

# The Real Australian



Help us send more ministry trainees to the bush

4

Transitioning well to life and work in the bush

8

Music creates community in Mallacoota

10

## BCA Directory

**THE REAL AUSTRALIAN IS A REGISTERED  
TRADEMARK OF THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY**  
First published 1920 Edition No. 396

**CIRCULATION 22,000**

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## Contents

Editorial	3
Help us send more ministry trainees to the bush	4
Meet the Boardmans	5
Training in the Top End	6
A blessing to work at Nungalinga College	7
Transitioning well to life and work in the bush	8
Music creates community in Mallacoota	10
Thriving church plant on the Southern Beaches	12
BCA for Kids	15
Around the country	19
A vastly different ministry, but one reaping rewards	20
Sharing with our Karen friends	21
Fundraising for the bush	22
Councillor's Column	24
Post & Rails	25
From the Archives	26
The busy life of a locum	28

Front Cover: The Nivan men  
outside St Peter's on the day of  
the fundraising concert. Taken  
by Mallacoota community  
member Mick Dunne

# Editorial – Shiny New Toy?

**You may have heard a lot about Artificial Intelligence (AI) of late. It's the shiny new toy that many are playing with. From chatbots to maybe one day self-driving cars, AI is already impacting our lives in countless ways – even in the agricultural and mining industries that form the background of many BCA supported locations. But as Christians, how do we reconcile the idea of machines that can think and learn with the gospel of Christ?**

First and foremost, we must remember that God is the ultimate Creator – and the Creator of everything from nothing. In Genesis 1:27, we are reminded that “God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” We have inherent worth and value, not because of what we can do or achieve, but simply because we are created in God’s image. Even as AI becomes more advanced and can perform tasks that were once thought impossible, it can never replace the unique value that each of us has in God’s eyes.

Have you ever considered if AI could replace humans as witnesses to the gospel of Jesus? With the rapid advancements in technology, it’s easy to see how AI could be used to share the message of Christ. But, as Christians, we must remember that our faith is not just about spreading information, it’s about so much more.

Jesus commands us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19–20) Notice that Jesus doesn’t just tell us to share information but rather to make disciples. That requires personal interaction and relationship-building, something that AI simply can’t do.

As we share the gospel of Christ, we are not just sharing a message of good news, we are sharing our lives with others and inviting them to join us on this journey of faith. That’s something that no amount of technology can replicate.

So, while AI may prove in time to be a useful tool in spreading the gospel, it can never replace the need for human witnesses to share the grace of Christ with others – in the city and the bush. Let’s use technology wisely, but let’s never forget that the most powerful witness we have is a life saved through grace, lived out in faith and love.



*Greg Harris*  
**National Director**

# Help us send more ministry trainees to the bush

Bathurst, NSW

*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*  
Ephesians 4:16

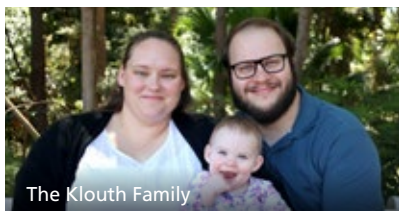
Last month you would have received a letter from me, inviting you to help support our ministry trainee program. Rural dioceses have limited resources to train newly graduated theological students, so BCA is committed to providing financial support for trainees across the country.

We currently support a variety of positions training new ministers for country ministry in the Dioceses of the Northern Territory, Bathurst, and Bendigo. At the end of 2022 Steven Klouth completed his two-year traineeship in the Diocese of Bathurst:

"It can take a while to adjust to ministry in a rural context and discern what ministry priorities should be. Being supported as trainees helped us adjust to those different contexts and priorities. We were given the opportunity to learn from senior ministers and other clergy in our diocese."

With God's blessing and your help, our aim is to raise \$300,000 to build up resources to fund another three positions across the country (subject to the availability of candidates).

"We so appreciate BCA's commitment and vision to fund a training pathway in our diocese," says Bishop of



The Klouth Family



Mark Calder, James Boardman & Paul Sampson

Bathurst, The Rt Revd Mark Calder. 'BCA's support has seen Steven Klouth gain two valuable years of experience, which has prepared him well to serve in West Wyalong. We have now welcomed James along with Charly Boardman as an assistant minister in the Cathedral parish. We look forward to where the Lord might then use the Boardmans, following their experience and training at the Cathedral. Thank you Lord for BCA!"

It is my prayer that we can expand this program and send more well-trained ministers out into rural, remote and regional Australia.

**Will you pray with us and make a gift to help us meet our \$300,000 goal?**

*Greg Harris*





The Boardman family

## Meet the Boardmans

It has been a big few months for James & Charly Boardman. James completed his Bachelor of Divinity from Moore College at the end of 2022, moved with the family to Bathurst in January 2023, was ordained as a Deacon of the Anglican Church in early March, and commissioned (along with Charly) as BCA Field Staff.

Prior to moving to Bathurst, James, Charly, Elijah, Joshua and Hannah served at St Peter's Cremorne, where James was a student minister. His responsibilities included preaching, service leading, evangelism, writing & leading Bible studies, and being part of the vision & strategy teams. James also served for four years at Church by the Bridge (Kirribilli/Neutral Bay), firstly as a ministry training strategy apprentice and then as a student minister.

Charly has an Advanced Diploma of Ministry/Certificate of Children's ministry from Youthworks College and has served in kids' ministry roles for over a decade.

Since commencing in this training role as Assistant Minister, James has been preaching each fortnight and leads a weekly Bible study alongside Charly. James also teaches SRE at South Bathurst Public School.

"The kids are asking such great questions and are very enthusiastic which is very encouraging," says James. "I've also been very encouraged by the teacher who has expressed interest in coming to church!"

The Cathedral works in partnership with an Anglicare branch, providing food to those who have fallen on tough times. James attends a morning tea that is hosted for community members where they can discuss any issues that they are facing. "This has really developed my pastoral skills as I've engaged with some tricky situations," says James.

James & Charly both lead a weekly Kids' Club which brings into play Charly's skills as an Early Childhood Teacher, as well as her training in Children's Ministry. "Praise God, this group is growing at a rapid pace," says James. "In a year, it's grown from just eight kids to 37 kids!"

"We are really excited to see the way God grows us in maturity and what opportunities to testify to God's glory and great salvation He will grant us," says James. "Thank you for your support of our ministry, we are so encouraged by you all."

*Janine van den Tillaart*



Matt & Emily Goldman

## Training in the Top End

Matt & Emily Goldman have been in the Top End for nearly six months with BCA supporting them as ministry trainees at Christ Church Anglican Cathedral, Darwin.

After completing his four-year Bachelor of Divinity through Moore College in 2022, Matt is working at the Cathedral in Darwin alongside Dean, Rob Llewellyn.

Matt's role sees him overseeing the church's evening service plant. He and Emily also run weekly Growth Groups as part of their ministry to young adults.

"We are really excited for the many gospel opportunities that the Darwin city holds, particularly as we reach out to the younger generations," says Matt.

Matt & Emily both grew up in regional Australia, and while they enjoyed their time studying in Sydney, always hoped to serve in a regional or remote area.

Emily is a fifth year doctor who is looking to become a GP. During her training she spent a year in Darwin doing emergency medicine. "I am

very open with my work colleagues about the fact that I am a Christian," says Emily. "I also love it when people ask if my husband is also a doctor, because it opens up fun conversations about ministry, and what being Anglican means to us."


During Matt's years in Sydney, he worked as a student minister at South Sydney Anglican Church and St Stephen's Bomaderry.

Matt also did a short-term placement in Darwin.

"We think we can contribute to BCA's mission as we have a heart to share the Gospel, disciple and equip all people with the message of hope in Christ, no matter what their background is," says Matt.

"Some key challenges are discipling and building up believers in under equipped and under resourced areas, particularly as Australian culture moves further and further away from a biblical culture. We pray that in our role in Darwin we will see people grow in faith and come into God's kingdom."

*Janine van den Tillaart*



# A blessing to work at Nungalinga College

Action songs during chapel

One of our newest Field Staff, Emily Quinn is passionate about her work at Nungalinga College. BCA was delighted to commence supporting her role as Coordinator of the Foundation Studies department this year.

"I consider it a great privilege to meet so many Aboriginal brothers and sisters, work with them, learn from them, and be blessed by their languages, cultures and insights," says Emily.

In her role, Emily oversees the delivery of the three foundation courses offered by Nungalinga: Pre-Certificate I, Certificate I and Certificate II courses in English as an Additional Language or Dialect. Each of these courses are delivered over a three-year period, in four-week intensives. These mandated VET units are incorporated into a Scriptural framework (as possible), with each of the three years focusing on a different biblical theme or narrative. Once students have completed their studies they take this knowledge back to their remote communities and churches.

"I teach primarily the Pre-Certificate I course," says Emily. "We study the Bible together, share, pray, practice

spelling, writing and reading in English, look at key passages in First Languages, prepare for and share at chapel, and encourage each other."



John Warner, Emily Quinn,  
Greg Harris & Ben van Gelderen

Students begin each day at 8:30 am with chapel, and classes finish at 2:30 pm. "Chapel is a lovely way to begin each day at Nungalinga," says Emily. "We gather to sing together in both English and Indigenous languages, to listen to Scripture and pray. Students will often share 'action songs' with us (dances set to Christian songs) or act out Bible stories.

"I couldn't imagine a better place to work. I feel so grateful that this job brings together so many threads from my life: education, faith, Indigenous culture, language teaching and learning."

*Janine van den Tillaart*



# Transitioning well to life and work in the bush

**The first BCA ONTRACK cohort have successfully completed Term 1 of the program. ONTRACK aims to help participants negotiate bumps in the road and thrive as they serve Jesus in the bush. It provides training, mentoring and a cohort of like-minded peers, with the aim of developing their professional, personal and spiritual lives.**

The cohort of fourteen met online on Monday nights for five weeks, with the theme for Term 1 focusing on transitioning well, as participants moved from uni to life and work in the bush.

"We want ONTRACK to be a place where people can really think about issues they may not normally think about," says ONTRACK Coordinator Tim Stevens.

The Term 1 program included guest speakers Mark Calder, Bishop of Bathurst (finding and becoming part of a country church), BCA National Council Member and Chaplain at UNE, Tom Melbourne

(How to take responsibility for your own Christian growth) and Moranbah Field Staff Luke Collings (How to get involved in the community, especially when you feel the pull to return home). Other topics discussed included culture and care.

"It was so encouraging to see these young people on fire for Jesus, wanting to serve him in the bush often at great personal cost (leaving behind family and friends)," says Tim. "Members of the first cohort have moved to places including Karratha, Alice Springs, Armidale, Dalby and Port Pirie."





**TOP RIGHT:**  
Abi with National  
Director Greg Harris

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Tim Stevens, Lucy  
& Elliot Chapman  
and Kirsty Stevens.  
Elliot and Lucy are  
part of the first  
ONTRACK cohort  
and also attend  
Guyra Anglican

***"I recently moved to a rural community to work as a nurse. I was invited to join the ONTRACK program, and it's been the best thing! Just such a timely opportunity to connect with other Christians making similar transitions into rural and remote communities and share the journey with them. Sure this chapter of my life is challenging, but being part of the ONTRACK program has helped me to see the opportunities, and given me the support and the vision to really embrace this season and all that it holds."***

***Abi, Nurse, Glen Innes NSW***

"ONTRACK has been a highlight for me each week as I begin my journey in a rural town," says Hannah, a teacher living in Warwick, Queensland.



"I felt so refreshed after the first week; hearing Bible-based teaching that directly addressed what I was thinking through, and talking to other grads who understood how I was feeling in a way that my friends back home don't. It's super encouraging to know other young people are also in country Australia seeking to serve God across their skill sets."

The ONTRACK cohort recently commenced its Term 2 program which focuses on *Tricky Issues* with topics covered including money, politics and Indigenous issues. The program will continue in Terms 3 & 4 with a total of twenty sessions across the year.

**If you'd like to know more about ONTRACK email:**  
**[tim.stevens@bushchurcaid.com.au](mailto:tim.stevens@bushchurcaid.com.au)**

*Janine van den Tillaart*



# Music creates community in Mallacoota

**As most readers know, the Cooperating Parish of Croajingolong was devastated by the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019/20. Over the last few years, we have been recipients of huge amounts of prayer, support, and financial assistance.**

Currently there are 15 men from Vanuatu in Mallacoota, here for nine months of work at the Abalone Coop. Far from home, and with limited communications, these men faced the trauma of their homeland being hit by cyclones Judy & Kevin in early March, just two days apart. As news began to filter through from their families it was clear that many had faced significant devastation, with houses, crops, livestock, water tanks and gardens destroyed.

As a community we are aware of how blessed we have been, and so I thought we should respond to the plight of the Nivan men and their families and support them in prayer and finance.

The Cooperating Parish of Croajingolong was right behind the idea to fundraise for the men's families. We had a special Sunday offering, and agreed to donate a full week's worth of income made at St Peter's Opshop, but we also wanted this to be an event that the community could participate in. So, the idea of a fundraising concert was born. In 10 days it went from a conversation, to a packed church that overflowed with joy, music, laughter, tears and donations.

St Peter's comfortably seats 100 people, but best estimates have the concert's attendance on Saturday 18 March at closer to 200. There were people everywhere, peering around doors and through windows, and



**FAR LEFT:** Jude with the Nivan men on the day of the fundraising concert

**TOP RIGHT:** Jude with the Nivan men following the working bee

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Working on the concrete pads for the native reflective garden at St John's Cann River

sitting outside in the shade enjoying the singing. The music, songs and colour helped set the scene, but having a hot and humid day certainly gave a full-immersion experience, as though we really were in Vanuatu.

A few days later I had the privilege of gathering the Nivan men together and telling them this community, in slightly over a week, had raised over \$17,000 – \$1130+ for each man!



The Nivan men singing in St Peter's

This money was distributed into the bank accounts of the men, for them to transfer to their families in Vanuatu.

The next week the Nivan men came to me, "Rev Jude, we'd like to help you and the church to say thank you. What can we do?"

God's timing is perfect. Over the last 18 months we've been developing a native reflective garden at St John's Cann River. Senior students from the local P-12 college made some beautiful seats from timber milled on site... but we desperately needed help to create concrete pads for the seats to sit on.

A community working bee occurred, with locals and the Nivans working side-by-side to mix and pour concrete, clean up the gardens and give our historic St John's an Easter spring-clean. The whole experience has been one of such great joy and benefit to the community, as well as to the Nivan men and their families.

*Jude Benton*





# Thriving church plant on the Southern Beaches

**Just over five years since Southern Beaches Anglican (SBA) was launched in south-east Tasmania, this church plant is thriving, with a community of 60 plus members.**

David & Lauren Horne are into their third year of leading SBA and they are so encouraged by God bringing new people to worship with them.

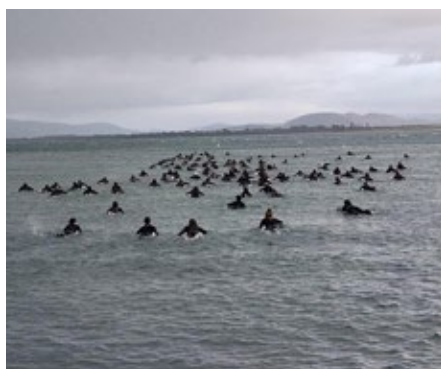
"The church started in early 2018 with 30 people and out of that number there are 10 who are still here," says Dave. "To go from 10 originals to 60, means 50 new people! They are a mix of those who have lived here and are now integrating into the church, or those who have more recently moved from the city."

In the last year a number of new families have joined Southern Beaches Anglican. Two families came from non-Christian backgrounds and are now regular

members of the church. Two other families were already committed Christians and started serving the church community almost immediately. "We had been praying for people who were ready to serve and God answered our prayers," says Dave. "That has been a huge boost to our morale. While we didn't ask them to use their gifts straight away, these families got to know our culture and ways of doing things and then started serving in music ministry, kids ministry, Bible reading and making tea and coffee."

Southern Beaches Anglican meets each Sunday at 4pm at the Blue Lagoon Christian Campsite in Dodges Ferry. The site meets SBA's purposes as it has a main room for church, a





**FAR LEFT:** Dave preaching at Southern Beaches Anglican

**TOP RIGHT:** Christian Surfers at the Easter Dawn Service

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Paddling out on Easter Sunday to make a cross in the water at sunrise

separate room for kids' church and a dining room for afternoon tea. But they still have to set up for church each Sunday, a job which takes around 90 mins before church and a 30-minute pack down after church.

Easter Sunday in Southern Beaches was a little different this year. "Over Easter we joined with Christian Surfers Australia and had a combined dawn service," says Dave. "There were about 25 from our church and 200 from Christian Surfers. I was invited to do the talk. Standing in the dark, cold and wind and trying to deliver a short sermon to over 200 people was amazing. A bunch of us then got on our surfboards and as it's their tradition to make a cross in the water as the sun rises."

Apart from preaching three times a month at SBA, and twice a month

at St George's in Sorell, Dave is involved in the local community as a chaplain at Nippers in summer and a soccer coach in autumn/winter.

"I believe that these are some of the most important things that I do, especially living in a small community," says Dave. "It is where people see what church is actually about. It's one thing to know that the church exists, but if it's not visible outside Sunday services, what's the point of it? People have got to know me, trust me, see I'm a safe person and through that, great conversations have opened up."

Please pray for Dave, Lauren and the kids as they continue to serve at Southern Beaches Anglican and in the community. May God continue to bless their growing ministry and see many more come to Christ.

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# TRAVEL THE COUNTRY WITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TOURS

CFT are offering two spring holidays with a BCA flavour:



## King & Kangaroo Island

Departs 12 September 2023 (15 days)

Travel from Sydney via Jindabyne and Mallacoota to enjoy the remote beauty of King Island, journey along the Great Ocean Road, visit Kangaroo Island and finish in Adelaide.

- **Three Nights King Island** – tours & local produce
- **Three Nights Kangaroo Island** – wildlife encounters
- **Spectacular Scenery** – Great Ocean Road, Alpine & Gippsland Regions, Murray River, Coorong, Mt Gambier and more!
- **Worship & Fellowship** – Daily Devotions, Sunday Worship with local Christians, plus spend time in fellowship with BCA ministry in six locations.

**Depart Sydney with return flight from Adelaide, accommodation, most meals and sightseeing**

**TWIN SHARE**  
**\$7690 PP**

**SINGLE** LIMITED  
**\$8990** SINGLES  
AVAILABLE



## Norfolk Island Thanksgiving

Departs 23 November 2023 (Nine days)

Enjoy Thanksgiving in one of the only places outside North America where the community celebrate with a traditional worship service. Connect with local Christians and the BCA family on this glorious island holiday.

Book via our website  
[christianfellowshiptours.com](http://christianfellowshiptours.com)  
or call 1300 635 358.

**All inclusive of flights (from Sydney), accommodation, meals and fantastic daily tours to discover the very best of historic Norfolk**

**TWIN SHARE**  
**\$4950 PP**

**SINGLE**  
**\$5750**

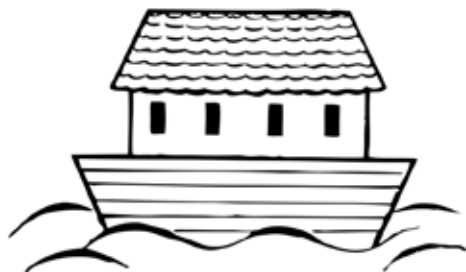
# NOAH AND THE ARK

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH



### WORD LIST:

ANIMALS  
 ARK  
 BELIEVE  
 BUILD  
 CREATURES  
 DOVE  
 EVIL  
 FLOOD  
 FORTY  
 GOOD  
 LAND  
 MOUNTAIN  
 NOAH  
 PAIRS  
 PROMISE  
 RAIN  
 RAINBOW  
 TWO  
 WATER  
 WOOD



# Campfire fun



**That cold breezy weather is (hopefully) upon us. I wrote this article in April when summer was still struggling to exit and make way for autumn. Here's to believing that now it is winter, we are shivering in our boots as the temperature has dropped and we can make the best of all this season has to offer.**

Some of my favorites include warm PJ's and slippers, coats and scarves, hot chocolates, grilled cheese sandwiches, umbrellas and gumboots, but perhaps the most fun time is as a family around the campfire. So, if like me you embrace the chilly season and all its simple joys here is an idea to help you level up your campfire this year.

Once you are all set up, with your parents' help of course, play this ice breaker game by asking your family the following questions. Hopefully it starts some really great conversations, and everyone can share some of their favourite stories:

- What is one place in Australia that you have never visited, but would really like to?
- What is a favourite place you have visited in Australia?
- What is your favourite memory visiting somewhere in Australia?
- What is your favourite airport or road trip?
- Do you prefer camping under the stars or a hotel adventure?
- Do you prefer going outback or going to a city?
- Beach or mountains trip?
- Summer or Winter trip?
- What is your favourite Australian animal?
- What Australian animal are you most afraid of?
- If you were to do a road trip in Australia, where would you go?
- What is your most essential packing item?
- How as a family could you support gospel ministry across Australia?





Perhaps as you consider the last question with your family, think about whether there has been a common thread that could lead you to pray for and support a particular region. Head to our map in the middle of the *BCA Prayer Notes*, look at the different regions and people you could support.

Ask your parents for help to get in touch with us by emailing [bca4kids@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:bca4kids@bushchurchaid.com.au) and we will send you a postcard of the Field Staff that you would like to support. Once you have received your card, place it on the fridge or somewhere so as a family you are reminded to pray for them. As a family you can sign up for a prayer newsletter which is a great way to help you pray for and understand the needs of gospel work in that part of Australia.

We always love hearing from you and the ways in which you are getting involved in supporting ministry across Australia.

*Rachel Dirks*

**bca 4kids**  
bush church aid

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Akur M	Caitlin G
Josephine L	Donte G
Obadiah S	Ruby L
Skye McK	Belle M
Sienna C	Philippa S
Hamish C	Annabelle P
Kate L	Joel L
Mitchell B	Maximilian M
Franklin P	Madilyn McD
Ada Lee R	Joel L
Tahlia N	Georgia F
Alexander C	Simon W
Hamish G	Ethan B
Ryan T	

# 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 slip 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 and a drink bottle.  
 Soon we will launch our new BCA 4 Kids  
 magazine too!



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



## DARWIN, NT:

Greg Harris & John Warner took the opportunity to catch up with all the NT Field Staff plus National Council Member and former Field Staff Jodi Chapman and son Oliver.



## Broken Hill, NSW:

Neville Naden, Paul Sampson and Greg Harris all travelled to Broken Hill to attend the commissioning of Brendan & Laura Hurley on Sunday 5 February.



## COBAR, NSW:

After serving with BCA since 2017, James & Brittany Daymond were re-commissioned to serve in Cobar on Saturday 18 February. They were supported by people from Narromine, Mudgee and also Greg Bridge and Paul Sampson.



## BATHURST, NSW:

James Boardman was ordained in Bathurst on 4 March followed by he and Charly being commissioned as BCA Field Staff.



## OYUEN, VIC:

Greg Harris and Adrian Lane supported returning Field Staff Steve & Vanessa Weickhardt as they were re-commissioned to serve on 9 March.



## WEST WYALONG, NSW:

On Saturday 11 February, Steven & Caitlin Klouth were commissioned to serve with Paul Sampson, Greg Bridge, and Fred Chilton in attendance.



## COWRA, NSW:

Ben & Alissa Connolly were commissioned to serve on Saturday 28 January with BCA represented by Chairman Fred Chilton, National Director Greg Harris and COO Greg Bridge.



# A vastly different ministry, but one reaping rewards

**LEFT:** Children's dedication on the beach

**TOP RIGHT:** Just one of the baptisms at Port Lincoln

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Neil Cosby, John Miller and Jack at a home fellowship meeting

**Hello from the Harradine's. We have been back in South Australia since January. Our work here is vastly different to Broken Hill. We still miss our church family in the Hill, but we have had to quickly adjust to a new way of living and ministering.**

We are based/attached to our original home church in Adelaide, the Berean Aboriginal Christian Church, but most of our time is spent on the road, in rural and remote parts of SA, sharing the gospel and teaching others to do the same.

South Australia is a big state, but the Aboriginal Christian community is very small, so just about everyone knows each other or is related to someone who is related to us!

Between the two of us, we have blood connections with seven of the main traditional (tribal) groups in South Australia. This means that we have lots of family scattered everywhere and doors

are opened to us to minister in those communities because of our bloodlines.

We have had many people plead with us to go and live and minister in their communities. They are desperate for the gospel to be shared amongst their families and friends.

Since returning home, we have spent time spying out the land. We have spent time on Yorke Peninsula and in Port Augusta, and we have been praying hard for God's direction and guidance.

God led us to Port Lincoln. At the time of writing, we have been here for just over a week. In that time,





we have seen people come to Christ for the first time and we have had people re-dedicate their lives to Christ. We have been busy everyday preaching, teaching and witnessing to unbelievers.

On Easter Sunday we baptised nine people and dedicated eight children. Three of those were converted that morning and baptised in the afternoon. It reminded me of Phillip the Evangelist and the Ethiopian Eunuch.

The small group of believers here are so excited that they have asked us to stay and help them build a church community and teach and equip them to share the gospel and disciple new believers. They want to reach their community with the good news. Praise God!

Thanks, and God bless you all.

*Jack & Lill Harradine*



## Sharing with our Karen friends

Earlier this year Victorian Regional Officer Adrian Lane had the privilege of speaking to the members of St Andrew's Corio-Norlane, many of whom are Karen people:

I had a fantastic time at St Andrew's; I preached in English in the morning, to both Karen members of the congregation and some older non-Karen; then again in the afternoon, at the Karen service, with translation. I didn't understand a word of the afternoon service, apart from Amen! I preached on Matthew 28:16-20 and encouraged them to go out to all nations with the gospel.

I have been going to St Andrew's, usually as my first deputation of the year, for at least five years. The parish and congregation have been so generous to BCA over the years, it is a great joy that this continues and is increasing! I find it so humbling to see our Karen friends putting their envelopes in the BCA donation box. Many have spent many years in refugee camps in Thailand and do not speak English. Many do not have a job and those that do are often in lower paying jobs. Their enthusiasm for Jesus is so encouraging and I look forward to spending time with them again next year.

I'm pictured above with some of the Karen teenagers and parents waiting for Sunday School to finish. They are such beautiful people.

*Adrian Lane*

# Fundraising for the bush

Without our faithful supporters BCA could not keep sending Field Staff to remote, rural and regional Australia. Your generous financial support is vital to our work, but there are also some crafty supporters who have found different ways to fundraise for BCA. Two of these supporters are Karen Hastie and Trudy Robinson.

Around 2015, supporters Karen & Kevin Hastie attended a Nomads gathering and Karen was prompted to see what she could do to further help BCA. "I'm a very much behind

the scenes person, so getting up to talk for me is not an option," she says. "So, I asked my daughters-in-laws who have been recipients of my hand made cards, if they thought they would be suitable for me to sell and raise money for BCA. They said 'of course!'".

Karen mostly makes cards for occasions such as Mother's and Father's days but has also made knitted bunnies and teddy bears. She takes requests for her cards, "I've managed to get an ongoing order for 200 Christmas cards and recently picked up another order of 60 ordinary cards. Plus, quite a few Nomads asked for cards to sell at their own churches, particularly during COVID."

"I'm pleasantly surprised to say that I have raised over \$10,000 since I started in 2015," says Karen. "I am so thankful to God that I've been able to make cards as long as I have. Making cards is for my sanity as I am restricted with what I can do with my hands. I have stumped doctors as to what's wrong with them. The simple fact is, they hurt when I use them, so being able to do something that helps an organisation I support makes me so grateful."



Quilted playmat made by Trudy



**FAR LEFT:** The BCA stall at St Alban's Lindfield

**TOP LEFT:** Karen making her cards

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Trudy's bird decorations on sale at Bobbin Head Visitor Centre

Trudy Robinson grew up in the Northern Territory, worked in remote areas of Australia and heard early on about the work of BCA. "My husband David and I had the opportunity to volunteer with BCA in Western Australia for a couple of years and when we left I looked for other ways to support BCA as they sought to serve our more remote communities," says Trudy.

Trudy started sewing for BCA, making quilted playmats and patchwork Australian bird decorations. Some playmats she has sent to Field Staff for their newborns and others for them to distribute to new mums within their congregations.

"While I mainly make playmats and bird decorations, I also make dolly quilts, superhero capes and cloth

cards." Trudy has run a craft stall at St Alban's Lindfield, sold her craft work via the BCA Nomads Facebook page, and last year was approached to provide a quilt as a silent auction item for a mission dinner for BCA.

More recently Trudy has her birds on sale at the Bobbin Head Visitor Centre in Kuring-gai Chase National Park and The National Trust Shop in Killara. The National Parks and Wildlife Service asked for information on BCA so people could know that by purchasing a bird decoration their funds were going to mission in the bush.

We are so grateful for the efforts of Karen and Trudy and would love to hear from others who have been using their gifts and talents to support the work of BCA.

*Janine van den Tilllaart*



Former BCA Staff Member Sue Rice and Trudy staff the stall at St Alban's



Karen Hastie and her husband Kevin

# Councillor's Column

My association with BCA began in 1981, when The Revd Theo Hayman appointed me as his Curate (now called Assistant Minister), when he became the rector of St Stephen's Willoughby. Theo had just retired from his position of BCA Federal Secretary (as the National Director was then called) and he introduced me to the importance of supporting ministry in the outback. His enthusiasm for remote ministry inspired St Stephen's to support the construction of the rectory at Newman, where Roger & Amanda Kyngdon now serve, and who are Field Staff currently linked to St Stephen's Willoughby. Theo's influence extended to Fred Chilton, a member of Stephen's, who joined the BCA National Council, and eventually became its Chairman.

Now that I have retired as Archbishop of Sydney, during which time I served as Patron of BCA, it has been a delight to continue my involvement and support of the BCA family in my newish capacity as President. Yet, I am conscious of following in the footsteps of Bishop John Harrower, who held the position with distinction for a number of years.

My wife, Dianne and I have now returned to St Stephen's Willoughby and it is unique in the history of BCA that the President and Chairman attend the same local church.

As I pray through the BCA Prayer Notes each day, I am regularly struck by the number of children in our Field Staff families. Children are a gift from the Lord and in our prayers we should always ensure that we remember not just the ministry couples, but their children as well, who share their ministry (even if they had no say in where their parents were going to serve!). From babes in

arms to teenagers, it is not easy living in remote areas. The transition from a large city to the bush can be very hard for children, with the loss of school friends, loss of relationships, and loss of closeness to their extended families. When I pray for the Kyngdons, I am always reminded of my own five grandchildren, if for no other reason than their sharing the same names as four of ours! So it is a healthy reminder for me to pray for the physical, spiritual and emotional welfare of our BCA children, as I do for my own grandchildren. We should never take for granted those little ones, who are precious in God's sight and members of his family – olive shoots around the table (Psalm 128:3).

Of course, for some married couples on the field, their children have grown up and started new families of their own. For them the hardship is being away from adult children and grandchildren. And for those unmarried servants of Christ who faithfully serve BCA without the support of a spouse, we should remember their spiritual and emotional needs, that they might find companionship and fellowship in their ministry.

BCA is made up of many families, but we are also one family, born again by the Spirit of the Father, and made heirs of eternal life through the work of God's Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.



*Glenn Davies*  
**BCA President**

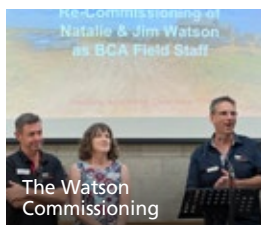


# Post & Rails

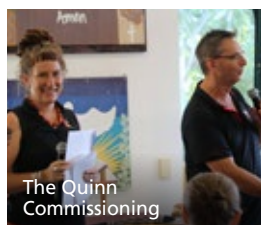
## CONGRATULATIONS



The Harradine Commissioning



The Watson Commissioning



The Quinn Commissioning



The Goldman Commissioning



The Garrett Commissioning

Congratulations to all our Field Staff who were commissioned to serve with BCA in January, February and March: The Harradines, The Connells, The Hurleys, The Klouths, The Daymonds, The Garretts, Emily Quinn, The Watsons, The Goldmans, The Boardmans and The Weickhardts. (Photos of the commissionings not featured here can be found on page 19).

## CONGRATULATIONS

## WELCOME

## ON THE MOVE



**Bob Barclay** celebrated 20 years with BCA in early March. He has worked in the Victorian Office alongside three Regional Officers – Murray Lamont, Greg Jones and Adrian Lane.



**Jono Korsgaarden** has commenced work in the National Office as our new Receptionist/Admin Assistant. Jono hails from Norway but has been living in Australia for five years. He is married to Sarah and they attend church in Waterloo.



**Jessica Kim** who has been working as the National Office's Receptionist/Admin Assistant for the past year has taken on the role of Greg Harris' Personal Assistant.



# From the Archives

**God's miracles are all around. Whilst working as a nursing sister at the Goulburn Base Hospital I had seen an advertisement in the Nurses' Journal, placed by the Bush Church Aid Society, seeking staff for the Medical Centre at Coober Pedy.**

I rang the Society's office in Sydney and within two days a deputation was on the doorstep of the nurses' home in Goulburn! For the next two hours we sat in the visitors' room looking at slides of Coober Pedy and discussing the work at the Medical Centre. Prior to this I had never heard of Coober Pedy and had no idea where it was. By evening I was signed up, and within ten days I was on my way to the 'great outback'.

I always knew I was meant to work for God. Therefore, it came as no surprise that a person of my quiet reserved nature and with only four years general and one year midwifery training behind me, should find herself heading for a remote Australian outback medical centre. This, I believed, was God's plan for me and I went to Coober Pedy knowing God went with me.

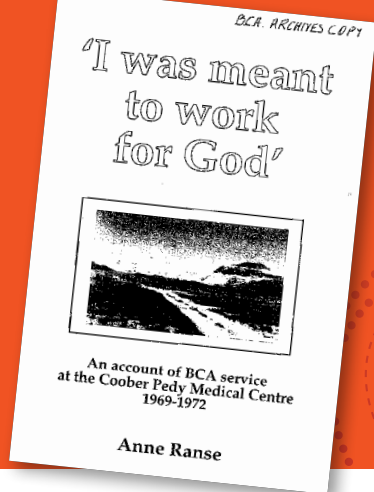
Coober Pedy, at least as far as lifestyle and architecture are concerned, is one of the most unusual places in Australia. The population was estimated to be

about 600–700 people when I arrived in 1969 and rose to about 2700 before I left in 1972. About 75 per cent of the people lived underground in dug-out homes.

Opened in 1965, the Medical Centre was a long single-story structure of fibro-cement sheeting with a galvanized iron roof and concrete floors covered with linoleum tiles. The inpatient capacity was four beds set into two rooms that were classified male or female wards but doubled as either when necessary.

Outpatients were the core of our work at the Medical Centre and by far the busiest and biggest responsibility. Like the Outpatients Department of any busy hospital, everything from minor complaints to the most horrific of accidents was handled. The outpatients clinics had specific hours that were adhered to but we were available twenty four hours a day if needed.

Prior to my arrival in Coober Pedy I had no real understanding of how an outback Medical Centre



LEFT: 'I was meant to work for God' Book Cover

BELOW: Anne Dau while serving in Coober Pedy



functioned or just what was involved despite having had it all explained to me. The demands placed upon us were far beyond our training and I firmly believe that the work we did was all done with God's help and guidance. There was always a guiding hand in all we did. Prayers were answered and praise returned on a regular basis. God truly blessed our work.

The responsibility of sharing God's word and being a witness to him was always a large part of our work. Opportunities to do this occurred daily with the people we came into contact with and particularly with inpatients. Aboriginal inpatients especially, would listen eagerly as we said evening prayers and had a

Bible reading before lights out. It was through this that I discovered they had no access to a Bible in their own language and very few, if any, could read English. I wrote to the Bible Society in Melbourne and they promptly provided the Medical Centre with six New Testaments in Pitjantjatjara, the language spoken by most of the Indigenous people in the area. Once it became known that these books were at the Medical Centre groups of Aboriginal people would wander over of an evening and sit on the bench at the back door to read the New Testament and talk about what they were reading. These were wonderful sharing times.

*Anne Ranse (nee Dau)*



Coober Pedy Medical Centre

*These excerpts are taken from 'I was meant to work for God – an account of the BCA service at the Coober Pedy Medical Centre 1969–1972' by Anne Ranse which is found in the BCA Archives*

# The busy life of a locum

The view heading up to Capella

**Simon Hattrell busily serves God in vacant BCA parishes all across the country. From February to April this year he was in Emerald, Queensland and he's currently serving in Coober Pedy, South Australia (part of May and June). Here he tells us about some of his time in Emerald.**

While in Emerald, I was employed three days a week, so my busy time started on Thursday evenings with prayer time and Bible study. Fridays were a good time to catch up with folk and get ready for the weekend. Saturday mornings were another prayer time at church, followed by three hours at St Luke's Op Shop.

Sunday morning church in Emerald is at 9:30 am followed by morning tea. One Sunday during my time there I had a good congregation of 30 with three new folks, followed by morning tea in the air-conditioned hall. Twice a month, on the second and third Sundays, I travelled to the mining town of Blackwater, 45 minutes' drive away, to take

a service in the CWA hall for a small congregation.

During my free days I really enjoyed getting around the beautiful country of the central highlands. It is quite stunning. One day Alan, the Priest's Warden, a semi-retired welder/boilermaker and farmer with whom I did some pastoral visitation, took me up to the Peaks near Capella to visit some Christian folk.

St Luke's Op Shop is going well, although it is only open on Saturday mornings. One weekend when I was there we took over \$500. Please pray for the long-term sustainability of this ministry as they connect with so many folk from the community.

I really enjoyed preaching through key passages in Mark's gospel. A Christianity Explored course which I conducted commenced with 21 people concluded with 15 participants for a day away. My prayer is that the parish will use this into the future as a way to reach out and share the good news of the gospel.

*Simon Hattrell*




St Luke's Op Shop, Emerald



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