

The Real



spring
2020

Australian



Never too far, Never too few

Empowering Indigenous People to serve 6
Going the distance in a small town with a big history 10

BCA Directory

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Cover Photo:
The Road to Onslow taken by Simon Roberts

Can you touch your toes? Yes, no or used to be able to? I have always been quite sporty but never as flexible as I should be. My tight hamstrings haven't always allowed me to touch my toes without bending my knees.

That said, I have found myself needing to be flexible in many aspects of ministry over the years. I hasten to add the need to be flexible in aspects that are not important; I don't mean in foundational gospel truths. I recall a time when I turned up to a small country church in the middle of nowhere. I had a well-prepared sermon and service but only one faithful parishioner turned up. Most of what was prepared went out the window and we sat together in this little wooden church. We shared a cup of tea, opened God's word and prayed. Flexibility allowed one of the most valuable pastoral sessions I had in that parish.

The situation we find ourselves in presently with the shifting sands of border restrictions, lockdowns and safe distancing all due to COVID-19 requires great flexibility. How many of us knew what Zoom was before Easter this year? And yet the church is not always known for flexibility is it? (Insert joke about 'How many bishops does it take to change a lightbulb' here)

I find myself in self-isolation as I write this article after returning from interstate after a family bereavement. I am unable to leave the house and yet ministry must go on. Flexibility is called for.

As I read back over the history of BCA, I believe that flexibility has been a strong characteristic of our ministry. Just consider the van ministry that occurred in the early years, or the medical support provided in places like Cook (See page 24).

When we return to what is often termed "the new normal" that same flexibility will need to continue to be valued. But may it never be at the expense of what we believe and value. Foundational gospel truths remain resolute.

Can I also encourage you to not be flexible in your support? Please continue to pray for our Field Staff and their flexibility to deal with the current situation in order to proclaim Jesus. And may we remain faithful in all areas of our support of Bush Church Aid so that we can continue to go the distance to reach Australia for Christ.

And may God grant all of us flexibility to learn new things and peace when wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world.

Greg Harris
National Director



As I read back over the history of BCA, I believe that flexibility has been a strong characteristic of our ministry. Just consider the van ministry that occurred in the early years or the medical support provided in places like Cook

We can make the plans, but the Lord determines our steps



Philip & Jessica van't Spyker together with their children Jasper, Tabitha, Otto and Corin have joined the BCA family! They are serving Jesus in Yeppoon where Philip is the Families Minister in the Anglican Parish of Keppel. Philip & Jessica tell us a bit about themselves, their faith and what you can be praying for them:

We tell different stories about how we met. One story is that we met in our final years of primary school when we danced together, but didn't talk to each other. The other story is that we met at a funeral 14 years later, but this time we spoke. A year after that we were married. Both stories are true, we just differ over which is the best way of sharing the story!

We both grew up in North Rocks (Sydney), with families who love the gospel and took us to church each week. We had wonderful children's and youth leaders who, along with our parents, shared with us both

the gospel and their lives. Neither of us can remember a time when we didn't know Jesus as our Saviour and King. For that we are very thankful. We both served in youth ministry at our churches and had the privilege of seeing young people come to know Jesus and to grow in Him.

Philip did an apprenticeship at Northmead Anglican, while attending Youthworks College before serving overseas for a year with a special focus on the children and teenagers of workers on the mission field. Jessica later did MTS (Ministry Training Strategy) also at Northmead. Her focus was to serve with our Indigenous brothers and sisters somewhere in the Northern Territory. Philip and Jessica prepared for ministry in Darwin, but in the Lord's wisdom this was not to be.

A year after we were married we went to Sydney Missionary and Bible College to further train for the ministry. After serving with the saints at St Mark's Anglican in Berowra for five years, we became aware of

the need for gospel ministry in Queensland. So we moved to serve in a Presbyterian Church. We then became more and more aware of the need for evangelical clergy in the Anglican Church across Queensland. Philip worked as a funeral director in Ipswich as we attempted to move into the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. However, this wasn't what the Lord had in mind for us. During this time we were approached to consider serving in Yeppoon.

We didn't know a lot about BCA before joining up. Since Bible College, we have seen some friends become part of the BCA family and Philip's Aunt & Uncle spent some time with BCA in Cloncurry. We were very thankful for BCA's work in sending good gospel-minded people to serve in small, remote areas of Australia. Places that by some definitions aren't 'strategic'. Places that appear to be missing generations of Christians in churches, but where there is great gospel need. We love BCA's commitment to long-term partnerships where needed.

We also knew nothing about Yeppoon before we moved here and were expecting an outback Queensland town. As we explored further, we discovered Yeppoon is a very beautiful town on the coast 30 minutes from Rockhampton with wonderful, mild weather.

In our ministry here we pray that God will use us to see children and youth of the church & Diocese grow in their faith and that families will be equipped to disciple their own children. We're also keen to see intergenerational ministry become the norm across the Diocese. Many urban churches

have been well served by young adults who serve as youth and kids' leaders. In regional churches, there are very few young adults. This is a great opportunity for older adults to encourage the younger ones in their faith and to be equally encouraged as the younger ones grow and share what the Lord Jesus is doing in their lives.

We are also keen to help the teenagers who move to bigger cities for university

make good connections so that they are linked to good churches and will continue to grow and serve through all seasons of life.

We are nervous about serving in a new church in an area largely unknown by us. Please pray that we would remember the Lord and that He is King. In the stress of meeting

people and learning at a new school, pray that we would be godly with each other and keep bringing our needs to God in prayer.

Please pray that the six of us would have the words to share Jesus with the people we meet and that the Lord would save those we speak to. Finally we ask for wisdom for the best way to train people in ministry to children and young people across the Diocese of Central Queensland.

*Philip & Jessica
van't Spyker*

**In our ministry
here we pray that
God will use us
to see children
and youth of the
church & Diocese
grow in their faith**

Empowering Indigenous People to serve

Since colonisation and the gospel message coming to these shores, ministry to Aboriginals has primarily been done by non-Indigenous people.

With the support of the Executive, and past and present National Directors, Mark Short and Greg Harris, BCA is seeking to improve the way ministry is done by First Nations people in this country.

At its recent AGM, BCA commissioned its first Indigenous Ministry Committee. This committee was established to support me in developing the Indigenous aspect of BCA's work. Even though it was conducted via Zoom, it was a great occasion, with some 85 people in attendance who learned about the great importance of Indigenous ministry. Committee Chairperson Joy Sandefur and I were proud to be part of the commissioning.

Since its establishment, the committee has been working to identify and support Indigenous people who wish to be trained in ministry. As a result, BCA has provided some funding for three young Aboriginal people to train on the east coast of Australia. Two are studying at Moore College in Sydney and one at Ridley College in Melbourne.

Regular readers of *The Real Australian* have already met Lucie Wheeler, one of the Moore students. In this edition, I would like to introduce you to the other two students – Lonny Bendessi and Jonathan Tuivawa.

Lonny was born in Adelaide but grew up at Kooniba Mission, near Ceduna. As

a young man, he experimented with the things of the world but at the age of 21 while living in Adelaide, Lonny's aunty invited him to attend church. He refused at first then one day decided to take up her offer. After attending church about five times, Lonny felt God was doing a work of grace in his life and he responded to God's call.

As you may or may not know, theological training can be quite difficult for anyone. We ask that you pray for all Lonny, Jono and Lucie as they continue to equip themselves to serve within the life of God's Church

Four years after his conversion, Lonny began to feel that God wanted him to do more. He enjoyed listening to God's word being taught and had a real desire to serve and learn. He soon began to pray about what God was calling him to do in the long-term. He decided that at the very least, he could enrol to study the Bible in a more formal setting.

Lonny is really enjoying his time at Ridley College, especially how loved and supported he feels in his learning. What advice would Lonny give those thinking of embarking on study? "One should pray,"

he says. "If that is what you feel God is calling you to do, pray about it and make some enquires."

Jono Tuivawa grew up in the Gadigal Eora nation in Sydney. This is where he learnt most about his Aboriginal heritage including dance, painting and didgeridoo.

Jono started thinking about the choices he had been making and was led to start a devotional Bible reading plan. It was this twelve-month plan that changed Jono's life and saw him become a Christian. Jono is now studying at Moore College and hopes by the end of his course "to be better

equipped to deliver and teach the good news about the salvation we have through Jesus and to hopefully encourage others in the faith."

Jono is really grateful for the support of BCA. "Prior to undertaking studies I had a limited understanding of what it meant to undertake a course so I rocked up to class with my notebook and pencil case ready to take notes and everyone else pulled out their laptops and started typing," says Jono. "I didn't own a laptop or have access to a computer at home so thanks to Uncle Neville through BCA, I was able to obtain a laptop and some books to help me with my course."

As you may or may not know, theological training can be quite difficult for anyone. We ask that you all pray for Lonny, Jono and Lucie as they continue to equip themselves to serve within the life of God's Church.

Neville Naden

Lucie Wheeler asks for your prayers for the following:

- Please pray that my college will continue to go well and that I will honour God in all I achieve.
- Also pray for my Scripture students. It has been a long time since we have had contact with them and I hope we can at least get some content to them soon if we can't see them in person.
- Please pray that church will continue to be successful with live-streaming. I have been there when something goes wrong technically. You feel your stomach drop. Please pray that we will know God is at work, even through these hiccups.



Top: Jono & Naomi Tuivawa
Bottom: Lonny Bendessi

Bushfire Recovery Pastoral Care for the South Coast



In response to the devastating bushfires of summer 2020 on the NSW South Coast, the Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn have put in place a plan to provide ongoing pastoral support for parishes and communities affected by the fires. This has involved partnering with BCA, Anglicare and other organisations, to provide three pastoral workers spread across the South Coast and Monaro regions.

Former BCA National Director, now Bishop, Mark Short invited me to join this effort. It is with my faith firmly fixed in the Lord's enabling and a keen desire to serve Him to the best of my abilities that I, along with my husband James, have accepted the call to ministry in the Eurobodalla region. This will see me caring for the Parishes of Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma.

According to Sydney Morning Herald journalist Kate Burke, about 80 per cent of the shire, that is more than 271,000 hectares, was burnt. Almost 500 homes were destroyed, a further 280 damaged and more than 1230 additional facilities and outbuildings were lost or damaged. Moreover, the bushfires claimed three lives in the region.

Currently, I am in the early phases of this role and have been meeting with people from the Diocese whom I will be working alongside. I look forward to meeting people in the parishes, learning from them and working in partnership with Anglicare to provide pastoral support to those who are continuing to grapple with the challenges the future holds.

Pray that the hope we have in Christ for healing and for restoration may permeate to every corner and that God's love and grace will flow through the efforts of all those involved in this ministry



Janice and James

It will be a great privilege to walk beside those suffering the loss of homes, properties and businesses as well as the shared grief of the loss of three lives in the region. The floods which followed and COVID-19 have made recovery that much more daunting. My role will include providing extra pastoral care assistance to those in local churches and communities who have been involved in sustaining practical, emotional and spiritual care. Through partnership with Anglicare at Moruya more people in need from the wider community will have access to pastoral support.

"Our Diocese is thrilled to welcome Janice as the first of BCA supported bushfire recovery pastoral workers," says Bishop Mark. "Janice will be based in the Eurobodalla Shire Council area helping us to care for individuals and families who continue to be impacted by the devastating losses of earlier this year. Her presence and wisdom will bring great wisdom to those who are doing it tough and those who support them."

Praise God for the generosity of so many people that have made this work possible. I encourage you to pray for the South Coast of NSW along with all other areas in Australia affected by the bushfires who continue to rebuild their precious communities as best they can. Pray that the hope we have in Christ for healing and restoration may permeate to every corner and that God's love and grace will flow through the efforts of all those involved in this ministry. May His plans be our plans and His Name be glorified.

Janice Ackland
**BCA National Office Chaplain on
secondment to the Diocese of Canberra
& Goulburn**

Going the distance in a small town with a big history



Onslow is a small town with a big history. It is a coastal town in the Pilbara region of Western Australia which originally enabled the export of wool. Today, salt, tourism and in particular the Chevron-operated Wheatstone Project (a large scale liquefied natural gas hub) are now the economic engine room for the town.

Known as 'Cyclone City', Onslow has been devastated by cyclones several times. The original St Nicholas Anglican Church built in 1904 was destroyed in 1909. The new St Nicholas' which was erected in 1927 still stands today. It was renovated in 2019 and the grounds landscaped by enthusiastic locals.

Like the town and church building, Christians in Onslow have to be resilient to withstand the challenges of life in the North West. The Diocese of North West Australia has a long history of serving the town in partnership with BCA. For a number of years resources haven't been available

to provide regular Christian ministry to Onslow's 850 residents. However, God is at work in this place and there is a group of keen Christians who meet together to read the Bible and pray on a regular basis.

After visits by Bishop Gary Nelson and various locum ministers from Exmouth in 2019/20, the time seemed right to link Onslow with Exmouth and provide ministry support. It might be an 800-kilometre return trip, but this is exactly what is meant by 'never too far, never too few' and 'going the distance'.

COVID-19 delayed these plans but on Sunday 14 June at 5pm 18 of us gathered (including

four children) at St Nicholas' Onslow for the first monthly service. While we had met some people on a previous visit to Onslow, and several had joined our live-streamed services from Exmouth, it was a great joy to meet in person to sing, pray and hear from God's word. Our text was Ephesians 4:1–16, because this was where we were up to in our series at Exmouth, but there could not have been a better passage for

It might be an 800-kilometre return trip, but this is exactly what is meant by 'never too far, never too few' and 'going the distance'

that day. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Just as the Christians in Onslow have done a wonderful work sticking by one another and encouraging one another in the Lord, this meeting represented a greater partnership between Onslow, Exmouth, the North West and indeed all of Australia through Bush Church Aid supporters.

"So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:1-16 is also a great reminder that my role as a pastor-teacher is to equip the body – so the body then gets on with the work of building as each part does its work.

Alison and I will only physically be in Onslow once a month. We intend to support the ministry there by equipping locals to grow in their ability to handle the word of truth with confidence & care and to run Bible study groups, all of which we can do via phone and video conferencing. And while we will run a monthly 'face-to-face' service in Onslow, at Exmouth we are making our weekly Sunday services accessible to everyone via YouTube.

Please pray for growth of the gospel in Onslow and the partnership with Exmouth Anglican Community Church. Pray that as people come and go from the town, the Lord would continue to bring His people to this place and that He might grant faith and repentance to many who don't yet know Christ as their Lord and Saviour. May God grant Alison and I wisdom and opportunities as we seek to serve the people of Exmouth and Onslow.

Simon Roberts



Doing church differently



Since COVID-19, churches across the world are reaching out to their communities in new and innovative ways. While cases of the virus have not been as prevalent in the bush, our Field Staff have had unprecedented opportunities to reach out via television (Norfolk Island), radio (Lightning Ridge, Croajingolong and King Island) and online platforms. Here Kurt Langmead, Luke Collings and Jude Benton take you on their journey during lockdown.

Left to right:

Kurt Langmead reaching Lightning Ridge listeners on Opal FM

Julia and Luke Collings share a weekly live video devotion on Facebook

Jude Benton broadcasting on Mallacoota's community FM radio station on Palm Sunday – complete with donkey

How do you stay connected during COVID-19 in a place like Lightning Ridge?

Simply doing church via 'livestream' doesn't work so well when half your congregation members live off the grid!

On the very first Sunday after public church services were suspended, God gave us an unexpected open door. Not an open 'car door' (for those who are familiar with our local car door tours), but an open door at the local community radio station, 89.7 Opal FM. Without missing a beat, we found ourselves with a weekly 30-minute slot on Sunday mornings. Consisting of some hymns, a Bible reading, short minister's message, kids' spot and prayers, our new weekly radio service proved a hit with those who listened in over the air waves (including a small group at the local aged care centre) or tuned in via Zoom.

A hands-down highlight was our Easter Sunday Family Service, with special guest Colin Buchanan giving shout outs to all the kids from Lightning Ridge and Goodooga Central Schools – thanks Colin! There's a video of it up on our Facebook group – Lightning Ridge Community Church. Coupled with our new weekly *Connections* newsletter, this Lightning Ridge version of



'live-streaming' provided us with more than a platform for merely staying connected with our existing members. We suddenly found ourselves with the opportunity to reach the entire community of Lightning Ridge – at least those within a 25km radius from the satellite dish who were tuned into Opal!

Thanks be to God that in a season of highs and lows we've been able to do more than simply stay connected but stick at our mission of Building Christ's Church – in the Ridge, on the Rock!

The restrictions on ministries and meetings during the COVID lockdown have been a challenge for us here in Moranbah.

With so many people being on shift work and having strong connections to places outside the town, community here is fractured at the best of times.

Even though life has been more complicated, there have been some blessings for us. We have done our best to stay in personal contact with our parish members through phone and online means, and it was a great relief when we were able to start limited visiting and meeting with people in May.

We chose not to stream a service on Sunday as juggling all the technicalities would have been too difficult. Instead, Luke recorded and edited a 10-minute talk that could be shared easily via Facebook. Also, in place of Bible study, Luke and Julia did a weekly live video devotion. This proved very popular not only with our regular members but also other people in the community and opened up some new opportunities for people to hear an informal and fun discussion of the Bible. There will still be difficulties and restrictions on what we can do this term, but we are trusting that God will open doors for us to share Jesus with our neighbours even in these circumstances.

In Croajingolong the main church gathering since Palm Sunday has been 'radio church' on Mallacoota's community FM radio station.

Aside from a disclaimer at the start and end of the program there has been a real freedom to share from the scriptures, play worship music and pray for 30–40 minutes each Sunday morning. As restrictions have lifted, the regular congregation have been encouraged to

continued on next page

Doing church differently (continued)

meet in small groups to listen together, share a cuppa and chat afterwards.

Feedback from both the regular congregation and wider community has been overwhelmingly positive. We know that we have a good number of listeners who are not church attendees, some who because of age or health cannot get to church, and others who do not want people to know they are interested in exploring faith. Many of the people who've privately told me they are listening are men

Although the COVID-19 situation is difficult, I believe it has given us great opportunities to minister in a new and more effective way

in their 60s & 70s – a group often missing in our churches. There is a real missional challenge for the future as these same people are adamant that they will listen to the radio but not come to the building.

The other way that Croajingolong have been 'doing church' during the pandemic is by offering one-on-one shopping times at the op shop. Although the COVID-19 situation is difficult, I believe it

has given us great opportunities to minister in a new and more effective way.

BCA returns to Central Mallee

BCA is pleased to announce that it is supporting the ministry of Jeremy & Claire Morgan in a new Mallee ministry initiative within the Diocese of Bendigo.

Jeremy was inducted as Priest-in-Charge in late 2019 by the Bishop of Bendigo The Rt Revd Dr Matt Brain. Claire, a deacon, was commissioned to serve alongside Jeremy in a voluntary capacity.

This new initiative, which includes the Co-operative Parish of Central Mallee (previously supported by BCA) now combined with the Tyrell Parish of the Uniting Church, extends more than 250 kms from east to west and 100 kms from north to south, and includes eight churches. As Anglicans, Jeremy & Claire have the blessing to serve the cooperating church communities and seeing shared community so present in the bush come to life in practice. The support of BCA will see Jeremy



Left to right: The Right Revd Dr Matt Brain (Bishop of Bendigo), Jeremy & Claire Morgan and The Revd Siotame Paletuá from the Uniting Church – Presbytery of Loddon Mallee

& Claire travel throughout the parishes to minister to Christians in their own localities.

"The central and western Mallee is experiencing demographic change and the effects of the latest long drought," says Jeremy. "The existing Christian congregations have persevered tenaciously and need encouragement to reach deeply hurting communities."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

September

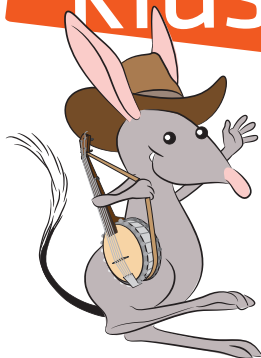
Matthew H
Toby N
Sarah C
Wesley H
Daniel S
Alan L S
Levi B
Thomas B
Myles R
Ethan J

October

Taylah C
Josh D
Caitlin B
Luke P
Michar M
Emily T
Annabelle N
Annika C
Edward C
Kaitlin S
Mikalee B

November

Samuel M
Alexander L
Ellie R
Zoe L
Samuel J
Cameron A
Lami N



Rejoicing in all seasons

This is the Day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

I had planned to share this verse with you before 2020 began, before bushfires, before COVID, before the unfolding of one of the most disruptive years our generation has faced. It's a sweet little verse, the kind you can imagine engraved on a wooden sign decorating the dining area where you gather and hope to remember the delightful promises of God. Or perhaps on a card (do we do cards anymore?) for a friend celebrating good news of wonderful achievements.

As I read it again, especially in light of the various days we face, the changing seasons, the dark days just as much as the days of joy, these words are a faith declaration, an anthem of praise that declares on all days that God is indeed good and worthy of our praise. That for

each day we face, even before we face it we can rejoice in it, even more than that, the words remind us of who the day belongs to, and because it is His, we rejoice. We rejoice before we know what the day brings, and we rejoice even at the end of the day when we have seen what it brings.

Because it is God's I am happy, because it is His I choose rejoicing, because He gave it to me I am thankful.

If you want to do something fun to help you remember to rejoice each day, why don't you start a gratitude jar? Each day write down something you are grateful for, place it in the jar

and open it on New Years' Eve. Then take the opportunity once again to thank God for the year that was, for the many days that He held you through.

Rachel Dirks
BCA for Kids Coordinator

**We rejoice before
we know what
the day brings,
and we rejoice
even at the end of
the day when we
have seen what it
brings**



Names for Jesus

Start at the letter listed at the beginning of each line. Then move in the direction shown by each arrow to end up at the correct letter. Write that letter in the blank space.

For example, F → → ↓ = Q

1. S ← ← ↑ = _____

2. G ↓ ↓ ← = _____

3. L → → ↑ ↑ = _____

4. O ↑ ↑ → = _____

5. F → → ↑ = _____

6. J → → → = _____

7. V ↓ ↓ ← = _____

8. Z ↑ → ↑ → = _____

9. P ← ← ↑ = _____

10. Q ↓ ← ← = _____

11. M ↓ ↓ → = _____

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

Jesus said, "I am _____
1 2 3

4 5 6 7 4 5 6 7

Do you know where this verse is located?

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.
bushchurchoaid.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 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 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**



2021 CFT/BCA Tours



**Explore Norfolk Island and
connect with David & Crystal Fell
and local Christians**

**8 days departing 1 March 2021 –
price from \$3590**

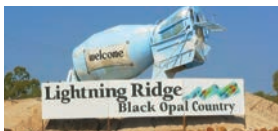
Come with CFT as we explore this beautiful South Pacific Island, connect with local Christians, learn about the unique culture of the Norfolk Islanders and join in their 'Foundation Day' celebrations. Find out why the locals believe it's "Da Bass Side Orn Earth" (the best place on Earth) as you relax, reflect & connect.



**Lightning Ridge & Regional NSW
Visit BCA Field Staff as you travel
through Mudgee and Gilgandra
to Lightning Ridge**

**8 days departing 21 April 2021
– price from \$3190**

Come with CFT and connect with Christians in the bush with a unique BCA Outback Adventure through NSW. This gem of a holiday travels through regional NSW to the iconic outback town of Lightning Ridge, home of the black opal. Join together in fellowship with BCA Field Staff for a most enjoyable and inspiring holiday.



**For further information visit www.christianfellowshiptours.com
or call 1300 635 358**

Our memories of Doug Orr: Serving those who serve



Monica and I warmly remember Doug Orr as the man who first inspired us to try camping on four wheels.

Resisting the temptation of on-site cabins, we hired a trailer to attend the first BCA Nomads' gathering at Nundle (and later started borrowing a much simpler camper trailer from the dear and generous Raymond & Helen Howes). We'd safely navigated our way up the New England Highway only to find ourselves totally befuddled by the mysteries of reversing and then erecting this strange, hired contraption. It was then that Doug and a team of Nomads sprang into action to help us, almost managing to convince us in the process that we had actually done it ourselves.

**He was a big man
with a big heart,
an enthusiast and
an encourager**

This story captures something essential about Doug's character. He was a big man with a big heart, an enthusiast and an encourager. Even as a child growing up in the Sydney suburb of Ryde, God had inspired Doug with a passion for adventure and the outdoors. It was a passion that found expression in yearly family holidays navigating the backblocks and the outback.

That passion reached a new stage in 2011 when Doug & Frances took over the leadership of the BCA Nomads from Max & Jan Boyley. This ministry was the perfect bridge between Doug's love of the bush and his desire for people to know the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Doug loved welcoming new members into the Nomads family. He enjoyed getting

to know them, hearing of their walk with Christ and identifying the particular skills, gifts and experiences they could use to bless God's people in far-flung places. He would also ensure they were presented with their numbered Nomad badges – not since the days of *Get Smart* had individual numbers meant so much to so many! All these details would find their way into his meticulously tended database.

Doug also loved getting to know BCA Field Staff. He was concerned to understand their challenges and opportunities, personally and in ministry. He gleaned this knowledge from visits, phone calls and face-to-face conversations at Field Staff Conferences and deputations. People mattered to Doug. The BCA Nomads was never about building an empire or even running a program. It was about connection between brothers and sisters and nothing brought Doug greater joy than matching a heart ready to serve with people ready to be served.

This passion for connection saw Doug & Frances introduce new ideas into the Nomad ministry that built a sense of collegiality between Nomads from different churches and different regions. These initiatives included a Nomads Facebook page and a new focus on mission initiatives that brought Nomads together in larger groups to bless a community and reach it with the good news of Jesus.

However, it was at the Nomads gatherings that Doug was truly in his element. For months in advance he would be hard at work booking sites, organising speakers, musicians & seminar leaders and liaising with local churches about opportunities for fellowship and mission.

Once the gathering commenced Doug flourished. The Orr caravan was a haven for cups of tea, coffee and conversation. Doug & Frances would be on the look-out for first-time Nomads, making sure they were included and welcomed. Locations like Nundle, Junee, Forster and Narromine will remain special for many and it should be no surprise that one of Doug's last actions before he was hospitalised for the final time was to make sure the next Nomads gathering in Deniliquin was booked and the speakers organised.

It was a blessing to work alongside Doug & Frances during my time as National Director, which was between Brian Roberts and Greg Harris and their great work. Monica and I enjoyed Doug and Frances' hospitality on many occasions and always looked forward to those occasions when we could dream together about how we might reach Australia for Christ. It is



Our memories of Doug Orr (continued)

sometimes said the greatest tribute to someone's leadership is not what happens to a ministry when they are there but how it flourishes after they have gone. In that light, I have every confidence that God will continue to grow the tribe and ministry of BCA Nomads for His glory.

At Doug's memorial service we were encouraged by these words from 2 Corinthians 4:16–18: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." Thank God for Doug Orr, who never lost heart.



Mark & Monica Short



Nomads in Nundle, NSW

Post & Rails

WELCOME



Philip & Jessica van't Spyker together with their children Jasper, Tabitha, Otto and Corin have moved to Yeppoon to serve in the Anglican Parish of Keppel. Philip is the Families Minister and also helps to train youth and children's leaders across the Anglican Diocese of Central Queensland.



BCA is now supporting the ministry of **Jeremy & Claire Morgan** in a new Mallee ministry initiative within the Diocese of

Bendigo. This new initiative, which includes the Co-operative Parish of Central Mallee (previously supported by BCA) and now combined with the Tyrell Parish of the Uniting Church, extends more than 250 kms from east to west and 100 kms from north to south, and includes eight churches.

CONGRATULATIONS



Roger & Amanda Kyngdon welcomed baby Emily Helen on Monday 6

July 2020 at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women in Perth. Emily is a little sister for Ada, Eliza and Benjamin.

VALE



Doug Orr (18 March 1944 – 22 June 2020) together with his wife Frances have coordinated the BCA Nomads program for the past nine years. Keen caravanners, they first travelled across Australia in 2009 and saw first-hand the difficulties of those working in isolated churches with transient populations. They were so keen to encourage others to assist, that it was no surprise they took on the role of Nomads Coordinators in 2011. Doug is survived by Fran; Jennifer, Ian, Abigail, Tahlia and Rebecca; Paul, Raquel, Angus and Dominic.

THANKS

Frances Orr and her family would like to thank the National Office, Field Staff, BCA supporters and Nomads for their prayer support, encouragement, cards, kind thoughts & words, flowers and love that kept them going over the past three years, especially the last few months. "I feel so very loved and supported," says Fran. "Our BCA family is such a blessing and Doug loved you all so much and I continue to! God is good!"

From the Archives – Flying to Save



The BCA Flying Medical Service which commenced in 1938 was invaluable to the people of the west coast. In an abridged version of an article that appeared in the April 1939 edition of *The Real Australian*, Pilot Alan Chadwick recalls one urgent trip.

Reid – this is the name of a tiny railway camp on the transcontinental railway, about 110 miles from Cook, and in the heart of the great Nullarbor Plain.

A party of men is engaged in repairing a section of the line; some of them had travelled all the way from Cook to assist. It was Sunday, and normally they would have been resting from their work, but one of their number was suffering intense pain. His mates felt that he needed medical attention, so the trolley was loaded and the journey back to Cook was begun. It was midday on the following day when the patient was handed over to Sister Todd, at the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital, and it did not take Sister long to realise that doctor's presence was required as soon as possible.

The piano-tuner was merrily thumping away at the keyboard of our piano when the phone rang, and doctor, at the other end of the wire, said, "We have an urgent case up at Cook, can we make it tonight; it is 3.30 pm now?" Making a rapid calculation of the hours of daylight left, the time it would take us to be ready, and the estimated time for the journey, the tailwind being in our favour, I said, "Yes, if we hurry, and leave almost at once."

As I hung up, Mr. Piano-tuner said, with eyes like saucers, "Oh, is it – thump! – an urgent call –thump-thump?" This was quite evidently his first insight into the workings of a flying medical service. So excusing myself I disappeared in the direction of the Vacuum Oil Company's Depot.



Top to bottom:

The plane coming in to land at Cook..a welcome sight and sound

BCA plane VH-AAA

1938–69 Pilot of Ceduna – Allan Chadwick at Ceduna Base



Happily the agent was at home, and we drove quickly out to the aerodrome and prepared VH-AAA for flight. By the time Doctor and Sister Dowling drove up, everything was ready. We lost no time in taking our places, and again to that steady beat of the engine, headed north-west towards Cook.

Today the designs on the patchwork quilt below changed quicker than usual, and leaving Penong and the cultivated fields for the light timber and grazing lands, Colona, 102 miles, was reached in the first hour.

Passing White Wells, and turning the corner at "Nullarbor" homestead, we face the open plain, and climbing up to 3,300 feet, just above the top of a thin layer of cloud-haze, which has persisted all along the coast, we float along on top of the world, as it were, with the cloud-layer stretching out for many miles to the east and west.

With the wind still very much in our favour the intervening distance to Cook is soon covered, and flying over the hospital to announce our arrival, we turn back into the wind for a landing. As the wheels roll to a standstill at the edge of the aerodrome, we step out of VH-AAA just two hours fifteen minutes out from Ceduna. This has been our fastest flight, during which I had asked of our beautiful little motor, all in power and speed that discretion allowed me. And she

gave it without a murmur.

While Doctor and Sister made their way across to the hospital, for me there followed the usual preparations for the return journey on the morrow. Then, with the assistance of several others, who had come across to meet us, we placed the covers in position and pegged VH-AAA down for the night on the leeward side of the fuelling depot.

With an hour of daylight still left I made my way over to the hospital, where an operation was in progress, which definitely saved a man's life. Coming out of the theatre, Doctor was almost 'walking on air' and his smile spoke volumes. There was no hesitation in saying that had we not arrived when we did, that patient would have been in a serious plight.

In discussing the events of the last few hours we felt that if ever the Flying Medical Service had justified itself it had done so today, and after Doctor had had a final peep at his patient we all turned in for a much-needed night's rest.

At the end of this month the West Coast Flying Medical Service is one year old. Flying figures are: 88 trips, 243 hours, 1213 patients, 17,506 miles.

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

Councillor's Column



Above: Michael Maude

I have been a Christian ever since a very wet night at a Billy Graham Crusade in Wembley, England. I went with a youth group, and was the only one to respond, much to the ire of my fellow travellers who had to wait for my return after the evening was finished.

I travelled overland to Australia by bus and train through many countries that are difficult to visit today. I spent some time working with the World Health Organisation in Afghanistan and also worked for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in Iran. While trying to get across the border into China I spent some time in jail in Myanmar.

Arriving in Adelaide, through the YMCA I was introduced to Holy Trinity Church and the dynamism of The Revd Lance Shilton. His great love for evangelism has stayed with me since.

I married Joan Taylor and that is where my association with BCA began. The Taylor family had been long supporters of BCA, with several members serving with the Society in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria.

After running my own business in Sydney, Joan and I went to Broome in the Diocese of North West Australia to offer assistance to the BCA minister there at the time – The Revd David O'Mara.

We were very quickly made aware that countless grey nomads spent many months away from the cold of southern climes. So with the help of then BCA National Director, Brian Roberts and Nomads Coordinator Max Boyley, we started a program called 'Christ for Campers'. We would invite residents from caravan parks to join us for breakfasts or dinners. They paid a nominal fee but we made sure they heard the gospel during the meal.

This program was run for ten years from Kununurra right round to Port Hedland and the times were always great experiences. This is also where Doug and Francis Orr first became BCA Nomads.

Now living in Adelaide I am looking forward to serving on the BCA National Council and the expansion of BCA ministry throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory continuing what former SA/NT Regional Officer Steve Davis and his wife Lyn started.

Michael Maude

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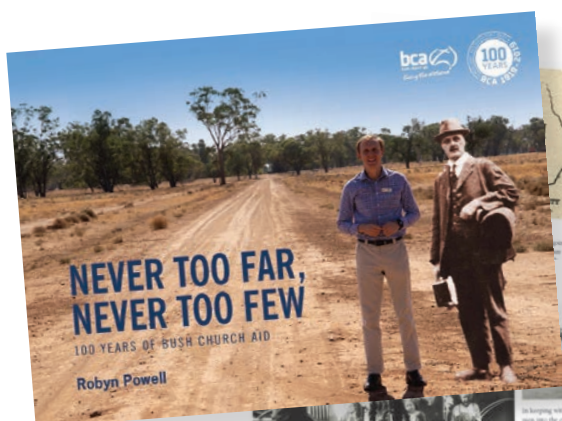
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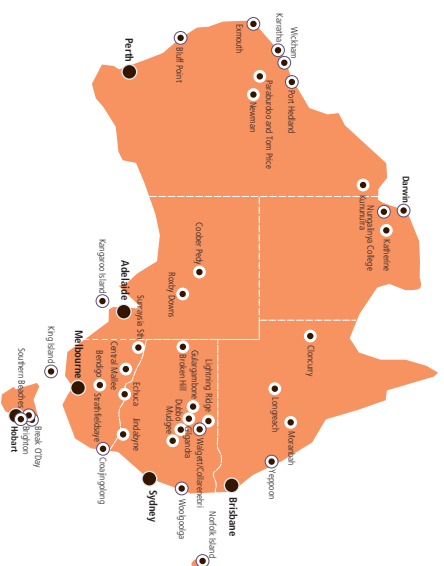
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