The aim was to see how God is moving outside of our own context, to learn more about remote Australia and to practically support our brothers and sisters in Christ in any way they needed.

Whilst in Newman we stayed at Newman Anglican Church thanks to the hospitality of BCA Field Staff Roger Kyngdon and his wife Amanda.

One of the mottos of our group is that we are 'blessed to be a blessing'. At New Peninsula we have been investing in building up our youth to serve in the band, on sound and in visual technology during our Sunday services. It was awesome to be able to have them bless the congregation of Newman with live music at their Sunday service, something which I understand they haven't had for over two years. Those of us not musically gifted were able to give Amanda a week off by running Sunday School for the kids.

During the week we represented the

church in the community by providing the meal for Night Fields, an initiative that the Police have started in Newman for youth in the community. This event happens each week where they have games and a football match before a free dinner for anyone who comes along. We were able to prepare and serve dinner to the 40–50 youth that came.

We also supported the leaders that run the Scripture art class, aimed at primary school students, on a Wednesday afternoon.

The youth were able to participate and share their own testimonies about baptism to the kids, as many of them had never witnessed one.

After some seven hours in the air and over 30 hours driving in the dusty desert of WA we all returned safe and sound to the Peninsula. This trip will definitely stay with these young people for the rest of their lives. I'd like to personally thank BCA for contributing to our trip but also for all the work they, its Field Staff and

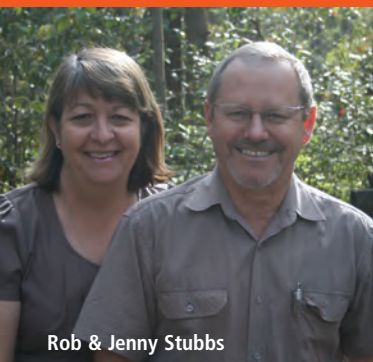
volunteers do to support remote churches and ministers.

Julia Fulton

**Youth and Young Adults Coordinator
New Peninsula Baptist Church**

It was awesome to be able to have them bless the congregation of Newman with live music at their Sunday service, something which I understand they haven't had for over two years

Vale Robert Stubbs



Rob & Jenny Stubbs



Mogo face paint ceremony



Helping out at the Tibbooburra church



Dusty Boots puppet show at Menindee

Former Dusty Boots Program Coordinator Robert Stubbs went to be with his Lord and Saviour on 11 October 2019.

Born on 12 September 1956, Robert became a Christian during confirmation classes at St Thomas' South Granville. During his 63 years on this earth he led a varied and interesting life.

Robert started his career as a carpenter and joiner who was involved with youth and CEBS groups at St Thomas' and St Paul's Dellwood. His annual holidays were spent on Beach Mission at Bermagui and Stockton. He married Jenny on 6 May 1978.

At the beginning of 1979, Robert and Jenny entered Church Army College and while studying Robert was appointed as the Youth Worker to Denistone East Marsfield Anglican. During this time he also accepted a role on the Executive of CEBS. After college, he worked with Anglican CareForce and Charlton Boys Home as a detached youth worker and in 1983 took on a manager position at Youthworks Camira Conference Centre, Gerroa.

By mid-1984, Robert decided to continue his trade and returned to Dundas. He secured a teacher position at Blacktown TAFE and gained his Diploma of Teaching.

In 1989 the Stubbs moved to Springwood in the Blue Mountains. Robert embraced the community by getting involved with Blue Mountains Grammar School, Springwood Baptist & Winmalee Anglican Churches and the Falconbridge Rural Fire Brigade. He established the Youth Street mobile Café with FUSION, was involved with the 'Walk to Emmaus' retreats, worked in his own business as a builder and then as a manager for Mission Australia.

Robert's desire to be involved in educating young people resulted in his appointment as a Design and Technology Teacher at St Paul's Grammar School, Cranebrook in 1998. He used his creative and practical woodworking skills and was able to talk to young people about Jesus. His own desire for education grew and he converted his Diploma of Teaching to a Bachelor of Education. And after many years of external study, he completed a Diploma of Theology. Using his ministry and teaching skills, Robert would

become part of leading and directing Anglican Youthworks HSC Study Camps.

With a love of rural Australia, travelling, an interest in volunteering and involving young people, Robert and Jenny came to establish the Dusty Boots Program with Bush Church Aid in 2007. Going out during school holidays, they would take students to Tibbooburra, Broken Hill, Menindee, Mogo, and Wickham WA. Today this program continues to run across Australia. Year 11 students from numerous schools as well as Youthworks College go out to serve local rural communities through maintenance, gardening, kids' programs, music and outreach ministry.

Taking a Dusty Boots group to Wickham resulted in the call to ordination by Bishop David Mulready to serve in the cray fishing town of Dongara and the grain town of Mingenew. Robert was appointed as Minister-in-Charge of Dongara Mingenew Anglican Church in 2010 and was also appointed to the Board of Geraldton Grammar School. During this time he continued to promote and go on Dusty Boots trips.

Sadly, in October 2013, Robert was diagnosed with prostate cancer and returned to Sydney for surgery and treatment. In September 2014, he received the all-clear and was able to return to Dongara until April 2015 when the cancer metastasised to his bones. He retired to Gerringong and left full-time ministry. Despite having regular hormone therapy treatments, tests and scans, Robert continued with a full program – preaching and leading services at Gerringong, being on call as the Rural Fire Service Chaplain for the Illawarra region, serving as a locum in Kununurra &

Shellharbour and was on the Board of The Illawarra Grammar School. In September 2018, when all treatments were exhausted, Robert went on palliative care at home in Gerringong and spent his final days in David Berry Hospital.

Robert is survived by wife Jenny; daughter Candace, husband Evan, children, Zoe, Joel and Ruby; son Phil and wife April. He will be remembered through numerous activities, ministries and friendships, but most importantly for his faith and 'strength of conviction' in everything he did!

With a love of rural Australia, travelling, an interest in volunteering and involving young people, Robert and Jenny came to establish the Dusty Boots Program with Bush Church Aid in 2007



BCA Dusty Boots Team at Tibbooburra in 2009



Dusty Boots team inside the church in Roebourne

North West Australia Tours

Christian Fellowship Tours are running three BCA tours in North West Australia in August 2020.

Each holiday will be led by a Christian tour leader and you will have the opportunity to meet BCA Field Staff and enjoy daily devotions and local worship while basking in the beauty of this amazing part of God's creation.

ULTIMATE OUTBACK PILGRIMAGE

Darwin to Perth

28 days

Commencing 7 August 2020

INSPIRING TOP END Darwin to Broome

15 days

Commencing 7 August 2020

JEWELS OF THE NORTH WEST Broome to Perth

18 days

Commencing 18 August 2020

For itineraries and bookings call 1300 635 358
or visit christianfellowshiptours.com

Notice of Annual General Meetings

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27 May 2020 from 9.30 am
The Branksome Hotel
60 Robey Street, Mascot

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia will hold its Annual General Meeting for the purpose of adopting the audited accounts of the Society for the financial year ended 31 December 2019 and to elect councillors.

Queensland and Northern New South Wales
including Bush & Bible Day
Saturday 7 March 2020 from 9.30 am
St Philip's Rochedale
270 Rochedale Road, Rochedale

The Revd Dr Richard Gibson will give the key address. Also hear from Luke & Julia Collings, Field Staff Moranbah as well as BCA's new National Director Greg Harris. \$25 includes lunch.

To register:
www.trybooking.com/BGFMF

South Australia/Northern Territory
Saturday 18 April 2020 from 12 noon
Christ Church
62–67 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide

Hear from Brad Henley, Field Staff Kangaroo Island. \$20 includes lunch.

To register:
email sa@bushchurchaid.com.au
or call on 08 8221 5444

New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory

Thursday 23 April 2020 from 11 am
St Philip's Anglican Church
3 York Street, Sydney

Hear from Simon Manchester & Cheryl Hallinan. Lunch provided – donation to cover costs.

To register: email Emma in the NSW/ACT Regional Office
emma.little@bushchurchaid.com.au
or call 02 9262 5017

Western Australia
Saturday 2 May 2020 12 noon
St Alban's Anglican Church
423 Beaufort Street, Highgate

Guest speakers Brendan & Laura Hurley, Field Staff Bluff Point
\$30 for lunch (\$20 concession)

To register:
email the WA Regional Office
rob.healy@bushchurchaid.com.au
or call 0428 288 473

Victoria
Saturday 2 May 2020 5:30 pm for 6 pm
St Mark's Forest Hill
303 Canterbury Road, Forest Hill

Hear from our new National Director Greg Harris and meet our new Victorian Field Staff. \$45 for a spit roast meal.

To register: **www.bushchurchaid.com.au/vicagm** or on 03 9457 7556

Post & Rails



WELCOME

Rachel Dirks commenced in the newly created role of BCA for Kids/Dusty Boots Coordinator in October last year. She has a passion for serving in kids ministry. She has worked as a youth minister alongside her husband Shane who is currently the Executive Minister at Figtree Anglican. They have three children: Levi, Riley and Mia.

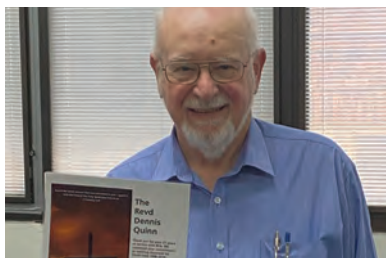


Emma Little has taken on the role of Executive Assistant to the NSW/ACT Regional Office. She grew up in Sydney, studied at Moore College and spent the last five years in Tamworth working in parish ministry with youth and young adults. Emma recently moved back to Sydney and is slowly settling back into city life again.



CONGRATULATIONS

Jamie & Claire Bester welcomed Hope Ellen Bester on Saturday 16 November 2019. Hope is much loved by her older siblings Xavier, Adlai and Phinheas.



FAREWELL

Dennis Quinn who has been the honorary Tasmanian Regional Officer for nearly 10 years, officially retired from the position at the end of 2019. Dennis and his wife Lois are former BCA Field Staff who spent seven years in Winton, Central West Queensland.

The Executive Assistant to the NSW/ACT Regional Office **Larissa Simpkins** has finished up with BCA after accepting an internship with QuizWorx. Larissa will combine her internship alongside theological study at Youthworks College.



ON THE MOVE

George & Carmel Ferguson have moved to the parish of Walgett/Collarenebri where George has been appointed the 'Curate in Charge'. Congratulations also go to George who was ordained on 22 February after completing his Online Diploma of Biblical Theology. BCA will continue to support the Fergusons in their ministry.



After serving in the parish of Narromine and Trangie for the past two years, **James & Brittany Daymond** have moved to Mudgee where they will continue their evangelistic ministry supported by BCA. They were commissioned for service on Tuesday 11 February 2020.



VALE

Gladys Connell passed away on 31 October 2019 aged 95. Gladys served with her husband Philip (deceased) as a BCA Missioner in Ceduna/Penong and Streaky Bay from 1946–1956. Gladys is survived by Daniel & Gail, Geoff & Cynthia, Malcolm & Bernice, Tim & Jan, Lucy & David, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



From the Archives: First Impressions



This article first appeared in the June 1967 edition of *The Real Australian* and was written by then Missioner Ernie Carnaby who served in Leigh Creek from 1966–69 and went on to become BCA’s Federal Secretary in 1986.

Leigh Creek township has been described as an “oasis in a gibber-strewn country” – our first impression was “an oasis in the desert,” for truly it is.

You may well ask why a town exists there at all. Purely and simply to mine by the open-cut method, very valuable coal seams, some of it only 50 or 60 feet beneath the

surface. To give you an idea, by the early 1960s more than 10 million tons of coal had been removed from Leigh Creek. Present coal production at Leigh Creek is well over a million tons a year, with plans to increase this to two million tons. All the coal is railed to Port Augusta powerhouses.

Your first thoughts then might be of us living in sooty surroundings with blackened coal miners. Hans Mincham, a noted Flinders Ranges authority, dispels this notion, “Situated six miles north of Copley (and 351 north of Adelaide) an open, treeless country, Leigh Creek township, which was surveyed in 1944, has almost the appearance of

a metropolitan suburb that has been transported on a magic carpet and set down on a dusty plain with a background of colourful ranges." The present population is about 1,200, and the town consists of more than 220 well-built homes, blocks of self-contained flats, and well-equipped quarters for unmarried men. The town is completely seweraged and all roads within are bituminized. One is amazed to find 10,000 trees and shrubs which have been established along the streets and in reserves. Colourful gardens can be seen where once early explorers saw nothing but desolate and cheerless waste.

Few places though are less inviting than the immediate surroundings of the township. Dust storms are frequent, and summer shade temperatures of 110–115 are quite usual. Yet the living conditions are probably better than in any place of the same size in South Australia. The rectory itself is modern, airconditioned and most comfortable.

Into this situation BCA has been called to minister the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Society supplies the town and its out-lying centres with a clergyman, usually a married man with a family. His pastoral responsibilities involve him in some alarming figures. The parish or 'mission district' covers two-thirds geographically of South Australia, touching the borders of WA, Northern Territory and Queensland (250,000 squares miles – and for comparison almost three times the area of the British Isles). Once a quarter, a 'patrol' is undertaken, taking him through Marree, Oodnadatta, Earnabella, Musgrave Ranges and Coober Pedy. Twice a year finds him tackling the Birdsville Track up to Birdsville and then returning on the lesser-known Strzelecki Track through Betoota, Arrabury, Cordillo Downs and Innamincka. Quarterly also is a

patrol to the east through the magnificent Flinders Ranges with such breathtaking sights as Italowie Gorge and others. (See where some of these places are on a map in relation to Leigh Creek.) The missionary travels in a Land Rover fully equipped for bush work, complete with compass, gauges, aerial, radio transceiver, jerry cans of water and spare petrol, emergency rations for two or three weeks, Bible Society stocks, 16 mm. projector, films, portable generator, old clothing to give away and magazines for railway workers. On occasions, some of the trips are by aircraft, which breaks the tiring driving. For five to six months of the year he is away from home and covers as much as 40,000 miles annually in temperatures which sometimes soar over 120°F. Besides the arduous travelling, he is expected to maintain regular services in Leigh Creek and to be a pastor to God's people there. Why does he choose this work? He is caught up in the motto of B.C.A. – "Australia for Christ," and feels constrained to take the precious good news to those in sparsely populated areas of our great inland. Every personal contact he makes is for the sake of Jesus Christ whether the person is a railway worker, station owner or manager, stockman or schoolteacher. Will you covenant before God to support him in prayer that the Word of God might be sounded forth into every place? Remember he is your representative.

Every edition of *The Real Australian* from 1920 to now can be found online. Visit www.bushchurchaid.com.au/archive

Never Too Far, Never Too Few: 100 Years of Bush Church Aid



This hard cover coffee table book, written by Christian writer Robyn Powell looks back at the various ministries of BCA over the past 100 years.

BCA 138

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BCA Field Staff make Christ known across the length and breadth of our country, but they can't do it alone. Bush Church Aid's Distance Giving Program is your opportunity to walk alongside them.

The Distance Giving Program gives you the opportunity to support our Field Staff on a regular basis. You will share their journey through monthly giving & prayer, and receive special updates on how your support is making a difference.

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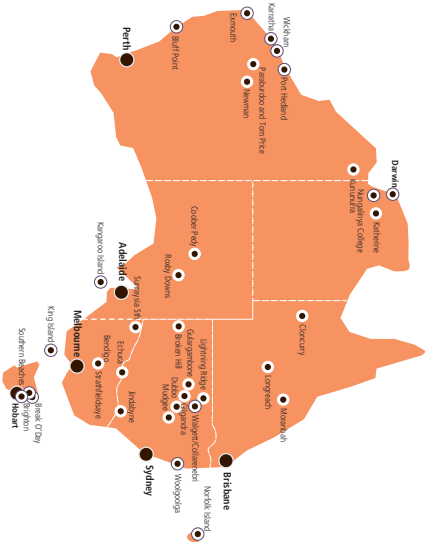
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