

# The Real Australian

SPRING 2025



Hitting the  
ground  
sprinting in  
Kelso

8

These little  
places matter

10

My reflection  
on a 'God  
moment'

20

## BCA Directory

**THE REAL AUSTRALIAN IS A REGISTERED  
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Front Cover: The work by the  
Mobile Mission Maintenance  
team enabled the Copley  
Christian Fellowship to re-open

# Be the neighbour – near and far

**As I write this, I'm on my way to Cloncurry to visit the Owen family, who serve faithfully in Cloncurry and Julia Creek – taking seriously the idea of 'going the distance' to share Jesus with the bush. As I drive, I've been reflecting on the Parable of the Good Samaritan which I recently preached on, and how being a neighbour is at the heart of ministry in Cloncurry.**

Jesus clearly shows us that when it comes to our neighbour, we're not just talking about the person over your fence you chat to when checking the mail. Our neighbour also includes the one who lives thousands of kilometres away, in a rural or remote town you may have never been to.

The question asked in the parable of the Good Samaritan is this: if you see the need, will you act? Will you go and do likewise? It's easy to think that being a neighbour is just about feeding someone's dog while they're away or dropping over a meal. And it is that! But it's also about being a neighbour near and far – to the people of Coober Pedy, the rugged Pilbara, the wilderness of Tasmania, and many other parts of this country.

BCA has been 'going the distance' for over a hundred years, helping churches in the bush to keep proclaiming Jesus where there may be no other church for hundreds of kilometres. All BCA Field Staff, including the Owen family living and

serving in Cloncurry and Julia Creek, can do what they do because of neighbours like you, who faithfully pray and give to BCA. It is your willingness to be the neighbour near and far, through your generosity and prayers, that makes their ministry possible.

Our gracious Lord saw our need, crossed the divide, and saved us. He is the ultimate neighbour. May he grant us eyes to see the need and the boldness to act, so that we might 'go and do likewise'. That we might continue to go the distance and be the neighbour – near and far.



*Greg Harris*  
**National Director**



# Our Lord Jesus can be trusted in everything

**If someone were to ask you "if you were to share the one thing about following Jesus that really counts, what would you say?"**

That's where I found myself a couple of years back when speaking with a small group of assistant ministers. A host of things flashed through my mind, mostly all the things I'd heard others say, that in that moment, completely escaped me! I responded by saying 'Trust Jesus. If there's one thing that we really need to grasp as His followers, it is that our Lord Jesus can be trusted – in everything.'



For over one hundred years, BCA has been trusting Jesus to raise up workers for gospel ministry in rural, regional and remote Australia. Trusting him to move the hearts of His people to generosity to provide the means to not only recruit, but to continue to support our Field Staff as they serve Him. Over the past few months, that trust has been proven once again in spectacular ways.

God, in His amazing providence, has moved the hearts of many – some supporters of many years, and some who have been moved for the first time, to spectacular generosity. When our mid-year appeal closed on 30 June, we had received in excess of \$300,000 in gifts across our General Fund and our two tax deductible funds.

So we say, **'Thank You!'**

Thank you to our amazing God who





**PHOTOS:**  
BCA continues to go the distance with your support, reaching those in the bush with the Good News of Jesus

answers our prayers, not only by continuing to move the hearts of our supporters, but who is also drawing in those new to BCA to support our ministry too.

And we say 'thank you' too, to you, those who have given out of the generosity of your hearts. You are an answer to our many prayers over many weeks leading up to and during the running of our most recent appeal. We are so grateful to God for you.

Indeed, as we move into the second half of 2025, towards the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, we are not only able to reflect on how amazing God has been, but we also wonder what is in store for us?

What will the next 25 years bring? Our National Director, Greg Harris says...

*"The century is flying by!*

*At the beginning of the century we were all talking about Y2K and the fast-approaching Sydney Olympics. For*

*BCA, it was the origin of the BCA Nomads and supporting locations from Dampier to the Furneaux Islands and Normanton to Leigh Creek.*

*At a recent supporter event, given that the century is flying past, I reflected on the next 25 years. What will the next 25 years hold for us?*

*Assuming Jesus does not return in that time, there are at least two things that are a sure thing. First, the Gospel of Jesus will remain the only means by which we can be saved, and second, people in rural, regional and remote Australia will still need to hear his gospel."*

May we invite you to continue on your adventure as BCA supporters to see our vision of an ever-growing number of Field Staff and locations come to pass?

*Ted Brush*

Ted has recently rejoined BCA as our Fundraising and Marketing Officer.

# Your prayers and support are vital!

Prayer is such a vital part of your support for BCA. Greg Harris gave supporters the challenge to pray each day while they make their morning coffee or tea. He asked that we pray to the Lord for more workers for his harvest field with BCA. God has answered your prayers in amazing ways over the past year. We have welcomed six new Field Staff since the start of 2025, and today we welcome four more plus new Nomads Coordinators.



Former BCA Indigenous Theological Bursary Student, **Lonny Bendessi** is now serving as Field Staff with the Aboriginal Berean Community Church. Here he will receive practical ministry training amongst First Nations People. Lonny will combine his work with completing his associate degree at the Bible College of South Australia.

"First and foremost I would like to give thanks & praise to God for His calling on my life," says Lonny. "I would ask BCA supporters to please pray for my studies; that God will give me wisdom & understanding and uphold me as I seek to do His will."

After two and a half years without a minister-in-charge, King Island have new Field Staff who started in August. We welcome **Tom & Tanya Killingbeck** together with their kids Calimë, Tristan & Chiara.

Tom has been a Chaplain in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) for the past 10 years. He most recently served in Queensland.



"I believe that Tanya, our kids and I are in a good place to contribute to the mission of BCA, as we are fundamentally country folk, and we fundamentally believe the Gospel is urgently required in hard-to-reach places like the bush," says Tom. "Tanya's skills as an early childhood educator will be a great asset on the Island, and I have the training and experience to operate as a minister in a remote location."



**David & Margy Williams** have commenced serving in the Anglican Parish of West Coast Tasmania, which includes the townships of Queenstown and Strahan. They have a passion to encourage the faithful to be more like Jesus, and to see people come to know him.

David was most recently a country pastor in Strathalbyn, South Australia and previously worked as the CMS SA/NT Regional Director.

"We hope to make a contribution by being faithful to Christ and sharing his truth and love with the local churches and community on the West Coast of Tasmania," says David. "I aim to teach God's word clearly and faithfully, engage with current secular challenges and equip the saints to love one another and engage with the world."

**Pat & Issy O'Keeffe** are moving to Katherine in the Northern Territory in October, a parish we last supported in 2020.

Pat has been the Assistant Minister at Northbridge Anglican since 2019. Issy is a NESA accredited teacher and registered psychologist.



"I am excited for the ways that we might be able to contribute to BCA in Katherine and beyond," says Pat. "I would love to find ways to give others a similar insight in the way God is working beyond what we normally see and experience."



**Rod & Amanda Haywood** have taken on the role of BCA Nomads Coordinators. Rod has served on the BCA NSW/ACT Regional Committee for the past two years and they've been Nomads for many years.

"Since becoming BCA Nomads we have seen God use our existing skills and equip us in new and surprising ways," said Rod & Amanda. "As we start as Nomads

Coordinators please pray that we will seek God's leading and encourage others."

Please join us in praying for Lonny, David & Margy, Tom & Tanya, Pat & Issy and Rod & Amanda, and thank God for their willingness to go the distance with BCA.



# Hitting the ground sprinting in Kelso

**James & Charly Boardman and their kids have been in the Parish of Kelso since January this year. It's been a huge year for them as the church is celebrating its bicentenary. James tells us more:**

I like to say we hit the ground sprinting in Kelso. For the first four months, there was a bicentenary celebration almost every second weekend. This provided a wonderful opportunity to engage with people who are in our church's orbit, don't have a Christian background, but like the church on top of the hill.

First, we had two cemetery tours, which were really well attended. And I was very excited by the Holy Spirit moment when I got to stand up and say, "If you enjoyed tonight and the 200 years of history of people who stayed in the grave, why don't you come on a Sunday morning and hear

the 2000-year history about people who come out the grave?".

Our baptism and wedding display had 200 people attend over two days. The church also runs two fetes a year which raise a significant amount of money for the parish. The first one had about 800 people coming through. This is a great opportunity for outreach, so I asked one of our BCA partner churches, St Paul's Castle Hill, to bring a team across. The team did face painting and balloon animals. We had many opportunities to invite people to church, and some came!

The Bicentenary celebration itself was a wonderful occasion. We invited various local dignitaries and leaders of other denominations to come. The main draw card was Archbishop of Sydney Kanishka Raffel, and I believe this was Kanishka's first official act as Metropolitan of New South Wales. He preached on 1 Peter 2:4-10, about the church being built on Christ. The service was led by Bishop Mark, and we had around 120 people attend. After the service we installed a 2025



Cemetery tour





**FAR LEFT:**  
James Boardman  
with Paul Sampson  
and Ben Connelly

**TOP RIGHT:**  
Bishop Mark cutting  
the cake

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Attending clergy  
with the Bishop  
of Bathurst and  
Archbishop of Sydney



Putting the stone on the gate

stone on our gate, made by one of our parishioners (see above). The gate was built for our centenary, so it was nice to have matching plaques for 1925 and 2025.

In August we had a high tea, we will run another cemetery tour in September, and then host an organ recital in November with a prominent Sydney organist. Preceding the organ recital, we are running a five-week evangelistic course called *Hymns We Love*. This will look at five familiar hymns like '*How great that art*', and explain the theological significance behind the words. Those five hymns are going to be part of the repertoire played at the recital. There seems to be a modern trend of Gen Z seeking more traditional service styles, particularly because the timelessness

in those services transcends changes in society, so my prayer is that we attract a lot of people.

This time last year our church was averaging 25 people on a Sunday. For most of this year we've averaged about 45 people. Some have come through bicentenary events, and others have been invited by their friends. I'm really encouraged by how many of our congregation are inviting people to church.

In our church there is one young boy who was the only child for the last 10 years, so with the addition of our three, we started the year with four children each week. We've had others join, including a young girl who was baptised here in 2014 who has returned with her Mum, then someone who did *Hope Explored* at the Cathedral has been coming on and off with his son. One lady from church brought her granddaughter, and we've had a new family join, so recently we had nine kids! That young boy who was on his own at church for so long is over the moon.

There is certainly a lot to give thanks to God for.

*James Boardman*



# These little places matter

Since starting in outreach ministry with the Aboriginal Berean Community Church, Jack & Lill Harradine have ministered in Port Lincoln including Ceduna and the Koonibba Aboriginal community, Meningie, Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge. In June they moved to Copley to re-open the Copley Christian Fellowship. Here Jack will pastor the faithful in Copley, Nepabunna and Leigh Creek. BCA has a long history with Leigh Creek, having first sent missionaries (Field Staff) there in 1963. Jack tells us how they had a flying start in Copley...

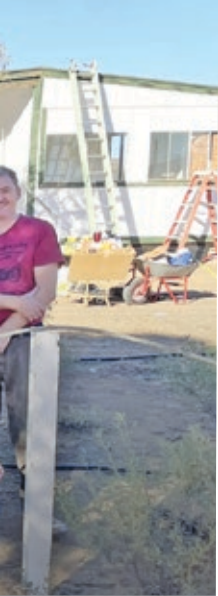
Some years ago, I think around 2011/2012, we visited Copley with a retired Anglican minister and his wife. At the time they had a minister there from the South Sea Islands, but a few years ago he had a massive stroke and there hasn't been regular ministry since.

For quite some time, some people in Copley had been asking Lill and I to come back. But there was asbestos in the lino floor of the main meeting room and the bathroom and laundry had asbestos walls, all which made the building unusable. So there wasn't any point in coming, because there was nowhere to meet.

One day I happened to be talking to the National Manager of Mobile Mission Maintenance. He said to me, "Jack, we have worked in every state and territory in Australia, except for South Australia. Is there someplace we can work?" and my mind went to Copley.

When I told him about Copley, he was excited and keen to send a crew. Volunteers came from all around Australia in May and they renovated the place from top to bottom. They spent about two weeks, working on it every day.

God then spoke to us and said, "Copley's got a nice new building, but they don't have a pastor."



**FAR LEFT:**  
Mobile Mission  
Maintenance Crew

**TOP RIGHT:**  
Conducting our first  
baptism in Copley

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Eugene addresses  
those gathered for  
the opening

We had our last day in Murray Bridge on Wednesday 18 June and arrived in Copley on Thursday 19 June. We held outreach on the Friday and Saturday and officially reopened the church on Sunday 22 June. I also baptised a lady who had a dramatic conversion three years ago.

Everyone has been just so, so welcoming and so glad that we're here. There are no other churches around, and these little places matter. Copley has about 60–80 people and Leigh Creek has 160–180. Leigh Creek was a mining town, but when the mine closed the population went from 800 to 160 in just two months.

We are the only ministry between Marree (114km north) and Nepabunna (57km east). We have one service in Copley and one in Leigh Creek. A lady who lives on a cattle station, travels all the way from Marree, about 1.5 hours' drive. She's a whitefella but we never, ever discriminate. We have a couple of whitefellas in the congregation. These people all went to school

together. There are more blackfellas here but it's a mix, and no one seems to care.

One lady who came to Bible Study said, "I'm so thankful to God for sending you here," she was almost in tears. This is what we hear every day. We just keep trusting in God and thanking Him for the fact that we're here.

It's a beautiful place because it's so rugged, but it is really isolated. We're almost at the start of the Birdsville Track and the Oodnadatta Track – two of the most famous, if not the most famous in Australia. For any Nomads reading, Copley is well worth a look!

Please pray that God protects us in our ministry as there is still some black magic practiced out here. Pray for God to open doors. Pray also for resources, because we urgently need some study Bibles. Many people out here have King James Bibles, and they'd never heard of study Bibles. May we teach well and bear fruit for the Lord.

*Jack Harradine*

# Touring with CFT

Connect with like-minded people and meet BCA Field Staff on a wonderful Australian holiday full of fun, faith & fellowship



## Tasmanian Touring

14 days – Departs 4 November 2025

Enjoy pristine environments, heritage towns, historic sites, cruises, a steam train ride, beautiful gardens and fresh produce. Connect with local Christians & share worship with BCA Field Staff.



## Norfolk Island – Foundation Day

9 days – 3 March 2026

Enjoy Norfolk's unique culture, fascinating history and breathtaking scenery. Connect with the NI BCA Field Staff family and worship in Kingston with Evensong in the historic Melanesian Chapel.



## Salt & Light in the Outback

(Sydney – Alice Springs / Darwin):

14 / 21 days – departs 25 July 2026

Travel through outback NSW & South Australia to Uluru & the Red Centre, connect with BCA Field Staff and worship at Coober Pedy's Catacomb Church. Choose to leave the tour in Alice Springs or continue to Tropical Darwin and Kakadu.



## North West Australia

(Darwin – Broome – Perth):

33 days – departs 22 August 2026

Explore one of the last true wilderness areas on Earth and be inspired by the dedicated BCA Field Staff who serve God in these remote regions. Includes Kakadu, the Kimberley, Pilbara, Coral Coast, Pinnacles and six cruises – Darwin Harbour, Kakadu, Katherine Gorge, Lake Argyle, Geikie Gorge and Coral Bay (Ningaloo Reef).



*Also available as 2 x shorter holiday options.*



Book online at [christianfellowshiptours.com](http://christianfellowshiptours.com)  
or call 1300 635 358



# Building Gospel Foundations: First Nations Ministry Training Grows

**Since late 2021, the First Nations Ministry Training Program (FNMT) has quietly but steadily grown into a vital ministry equipping Indigenous Christians for gospel service across rural, regional and remote Australia.**

"We've now had around 105 students come through the program," says founding principal Dennis Taylor. "Some have gone on to further theological studies, while others are actively ministering in their communities. It's been a great encouragement to see people growing in their knowledge of the Bible, salvation, and how to serve the local church."

The program began formally in September 2023 but had been running in various forms since late 2021. What started as a one-person initiative has expanded to include part-time and volunteer staff. "We've been blessed with a small but faithful team," Dennis says. "One former volunteer is now employed 15 hours a week, and a

young man has recently joined in a voluntary role."

Challenges remain, especially in terms of funding, staffing, and the logistics of travel to remote regions. "We're always looking for support to keep the program running and growing," says Dennis. "And as we extend into more regions, we need more trained people on the ground."

Despite these challenges, Dennis remains hopeful. "We're planning ahead. I've approached a few respected men to consider taking on leadership roles in the future. They haven't said no – and we're praying."

With continued prayer, support, and gospel partnership, the First Nations Ministry Training Program is laying strong foundations for future Indigenous church leadership.

"We're not just training individuals," says Dennis. "We're building up churches and preparing the next generation to lead with faith and confidence in Christ."

*Neville Naden*



Rio & Rich Handley. Rich is employed on a part-time basis with FNMT



# Why is this my favourite BCA outing

**The 'friendship service' at Holy Trinity Adelaide for the aged, frail and those who are in residential care is held midweek once a month.**

Many are brought along by family or friends. Once a year I preach and lead communion followed by lunch where I give a 20-minute BCA update. This is my favourite BCA outing, but what is it that makes it so?

Many of these dear brothers and sisters in Christ have not only been praying for and supporting the mission of BCA for more than 50 years, but have also prayed so generously and faithfully for Geetha and myself since I became a Christian in 1992. It was soon after this that I started giving a day or two a week to explore vocational ministry at Trinity Church Adelaide!

Some travelled across the city every Sunday for 12 months to help Geetha and I plant Trinity Church Brighton in 2006. Many were there to help commission Geetha and I five years ago as we began this role as BCA SA/NT Regional Officer. They have continued to pray and are always hungry to hear 'how it's going'.

One dear sister in Christ, Jill has sent a birthday card to Geetha and myself and our four children for more than thirty years! How's that for practical care?!

Across the years as we travel to churches to proclaim Christ crucified and spur his people on to join his mission to reach the more than 7.2 million boys and girls in the bush with the good news of Jesus, we have been so humbled and aware that we have been, and continue to be, upheld by the prayers of sisters and brothers in Christ like these.

I'm writing this as an encouragement and to say thank you to those who pray for BCA.

I'm also writing this to spur you on to please pray continuously to do what only our gracious Lord can do as we are exhorted by God to be doing:

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

**Colossians 4:2–4**

*John Warner*  
SA/NT Regional Officer

# THE TWELVE APOSTLES WORD SEARCH



O	I	J	E	H	J	F	X	T	U	Q	R	H	T	B
S	W	I	B	M	A	A	V	Q	O	P	O	U	Q	S
T	J	W	E	L	U	A	M	L	B	N	H	B	G	Z
W	U	N	Q	B	J	Y	W	E	I	G	H	B	Z	E
E	D	B	F	H	U	Q	J	C	S	G	D	F	O	E
H	A	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	Q	C
T	S	L	T	I	S	B	H	H	S	W	O	W	C	U
T	H	Z	Q	A	Q	N	N	P	P	F	W	Z	G	B
A	G	A	M	G	O	K	U	H	X	J	E	S	P	F
M	B	O	D	M	P	J	J	R	Z	F	R	X	I	J
Y	H	R	I	D	F	H	R	J	N	H	D	F	L	C
T	C	S	S	V	A	E	R	V	A	M	N	P	I	Y
H	P	T	W	X	T	E	V	P	H	U	A	D	H	O
R	K	Z	C	E	K	A	U	J	A	M	E	S	P	R
G	E	F	P	E	W	T	B	S	M	B	Y	C	O	Z

## WORD LIST:

PETER  
ANDREW  
JAMES

JOHN  
PHILIP  
BARTHOLOMEW

THOMAS  
MATTHEW  
JAMES

THADDAEUS  
SIMON  
JUDAS



# PRAYING THE BIBLE

Recently, I was going through a box of old memories from my childhood, some might call this a long time ago... Whilst rummaging through the collection of drawings, stories, teddy bears and photos, I stumbled upon a book of prayers I had growing up.

I read through the book, turning page after page and remembered praying the very words before me. A time when I was asking the Lord to help and lead me. As I read through each page I reflected on how He has indeed been with me, working so wonderfully in my life.

It was a beautiful thing to reflect and remember words spoken. I wanted to share with you some verses from the Bible that you might be able to pray and use in your daily prayer time.

Perhaps one day you will look back and remember words you prayed and see prayers that were answered. For the Lord indeed is kind, strong and powerful, how He loves to listen to His people.

A simple prayer journal could be an exercise book where you record what you are praying about. Some people have a dedicated space in

their Bible to write prayer notes, or perhaps you have some other way to keep notes. Listed below are some prayers from the Bible and things you could write down to help you see Jesus at work in your life.

## DISCIPLESHIP

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long." **Psalm 25:4-5 NIV**

In this prayer you are asking for God your Saviour to grow and shape your learning about Him, as you follow Him. You could write in your Bible or journal what you are learning from God's Word and how He is helping you grow. You could also write about how He is your hope.

## PRAISE

"I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago." **Psalm 77:11 NIV**

In this prayer you are speaking about the great things that the Lord has done. You could write about the wonderful things He has done in your life, or the lives of people you know. You could also write about the wonderful things He has done



One of the wonderful things about prayer is that it is simply speaking with God. You can talk to God about whatever is on your mind, at any time, day or night. I am grateful to look over prayers I have prayed over the years. I will be praying that this may also be a blessing and encouragement for you.

*Rachel Dirks*

in the Bible. Praising God for His wonder.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." **Matthew 6:9-13 NIV**

In this prayer you are praying as Jesus taught us to pray. You could write things you are needing help with as you follow him.

### FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

"May the God of hope fill (*name your friend*) with all joy and peace as you (*friend's name*) trust in Him, so that you (*friend's name*) may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13 NIV** *Instructions in brackets added*

In this prayer you are praying for your friends and family to know the love of Jesus and to grow in Him. Perhaps you could write some things you are praying for your friends and family.



# I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF



If you are in pre-school or primary school and would like to join BCA 4 Kids, ask your parents to fill out the form below and return to:

**BCA 4 KIDS**  
**GPO Box 5389**  
**Sydney NSW 2001**

OR

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

Every member receives a welcome letter,  
 a welcome certificate, a drink bottle and  
 a copy of our BCA 4 Kids magazine!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Caregiver \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Boy or Girl \_\_\_\_\_

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 which goes to help tell people about Jesus. Thanks to our wonderful young supporters!



# Around the country



## NEWMAN, WA:

**Roger Kyngdon** was formally inducted as a volunteer police chaplain earlier this year. He has begun visiting the station to check in on the officers and be available to discuss any concerns.



## LIGHTNING RIDGE, NNSW:

The Lightning Ridge Community Church held NAIDOC week celebrations in early July with a curry lunch. They also gave hampers to Indigenous families who attended.



## BRISBANE, QLD:

11 faithful volunteers recently assisted Sarah in the QLD/ NNSW Regional Office with packing BCA showbags for deputations.



## COOBER PEDY, SA:

**Dave & Margie Wood** prayed for and planned a Kids' Club, and in an incredible answer to prayer it started on 1 May with nine kids and two adult volunteers to help.



## ARMIDALE, NSW:

**James Diamond** travelled to the Diocese of Armidale in June where he conducted outreach visiting training.



## SYDNEY, NSW:

**Neville Naden** was farewellled by the BCA National Office team in late June. As a die-hard NRL St George Illawarra supporter, one of his gifts was this framed piece of memorabilia.



# My reflection on a 'God moment'

**I spent my childhood in Kununurra. In 1965 it was a remote East Kimberly town of around 1000 people. My father, The Revd Barry Green, and my mum, Jan, had said 'yes' to the Bush Church Aid Society when asked to uproot their young family from St Paul's Cooma. I was five and my brother Philip was a toddler. My parents were twenty-seven.**

The Ord River project, the construction of the Kununurra Diversion Dam, and the Argyle Dam, were in full swing. There was no Anglican priest in the North-West. Dad would be the first.

At the completion of an epic road trip, 4000 kilometres of mostly dirt roads north from Perth, through Carnarvon, Onslow and Broome, we approached the Diversion Dam. Our journey had been relatively uneventful apart from the sibling fights mixed with spilt cordial and tears! It was hot, dry and dusty. The water at the edge of the dam beckoned my father, a good swimmer who had grown up with the ocean in Wollongong. But not my mum, a non-swimmer, raised in Kurrajong in the Blue Mountains. Dad made a split decision, one that could have changed our destiny. He turned the wheel of our vehicle and

headed towards a boat ramp where the mud-brown water lapped. He took a dip while Mum, my brother and I stood at the edge. I didn't see my mother disappear into the Ord, or hear the firm voice of my father telling me to hold my brother's hand and not let go. But I will always see the figure of my mum, water dripping from her hair, tracking down between the buttons of her sodden navy blue linen sleeveless top, her matching shorts stuck to her wet legs. And there was the unspoken moment, the silence of a miracle.

My father spoke of this childhood memory when I was writing about my medical story. How he thought he had lost his wife when she had slipped into the river. He dived beneath the surface of the murky water and desperately reached around him to seek her. He resurfaced and saw a sole air bubble





**FAR LEFT:**  
Church House  
Kununurra. My  
mum holding my  
sisters, with me in  
the background

**TOP RIGHT:**  
Our family of four  
on the verandah  
of one of our  
borrowed houses in  
Wyndham in 1965

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Family photo with  
me, Philip and  
Helen, one of my  
twin sisters

floating at a distance. He lunged towards it and with his outstretched hand felt the top of my mother's head and lifted her from a watery grave. What were the odds? I reckon that counts as a 'God moment'.

It was the first of many 'what ifs' as my parents grew their young family, adding my twin sisters in 1966. Mum said that we had guardian angels 24/7 within our home. There was no local doctor. Communication was limited, though our church house had a landline phone. We had fans; not air-conditioning, and no television. I missed fresh milk and crunchy green apples. My mum placed a grocery order every six months which would be shipped to Wyndham for collection – toothpaste, soap and toilet paper, tins of Sunshine powdered milk and Carnation milk, Vegemite, cans of tuna fish, baked beans, corn and Golden Circle pineapple rings. Station people would give us sides of Kimberley beef, which Mum stored in an upright chest freezer. We had little money, but she would make us ice-cream and icy poles from powdered milk and Milo; bake biscuits, and cook casseroles.

In 2024, I asked my father which of his parishes he had enjoyed most during his sixty-one years as an Anglican priest and he said, 'Kununurra was the most challenging ministry I had, but the most exciting – it would have to be Kununurra.'

My brother's greatest sense of belonging also stems from this time; his early childhood was at Argyle Station where he was cared for by the Peters family after my mother was flown to Perth for management of her twin pregnancy. I stayed with my Dad. I went to bed late and accompanied Dad to town gigs where he played his banjo. Kununurra is where a part of my heart remains. Something about that red dirt.

*Elizabeth Green*

The Parish of Kununurra celebrates its 60th anniversary in September. Celebrations will be held in the parish and in this issue of *The Real Australian* we also feature an article from The Revd Barry Green (See From the Archives). Elizabeth has written a book entitled 'No Time for Makeup': The life of a flying doctor and paediatrician. It's available for purchase on Amazon.

# Notice of General Meeting

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Society, that a Special General Meeting will be held on 20 November 2025 from 10 am at Level 19, Tower One, International Towers, Barangaroo, NSW and online for the purpose of considering, and if approved, adopting by special resolution a replacement constitution for the Society.

Members intending to attend whether in person or online must register in advance by sending an email to [jessica.kim@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:jessica.kim@bushchurchaid.com.au). All registrations must be received by Friday 7 November. Copies of the proposed constitution, an explanatory memorandum and a form for appointment of a proxy will be available upon request.

## GOOD NEWS FOR ALICE. GOOD NEWS FROM ALICE.

### BCA VICTORIA 2025 SPRING GATHERINGS

After nearly a decade in the Territory with BCA, come & hear **Topher Hallyburton** speak about his life and ministry in Central Australia.



#### MONDAY 20 OCTOBER

**12pm–2pm**  
Spring Lunch,  
Glen Waverley  
Anglican Church

#### TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

**12pm–2pm**  
Spring Lunch,  
Holy Trinity, Bendigo  
**6pm**  
Young Adults Dinner,  
Holy Trinity, Bendigo

#### WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER

**12pm–2pm**  
Spring Lunch,  
St Mary's, Sunbury  
**7:30pm–9pm**  
Coffee and Dessert,  
St James, Ivanhoe  
(no charge)

#### THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

**6pm–8pm**  
BCA Dinner,  
St Paul's,  
Warragul

**Cost: \$25 (Students Free)**  
**RSVP: [bushchurchaid.com.au/events](https://bushchurchaid.com.au/events)**



For more info email [vic@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:vic@bushchurchaid.com.au)  
or phone 03 9457 7556



# Calling for your stories about ministry in Coober Pedy

**Dave & Margie Wood are planning a 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Catacomb Church in Coober Pedy on the King's Birthday weekend, 12–14 June 2027.**

Dave, together with Kerry Medway (BCA Missioner who in 1977 dug the underground church along with many faithful church members), are also planning to launch a commemorative pictorial history book – 'The 50th Anniversary of the Catacomb Church'. It is hoped that the book will feature the eleven BCA Field Staff (missioners) who served in Coober Pedy over the past 48 years.

If you have a story or photos relating to the church and BCA in Coober Pedy please send them via email to Kerry – [kerryedway1946@gmail.com](mailto:kerryedway1946@gmail.com) or post to Dave, Catacomb Church, PO Box 266, Coober Pedy SA 5723.

Christian Fellowship Tours are planning to run a coach tour that includes the weekend celebrations.

Anyone interested can contact CFT on 1300 635 358 or visit [christianfellowshiptours.com](http://christianfellowshiptours.com) 2027 will also mark 50 years since the first ever BCA/CFT tour was led by John Cronshaw.

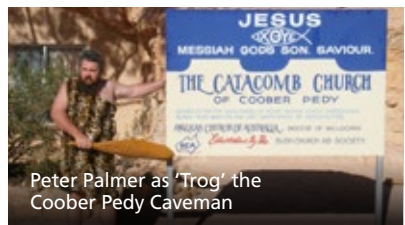
Please join us in praying for a wonderful celebration honouring God and the work of BCA in this outback opal town.



The Medways and the Woods



Former Coober Pedy Field Staff  
Rothwells, Piggotts, Palmers, Oldfields  
and Vivien Bleby



Peter Palmer as 'Trog' the  
Coober Pedy Caveman

# Post & Rails

## WELCOME



Former Indigenous Bursary Student **Lonny Bendessi** has joined the BCA Community as Field Staff. Lonny will serve with the Aboriginal Berean Community Church in South Australia where he will receive practical ministry training amongst First Nations People.



From September 2025, **David & Margy Williams** will serve in the Anglican Parish of West Coast Tasmania, which includes the townships of Queenstown and Strahan. David & Margy have a passion to encourage the faithful to be more like Jesus, and to see people come to know him.



**Pat & Issy O'Keeffe** are moving to Katherine in the Northern Territory in October, a parish we last supported in 2020. Pat has been the Assistant Minister at Northbridge Anglican since 2019. Issy is a NESa accredited teacher and registered psychologist.



**Tom & Tanya Killingbeck** together with their kids Calimë, Tristan & Chiara will serve on King Island from August. For the past 10 years Tom has been a Chaplain in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).



**Rod & Amanda Haywood** have taken on the role of BCA Nomads Coordinators. Rod has served on the BCA NSW/ACT Regional Committee for the past two years and they've been Nomads for many years.



## CONGRATULATIONS



**Josephine Rose Kelly** was born on Friday 2 May 2025 to proud parents Jacob & Sarah and big brother Theodore.



In mid-March, **Ben Connolly** graduated with a Master of Theology from Moore Theological College.

## FAREWELL



After six and a half years serving with BCA, **Brendan & Laura Hurley** concluded their service with us at the end of June. This is not a decision they have taken

lightly, but one they made as they need to be closer to better support systems for their family. They pray that this move will not only help their family thrive but also enable them to serve God well.



We also farewell **David Pohlmann & Margaret Scott**. David, who has served as the Anglican Dean at Nungalinga College since the start of this year, has moved to a casual teaching role.



We thank **Greg & Jocelyn Lay** for their many years of service as Nomads Coordinators. The Lays took over the role of Nomads Coordinators from Doug & Frances Orr in late 2020. Today we have nearly 200 active Nomads travelling across rural, regional and remote Australia to provide care and support to our Field Staff and assist at events such as the annual Katherine Christian Convention as well as the Aboriginal Evangelical Family Camp.

# From the Archives

## Memoirs of Kununurra/Wyndham 1965 –1970

**As a young clergyman with a wife and two very young children, Jan and I thought we were glued into the parish of Cooma NSW. I was the assistant at St Paul's and the Rector asked if I would welcome the NSW BCA secretary to present an address about the work of the Society.**

Jan and I were 'zapped' that night and really believed that God put into our hearts the desire to join the outreach of BCA. We made a 'wobbly' approach to Bill Rich concerning our belief. He told us there was nowhere looking to be backed by BCA. But BCA was soon approached by the Primate who asked if it would consider providing ministry to the top end of WA.

Our lives were to change. In 1965 we were flown to Perth where we collected a long-wheeled Land Rover and organised furniture to be purchased and sent up via coastal shipping. The 2000ml+ road journey offered a sealed road to Carnarvon but after that we faced a rough red dirt road and high temperatures.



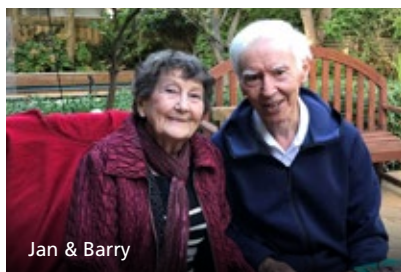
Barry prepares for parish trips in the North West circa 1969 (from the Women's Weekly)

On arrival in Kununurra, we learned the news that our house which was supposed to be built was still in bundles on the docks in Perth. Like the Nativity message in the Bible, there was no room at the inn. Seventy plus miles north in Wyndham we could housesit some government homes. There had been a death of a young worker in Wyndham, and the townspeople heard of the clergyman coming, so they adjourned to the pub and waited. Jan and our two little ones were whisked off while I was told to take the funeral. Because we spent quite some time in Wyndham before our Rectory was built, we were able to build a special ministry there, which never would have happened if we had stopped in Kununurra – what a wonderful God!

Over the five years we got to know people in the two towns, the Forrest River Mission, Halls Creek, many cattle stations and road camps as well as the Kimberley Research Station (KRS). After celebrating Holy Communion in a shed at KRS using a bale of hay as a Communion



**LEFT:**  
The Green family  
February 1969 (from  
the Women's Weekly)



Jan & Barry

Table, a Baptism was arranged in the Ord River. A drunk fellow, with beer cans, some empty, but others full, was sitting on the riverbank. As I began, he started rolling beer cans down the stony riverbank.... "What ya doin?" I explained, and later he yelled, "Well my cans can be yer church bells" and then, "what's the croc got to do with it?" I looked behind and saw a croc behind me. That was when I tried to emulate our Lord walking on water.

While in Kununurra our twin daughters were born. They made friends with Karina a little girl their age and the three were often mistaken as triplets. One day we heard car brakes squealing, the crunch of metal and then SILENCE!

Karina had been with her mum, standing on the seat of a Toyota ute with windows open. A second ute came out of nowhere, hit the ute Karina was in, and our third little girl was thrown out and the ute rolled on her. Going to her dad and breaking the news was gut-wrenching.

Within the local congregation and far-flung cattle stations, we experienced fellowship. We made friends with God's people and are still in touch with some today. One young scallywag came to know Jesus and was later ordained. He and his wife are still serving our Lord. Their four children are our godchildren. He even conducted the wedding of our eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

All this, because 60+ years ago, the Rector at St Paul's Cooma asked me to conduct the evening service and welcome the NSW BCA Secretary.



*The Rev B.W.  
Green*

Kununurra  
1965-1970

If you'd like to read the full five-page article by The Revd Green please contact Janine van den Tillaart in the National Office on 02 9262 5017 or email [janine@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:janine@bushchurchaid.com.au)

# BCA Christmas Merchandise

Orders must be received by Friday 5 December 2025

## CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

### Newcastle Pudding Lady Puddings



BCA 312

Traditional Christmas Pudding  
500g  
\$33



BCA 313

1kg  
\$52



BCA 314

Gluten Free Plum  
Pudding Log  
500g  
\$35.50



BCA 315

Christmas Cake  
700g  
\$46

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

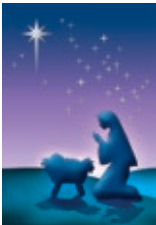
### New 2025 Designs



BCA 016

Pack of 6: 2 each of 3 designs  
\$8/pack

### 2024 Designs\*



BCA 017

Pack of 6: 2 each of 3 designs  
\$6/pack (\*Very Limited 2024 Stock)



# Order Form

Please complete this order form to purchase 2025 Christmas merchandise  
Your purchase helps gospel work across Australia

BCA CODE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	EACH	TOTAL
BCA 312	Traditional Christmas Pudding: 500g		\$33	
BCA 313	Traditional Christmas Pudding: 1kg		\$52	
BCA 314	Gluten Free Plum Pudding Log: 500g		\$35.50	
BCA 315	Christmas Cake: 700g		\$46	
BCA 016	New 2025 Christmas Card Designs		\$8	
BCA 017	2024 Christmas Card Designs		\$6	
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Orders can also be placed by visiting our website [bushchurchaid.com.au](http://bushchurchaid.com.au)



# Distance Giving Program

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.

Through the Distance Giving Program you can support our Field Staff on a regular basis. You will share their journey through monthly giving & prayer.

Yes, I would like to partner with our Field Staff through BCA's Distance Giving Program with a **monthly** donation.

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Yes, I would like to help BCA go the distance and share the Gospel in rural, regional and remote Australia.

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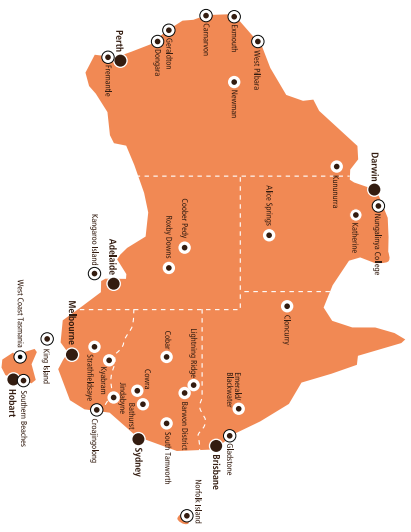
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