

The Real **Australian**

SUMMER 2025



Join us to go
the distance
for the
NEXT 25

No little
people

God is still
mining

4

6

12

BCA Directory

**THE REAL AUSTRALIAN IS A REGISTERED
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Front Cover: Bishop Darrell Parker,
Daniel Faricy & Greg Harris at
the 60th Anniversary Celebrations
in Kununurra

Editorial

The NEXT25

"My, how time flies!" How many times have you said that? And as Christmas looms, it turns into, "Where has the year gone?" But here's one that might surprise you; we're now a quarter of the way through the century. My goodness – how the century flies!

Just 25 years ago our headlines were dominated by Y2K panic and the Sydney Olympics. For me, my boys were toddlers, and I was preaching in a country town of 500 people. And at BCA, a fresh-faced Brian Roberts had just started as National Director, and the BCA Nomads ministry was taking off.

So, 25 years on, it's worth asking: what might the next 25 look like for BCA? I'm no prophet (or the son of one), but I'm sure of two things that won't change: First, there's still no other name but Jesus by which we can be saved; And second, people across rural, regional, and remote Australia will still need to hear that Good News.

But who will the next 25 gospel workers be? I may not know their names yet, but I know their 'type'. Some will be the 'been there, done that' crowd – seasoned ministers returning to the bush with experience and passion. Some will be the 'getting there' group – young gospel workers and new graduates taking their first steps into regional mission. And some are the 'no ideas' – those who don't yet realise God is calling them but will one day feel His nudge toward bush ministry.

And just as there'll be a mix of people, there'll be a mix of opportunities in the next 25 partnerships or locations, there are:

- Indigenous ministries where we long to see more Indigenous people serving.
- more opportunities in places where evangelical leadership is being established.
- entirely new regions or places BCA has not partnered with for decades and where we have been absent for too long.

It is because of those next 25 Field Staff and ministry opportunities that we are launching our Next 25 Appeal. This is an invitation to invest deeply in the bush for the sake of the Gospel. It's like planting a tree whose shade you may never sit under.

To those already giving, thank you. You are truly going the distance. You are impacting the eternal destiny of many.

It has been 25 years of faithfulness at the beginning of the 21st century. May the Next 25 find us just as faithful in going the distance to share Jesus with the bush.



Greg Harris
National Director



Alice Springs

Topher & Chica
Hallyburton

Join us to Go the Distance for the **NEXT25**

Have you ever paused to reflect on how your generosity has already shaped the faith of countless Australians – and how it could continue to echo powerfully for decades to come?

Across rural, regional and remote Australia, there are tens of thousands of people who may never hear the name of Jesus unless someone like you steps forward to take Jesus to the bush.

Today, I'm inviting you personally to Go the Distance for the Next 25.

You can be part of training the next 25 future ministers, reaching the next 25 communities, building the next 25 ministry initiatives and bringing the Good News of Jesus to those longing to hear.

When you make a special gift before 31 December to help meet a \$420,000 funding target, you'll:

- equip faithful Field Staff to share the Good News.
- bring encouragement to Christian brothers and sisters in places few will ever go.
- invest in young people, families, and churches so they can rise as

the next leaders, teachers, and proclaimers of Jesus' love.

Your generosity supports faithful Field Staff like Topher & Chica Hallyburton in Alice Springs.

Topher recently led a youth camp in Central Australia with leaders from over six different churches. Teenagers experienced joy, built friendships and explored God's Word together for the very first time.

Imagine the impact your generosity today will have 25 years from now – for families, churches and entire towns you may never visit.

Your generosity will build on 106 years of faithful Gospel ministry in rural, regional and remote Australia so the next generation won't miss out. Your generosity ensures the Gospel continues to go further.

Greg Harris

For donation information please see page 31.



What a joyous celebration! 60 years of ministry in Kununurra and 60 years of Bush Church Aid supporting this amazing ministry. Many people from the community helped celebrate this milestone at St James' anniversary service.

"Bishop Darrell shared a powerful message about coming to Jesus to worship Him, and Greg Harris offered a glimpse into our church's rich history and its ongoing connection with Bush Church Aid, spanning the whole 60 years," says Field Staff Daniel Faricy. "We were also joined by special guest – puppet Butternut – who brought joy to our celebration! We enjoyed cake and fellowship, but above all we are deeply grateful to God for His faithfulness to St James Anglican Church in Kununurra."

We also give thanks to God for all the men and women who have faithfully served in Kununurra since 1965:

The Revd Barry & Mrs Jan Green
1965–1969

The Revd Bill & Mrs Jocelyn Ross
1970–1973

The Revd Keith & Mrs Monica Wheeler
1973–1977

Sister Pat Watts
1974–1975
(Nurse)

The Revd Royce & Mrs Sue Thompson
1977–1981

The Revd Brian & Mrs Carolyn Williams
1981–1983

The Revd Peter Harradence
1983–1986

The Revd Errol & Mrs Anne Sorenson
1986–1987

The Revd Murray & Mrs Jane Lamont
1987–1991

The Revd John & Mrs Dianne Symons
1992–1997

The Revd Bob & Mrs Denise Rothwell
1998–2003

The Revd Ron & Mrs Robyne Johnson
2004–2010

Jim & Natalie Watson
2004–2017
(Co-Workers)

Glendon & Catherine McKay
2009–2012
(Co-Workers)

The Revd Gary & Mrs Nikki Alexander
2009–2016

Mrs Gwyneth Michalke
2012–2013
(Scripture Teacher)

The Revd Daniel & Mrs Rebecca Faricy
2017–2025



No little people

We spent last week in Walcha, a town in country NSW. While we were visiting, we went to our friend Luke's new property about 10 minutes out of town. They are building a beautiful new home on top of a hill with panoramic views of the countryside. It's stunning.

I was reminded of the last time I was out with Luke and he drove me around the property. He explained the different contours of the land, the placement of the dams, the plans for the house. He also outlined how and why the fences ended up in their final positions.

Apparently, when you first place your livestock (in this case sheep) on the property you don't go straight in and fence off every paddock straight away. Instead, over a period of weeks you observe the ways that the sheep move across the terrain. You take note of where they congregate. You pay attention to the paths that they follow as they move from one place to another.

Only then are you in a position to put the fences in their appropriate places. You still need to contain the sheep, you still need to be able to move them where you need them to

go. But having paid attention to the natural patterns of the sheep, you can now work with them rather than fighting against them. You can put a gate along the path that they are already following. Your fences not only stop the sheep, they serve the sheep.

Next week we will be moving to Katherine, an outback town in the Northern Territory. I won't be tending sheep, but I will be pastoring a congregation. As Peter writes to the elders within the church, the task before me is to, *shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.* (1 Peter 5:2-3)

Whatever else it might mean to 'exercise oversight', at the very least



FAR LEFT:
Welcome to
Katherine

TOP RIGHT:
Katherine Gorge

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Pat & Issy

it will require paying attention. Like Luke taking the time to observe his sheep, I will need to take the time to get to know God's flock in Katherine. I will need to pay attention to the ways that God is already working in their lives rather than imposing my own agenda upon them.

Of course, there will be a need to lead and guide; to correct, rebuke, and encourage (c.f. 2 Timothy 4:2). There will be a time to put new structures in place and establish new ministries. But having paid attention, these things will be able to work with and for the people rather than over and against them. Only then will they exist to serve the flock of God.

Note also that this is more than simply taking time. Being slow and cautious to make sweeping changes is surely wise. Sometimes, however, I get the sense that the end goal of such advice is to build enough trust so you can eventually just do what you want! This seems to be a very gentle form of domineering, but domineering nonetheless.

Taking time is necessary *for the purpose of* keen observation.

It is not the absence of action, but the presence of attention that matters. This kind of oversight requires a genuine openness to a whole range of possibilities and a willingness to imagine a future that is different to what you have seen or experienced in the past.

Such shepherding is not about begrudgingly biding your time until the real ministry can begin. It is a willingness to wait and watch for all the ways that God would have you serve His people. Which is surely the key insight at the centre of the above verses in 1 Peter: they really are His people – “the *flock of God* that is among you” (verse 2).

Luke owns his flock in Walcha. They are his, and this is reflected in the loving attention with which he tends to them. The church in Katherine, however, is God's flock. They do not belong to me, but to our Chief Shepherd Jesus, who loved them and gave his life for them. How much more, then, ought I to shepherd this flock with that same kind of loving attention.

Pat O'Keeffe



Our mountain top experience

In late August this year, Dave and I headed south from Coober Pedy to Adelaide to be part of BCA Connect week. John Warner (SA/NT Regional Officer) with help from Esther George, had organised a week of events where Dave and I spoke about BCA and our ministry in Coober Pedy. Glen & Beth McDonald from Roxby Downs were also in Adelaide and spoke at some of the events alongside us.

It was an action-packed week, but one full of fun and fellowship. We found it really encouraging being part of the BCA family for the week, with like-minded fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Sunday 24 August, we worshipped with one of our partner churches, St Matthew's Anglican Church, Kensington, and Bishop Tim Harris

interviewed us. It was so encouraging to be part of their fellowship and speak to so many who are praying for us and supporting us. Dave went to their Men's Breakfast on Tuesday morning and shared more deeply with the men about life and ministry in Coober Pedy.

On Sunday afternoon we spoke at a Christmas in August BCA fundraiser concert in Seaford and a very big thank you to everyone involved in putting a wonderful concert together (which included my parents)!

Monday found us at Southern Vales Christian College (SVCC) Morphett Vale Campus at their morning whole school assembly. Dave spoke about what we have been doing in Coober Pedy including the SVCC Year 12 mission trip in November last year.



Dave & Margie speak at SVCC Aldinga



FAR LEFT:
John Warner
interviews Dave
& Margie

TOP RIGHT:
Glen & Beth
McDonald speak
to supporters

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Supporters at one
of the BCA Connect
events in South
Australia

It was a real pleasure to speak to the current Year 12s and several of them are keen to come this year. Next at the SVCC Aldinga campus, Dave spoke about our ministry, and we were invited to the Year 6 classroom afterwards, giving us an opportunity to answer some of their questions. It's so encouraging to see a Christian school faithfully teaching the next generation about Jesus.

On Tuesday we met John, Glen & Beth at the Bible College of SA and had lunch with students. It was a great opportunity to share with them what life and ministry looks like in a remote part of SA. Hopefully we encouraged them to consider going the distance for the Gospel at some stage in their lives.

On Tuesday night we met John and the McDonalds at Trinity City Church Adelaide for the first full BCA Connect event. The hall was full as we spoke on the theme of sowing, saving and sending and shared stories of what life is like and how God is working in people's lives in both Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs. The whole room prayed for us using our prayer points. It was so encouraging to be prayed

for in this way by so many supporters all at once. We had many great and encouraging conversations during the night. We really appreciated the fellowship and being surrounded by so many members of the BCA family.

Wednesday morning we all met at Victor Harbor Bowls Club for our next Connect week event. It was again really heartwarming to be prayed for and then speak with long-term BCA supporters over lunch.

Our final Connect week event was on Wednesday night at Tea Tree Gully Anglican Church. Again there were many who have been praying for and supporting us and it was really encouraging to be able to meet them in person.

We found the whole week to be a mountain top experience; enjoying Christian fellowship, being prayed for and feeling so encouraged, loved and supported by so many of the BCA family. It was another of the many blessings our Heavenly Father has given us so far during our time with BCA in Coober Pedy.

Margie Wood



What I'll miss about Broken Hill

As you've probably heard after two and a half years we finished up at Saltbush Church and in Broken Hill. This was very disappointing. We bought a house in Broken Hill. We hoped to be there long term. We were sad to leave many people who we love and care about. We left because we needed greater support around us. So we made the hard decision to move to Cairns, where we have family. We start at Northern Hope Anglican Church in January 2026.

There are so many amazing little things about living in Broken Hill that I'm going to miss. Throughout the week I'd meet people oneZone to dig into the Bible and visit the amazing cafes in town. Driving to a good cafe was easy because everything is 5-10 minutes away. While I would wait for my oneZone and coffee to arrive I'd see someone I knew and have a great chat with them. The same thing would always happen when I'd go to the shops. It's one of the wonderful little things about living in a small country town.

We had a great house for ministry. It had a pool (we only chose a house with a pool for baptisms and not for swimming on hot summers days 😊). I had a fantastic granny flat by the pool where I prepped sermons, ran

growth groups, had some oneZones, leaders meetings and for a brief period, youth group. In the main house we proudly hung a picture of Geraldton which was given to us by St George's Bluff Point and one of the art pieces David Dowden painted for us for our NAIDOC week celebration.

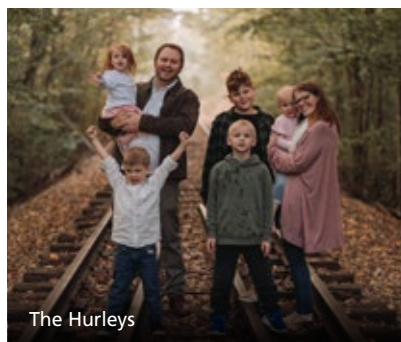
There isn't enough space to mention the wealth of knowledge in the different museums, the beautiful scenery of the stars, the desert and the lakes at Menindee. Or the supportive and caring teachers our kids had. And Big Sky Stories – the most amazing children's bookshop you will ever come across that is seeking to improve literacy in town (it's also run by one of our core church members).



FAR LEFT:
A Saltbush church service

TOP RIGHT:
Brendan conducts a baptism in the family pool

BOTTOM RIGHT:
David Dowden with his NAIDOC artwork



The Hurleys

The little things are special yet as good as they are, it's the big things that I'll miss most.

Heaven rejoices when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7). For me the biggest thing I'll miss is seeing people move from death to life. We had four professions of faith at Saltbush in our last six months.

We'd been praying for a bloke named Mick for a while. He seemed like the most unlikely person to come to faith. He drank heavily to avoid his problems. He had no church background. His wife had been coming to church for a couple of years but Mick wanted nothing to do with it. One week out of the blue

he came to church. A week later Mick called, "Brendan, Brendan, I see now. He's real. He's powerful." Mick had encountered Christ. His life changed radically. He started praying with his kids and searching the Bible for its riches. Praise God!

Looking back another big thing that warms my heart is the way people have grown. As we've prayerfully preached the Bible we've seen people grow in their knowledge of God, their holiness and their love for Christ. I've seen Christians convicted by one sermon suddenly change how they speak and live. I've seen others align their hearts with God's heart and long for the lost to be saved.

I want to finish by saying thank you to BCA, FIEC and to all who supported us while we were in Broken Hill. It was a privilege and joy to serve God there. Your prayers, encouragement and support are not in vain. It really is changing lives in the outback. I hope you will keep supporting ministry in rural, regional and remote Australia. God is doing great things in the bush.

Brendan Hurley



God is still mining

Peter Palmer became BCA's first fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) chaplain in 2011, having previously served with BCA in Wyndham and Coober Pedy. Here he tells us how God is still mining through his work 10 years on...

Being a FIFO chaplain meant getting up early on Monday morning, driving to the airport, meeting up with miners and flying with them to their mine. I would fly home on Wednesday, head out again on Thursday and then be home on Friday. I was with Oz Minerals, Peculiar Knob, Carapeteena and Honeymoon mines. I also did ad hoc work with other mines as required.

I spent two nights on site, visited miners and talked with them when they had time, and it was safe to do so. I was fully inducted for underground, as well as being an advisor to emergency teams.

I did this for five years until the dollars fell out of mining and I was made redundant.

At the time it seemed a very hard, rocky road. There was not much response to the Gospel. Or was there?

It is 10 years since I have been on a mine site. But I still have contact with a lot of the miners.

The questions are: Did this work glorify God? Was the Gospel transmitted into these situations?

Was the money spent on this ministry worth it?

STORY ONE

A bloke rang me five years ago at 6am. "Rev" he said, "I have become a Christian! I was on holiday when I saw a man drowning. I went out to save him. He was panicking and trying to get on top of me. So, I moved away, until he was almost dead then I towed him back to shore and gave him mouth-to-mouth. He responded and his friends took him away. I sat on the sand thinking about what had happened and remembered you saying that God wanted me. That is what God has



TOP RIGHT:
Peter at a mine site

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Peter assisting on the job

been doing with me, isn't it? He sent you to save me and I kept pushing you away. God saved me, because of you all those years ago." He is now in a church praising God. I will see him in heaven.

STORY TWO

When I first met one bloke on-site, he was smoking a bit of weed and drinking lots. He said he was a Christian but did not portray this in his work, play or attitude to life or others. He came to church services that I ran onsite and renewed his commitment to the Lord. Over time he went down some bad roads. He repented. Again, he started down the wrong road but this time his wife gave him an ultimatum. He repented and has been sober for a long time, going to church regularly. We still talk and he is very thankful to me and BCA for my FIFO chaplain role.

STORY THREE

A bloke who did not want anything to do with me rang one day to ask for a Bible verse to read at his

niece's wedding. One I told him was Song of Songs. He rang me back, "I can't read this. It is nearly R-rated!"

A couple of months later he rang me and said "Thank you for your support. I read from Song of Songs. At the reception people said they were going home to read the whole book. I bought a Bible at the airport on my way home and read it on the plane for eight hours straight."

There are many other stories like this, and I have started to write a book. So, was it worth it? I will let you decide.

It has been a real adventure working for God and being part of BCA for nearly 25 years.

Without your support the Gospel would not find roots in remote places and bloom in unknown ways. May the Lord bless you as you have blessed the work Joy and I do for him.

Peter Palmer

Former Field Staff and current
BCA National Council Member



Dear BCA...

When South Australian/Northern Territory Regional Officer John Warner visited Trinity Church Grove in Adelaide to speak about what God has been doing through BCA this year, he caught the attention of Senior Pastor Luke Dahlenburg's young daughters. Luke explains...

Following John's encouraging visit, our children wanted to support the ministry of BCA. They have fond memories of bush holidays and were excited that churches were starting and growing in the regions. They enjoyed seeing Baaaarbra (sheep puppet) and spent the afternoon reading the material in the showbags that John handed out. They found the gift envelope and asked what it was for. I explained it was for giving money to support God's mission in the bush with BCA. My two daughters decided to gift their pocket money and write a note to BCA.

Our 10-year-old had a \$20 note and a \$50 note and didn't know how much she should give but felt like God was asking her to. So, she prayed about it that night and left her money and a note on her desk. In the morning, she ended up setting aside \$50 for BCA.

Our youngest wrote in her letter (pictured above), "Dear BCA, I'm 6 years old. Please use my money to tell more people about Jesus. As she finished writing, she looked at us and said, *"It's sad that I can't buy any more toys. But, they will break anyway. Helping people tell others about Jesus is about eternity."*

Not only that, but our son decided that in his up-coming school presentation on how we can help our communities, he will talk about the work of BCA and how they help tell people about Jesus.

"How encouraging that our children are seeing, hearing and becoming aware of the need to see more people know and love Jesus," says John Warner. "And they are actively seeking for ways to be involved, in their own small way, to resource God's mission right here in Australia."

Christmas

WORD SCRAMBLE

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Can you unjumble these letters to find their real meaning?

1. UVIRAOS

2. USEJS

3. RAST

4. LEMHBHTEE

5. IDHLC

6. NIRCPE

7. YARM

8. GIMA

9. LEGAN

10. HOPSJE

11. PDESRHHE

12. OHEDR

13. EGRAMN

14. DJEAU

15. OYGRL

16. SISAHEM

Answers on page 18



What is your favourite **CHRISTMAS CAROL?**

I have always loved Christmas Carols, from when I was a little girl hearing the song of the saviour ringing out through the shops which filled my heart with delight. As soon as I hear them, I am transported to the memories of years gone by celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Truly the best news this world has ever heard. Jesus, your King has come. That message is pregnant with hope. It gave hope to the shepherds, to the wise men, to the angels, to his parents, to his cousin and to all of human history.

It is no wonder these words sound with joy as we sing of how grateful we are for all he has done.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROL IS? WHAT LINE IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

Here are some of my favourite lines from timeless Carols...

"Oh come ye oh come ye to
Bethlehem; come and behold him,
born the King of angels."

O Come All Ye Faithful

"They looked up and saw the star,
shining in the East beyond them far:
and to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and
night. Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is
the King of Israel."

The First Noel

"Bless all the dear children in thy
tender care and take us to heaven
to live with thee there."

Away in a Manger

"Joy to the world the Lord is come,
let earth receive her King."

Joy to the World

"A thrill of hope the weary world
rejoices for yonder breaks a new
and glorious morn."

O Holy Night

"Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains and
the mountains in reply echoing their
joyous strain."

Angels we Have Heard on High

"Star of wonder, star of night.
Star with royal beauty bright."

We Three Kings



"Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness, light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings."


Hark the Herald Angels Sing

"With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord at thy birth"
Silent Night

These words sung quietly and loudly over years and years are filled with the joy of the Lord's people singing His praise. I wonder if this year you will pay attention to your favourite lines and why they matter so much to you. I try to pick one line every Christmas and why that one matters to me that particular year.

Perhaps you could write your favourite this year and in the years to come, so you collect lines of Carols that help express your thankfulness for what Jesus has done. What a treasure they will be one day as you look back on your Christmases.

Rachel Dirks



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

DECEMBER


Oliver V	Jamie N
Isaiah R	Corin V
Emily F	Raylie W
Annie M	Hugo Mc
Marcus C	Bella S

JANUARY

Elizabeth J	Josiah Y
Amelie D	Matthew H
Abigail L	August C
Zoe F	Ezekiel W
Lola T	Samantha S
Eli W	Maggie W
Evie H	Xavier D

FEBRUARY

Elijah Mc	Olivia C
Samuel S	Delilah B
Indiah P	Oliver V
Lucas R	Harper G
Frederick M	Juliet W
Hugh P	Aiden W
Bethany C	Apphia G



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!



Answers for Christmas Word Scramble (page 15): 1. Saviour, 2. Jesus, 3. Star, 4. Bethlehem, 5. Child, 6. Prince, 7. Mary, 8. Magi, 9. Angel, 10. Joseph, 11. Shepherd, 12. Herod, 13. Manger, 14. Judea, 15. Glory, 16. Messiah

Around the country



DARWIN, NT:
The MOVE conference in Darwin attracted 50 adults and 10 children. Simon Gillham was the special guest speaker.



GLADSTONE, QLD:
In September Zöe Browne graduated from Charles Sturt University with a Master of Theology (Biblical Studies).



CANBERRA, ACT:
Former National Director now Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn and newly announced Primate Mark Short gave the devotion at the BCA Connect event in Wanniasa in mid-October.



MELBOURNE, VIC:
Around eighty people attended the first Victorian Spring Gathering held at Glen Waverley Anglican Church.



NORFOLK ISLAND:
The annual Norfolk Island Spring Fair was held at Saint Barnabas Chapel and Parish Centre grounds on Saturday 20 September.



In an excerpt of an article from *The Melbourne Anglican*, Topher Hallyburton relates a bit about his life and ministry in Alice Springs...

HOW DO YOU SEE GOD AT WORK THROUGH YOUR WORK IN ALICE SPRINGS?

Every few months we get people just coming into church saying, "I've been on this journey. I've been thinking about this and I really want to hear about Jesus now."

Through my work at the youth correctional centre, I'm reminded that God is calling people from all nations into His family. The young people I'm meeting are from different Aboriginal people groups, and they have a place in God's family when they trust in Jesus. In the church you can see people from all around the world coming to share together, knowing that even though they are completely different in every other aspect of life, they are united in Jesus. They're putting in the effort in to show love to one another, to grow as a church together.

ARE THERE ANY UNIQUE CONSIDERATIONS WHEN MINISTERING TO PEOPLE FROM INDIGENOUS BACKGROUNDS?

A lot of the young people speak English as a second language. So, we're thinking about how we use English in our church services. I'm using the Plain English Version of the Bible. People that I'm reading this Bible with have gone, "I can actually understand God's Word for the first time." Some older people that are part of our church have said, "Why hasn't this been around for longer?" It's a shame that here in Central Australia we don't have a full Bible in an Indigenous language. So that would be a next step.

CAN YOU SHARE A STORY ABOUT SOMEONE YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR MINISTRY?

One young man I met was in trouble with the law. He got his hands on one of these Bibles and he found Romans 7.



LEFT:
Toph serves with
BCA in Alice Springs

In the Plain English Version of the Bible, Paul says in Romans 7:22–24, “Really, we ourselves, we want to live the right way, but there is a big fight going on inside us. That bad part of us makes its own law. It makes us think the wrong way. It makes us its prisoners so that we can’t do the things we really want to do. We feel really sorry for ourselves. How can we get free from this bad boss in our bodies that will make us die? Who can make us free?”

This young guy was reading this, and he just went, “That is my life. I want to do what is right, but I just can’t.”

Then verse 25 goes on to say, “Thank God, Jesus Christ can make us free. He is the answer. God made a way for us to be free.”

So, I was able to share how Jesus can make us free.

WHAT ENCOURAGES YOU IN YOUR WORK?

The fact that God is calling people from all nations. The fact that God is calling people with all types of background, including messy backgrounds. I’m encouraged by God bringing people to church out of the blue and them saying, “I’ve been thinking about this, and I want to check Him out and maybe become a Christian.” So, we know that God is doing His thing. And we just get to play a little part of that.

The support of the BCA is amazing. We do really feel valued, loved, supported and cared for by BCA staff, but also by supporters that reach out and pray. And the love of the local church family here. People that are willing to share their lives and look for ways to serve one another.

Hannah Felsbourg

Republished in part from an original article written by *Hannah Felsbourg* at *The Melbourne Anglican*. To read the whole article visit:
tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/2025/09/united-in-jesus-alice-springs-pastor/

Post & Rails

WELCOME



Samuel & Grace Ogg, along with their children Tommy & Josie, are moving to Lightning Ridge in early 2026. Samuel is currently a fourth-year Moore College student and BCA Theological Bursary Recipient. After completing his studies Samuel will commence as a BCA-supported ministry trainee under Kurt Langmead.



Annette Anderson has commenced as the new Anglican Dean of Nungalinga College. She is married to Greg who is the Bishop of the Northern Territory. Annette has been a trainer at Nungalinga since 2015, mainly teaching the Certificate II course in English as an additional language.



Matt & Annika Winter together with their children Lucy, Eleanor & Sophie, have joined the BCA community. Matt has been the associate pastor at Trinity Church Brighton since 2020. They will move to Trinity Church Victor Harbor at the start of 2026, with the goal to plant Trinity Church Goolwa in the following years.

CONGRATULATIONS



Pat & Issy O'Keeffe were commissioned to serve at Katherine Anglican Church on Sunday 19 October by National Director Greg Harris. They are pictured above with Greg & Karen.



Former National Director **The Rt Revd Dr Mark Short** was elected as the 18th Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia at St Andrew's House in Sydney on Saturday 19 July.

FAREWELL



After eight years serving with BCA in the Parish of Kununurra, we will bid farewell to the **Faricy family** at the end of 2025. Daniel, Bec, Rachael, Jessica and Emily are moving to Rockhampton in the Diocese of Central Queensland, where Daniel will take on the role of Dean of the Cathedral. "We're excited about the move to serve Jesus in Rockhampton and look forward to the work God has prepared in advance for us to do there," says Daniel. "There is also sadness in knowing we'll be leaving our church family in Kununurra."



After nearly seven years serving with BCA, **Jacob & Sarah Kelly** will conclude their time with us at the beginning of next year. The Kellys are moving to Wagga Wagga, where Jacob has accepted the role of Associate Minister at South Wagga Anglican in the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn.



Simon & Alison Roberts who have faithfully served the communities of Exmouth and Onslow since May 2020, will conclude their time with BCA after conducting their Christmas Day service. After a month of annual leave, Simon & Alison will return to Sydney where they will join the staff team at Bayside Anglican Church.

VALE



Barbara Fox (28 February 1938 – 1 October 2025) worked for BCA from 1963 to 1968 at Wudinna, Cook and Tarcoola. Barbara wrote a book about her experiences called *Fox Tales from Far Flung Places*. In later years she shared a home with her friend and fellow BCA Nurse Rosemary Bond in Woy Woy before moving into care in Umina. She remained a faithful BCA supporter until she went to be with the Lord.



From the Archives

– an excerpt from *Fox Tales from Far Flung Places*

The late Barbara Fox (see *Post & Rails* on Page 23) wrote a book on her experiences as a nurse with BCA in Outback South Australia. The book was based on letters that she had written to a friend over her years with the Society. “At the time I did not maintain a diary, so the letters sparked memories of things I had forgotten. When Anne, who now lives in Canada, returned them to me in early 1999, I saw it as confirmation that God was prompting me to tell the story of my life with BCA and share it with my family and friends.” Here is an excerpt from her book *Fox Tales from Far Flung Places*...

One week that I described to Anne, began on a Sunday at 7am, when a young woman banged on the door, announcing, “This time it’s the real thing!”. She safely delivered a baby girl three hours later. The baby decided to air her lungs just as we were dozing off to sleep that night.

Monday was hot, around 102 degrees, and the north wind made it feel even hotter. Around 2.30, the wind came around to the south

and the temperature began to cool down. I went to the post office and when I came out, there were huge clouds of dust to the north. I was warned to put on my skates, as we were in for a storm, and I didn’t waste time. It was a tremendous sight, really. Suddenly the wind changed and the dust was upon us. It didn’t just drift in. There was a terrific gale and the whole place shook. The lino lifted underneath our feet and dust swirled everywhere. Our power failed, so the ceiling fans went off and the new baby began to get hot. The gale was so strong it lifted the roof of the Ladies Rest House, vacated by the new mother the day before, and blew our ‘windproof’ iron incinerator lid 300 yards away. It also blew most of the roof off one of our sheds. Then it rained and the dust turned to mud. It rained and it poured until, by



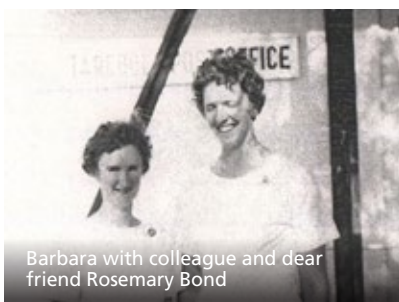
The plane coming into land at Cook



LEFT:
Barbara Fox with
Dr Richard Smidlin
and Lola Higgs



Barbara inspecting a humidcrib



Barbara with colleague and dear
friend Rosemary Bond

morning, Cook was like a lake with a few houses in the centre.

When it was all over, we swept out the whole place. The temperature dropped about 20 degrees, so I had to start putting clothes back on the baby. Maude had the Bible class and ended up sending one child home because of his behaviour. He shouted out "Bible Bashers" as he left and threatened to throw stones on the roof as he graciously departed. The rain must have dampened his enthusiasm! We tackled the ironing, until the iron fused. We weren't able to use the kitchen sink, as the drains were blocked and unpleasant odours were wafting up. On Tuesday, we had to clean up the floors, which were covered in mud. As I was taking the baby to her mother for a feed, the baby had a cyanotic attack and went rigid. I sucked out a whole lot of rubbish and gave her oxygen, and

she rallied round. I expressed the desire that she give a good yell and then made the mistake of putting her in my room for the night, so I could keep an eye on her. She yelled all night. Little wonder I was tired.

On the Wednesday I straightened things up, as the Department Health Inspector was due the next day. He arrived by plane the following morning, along with the pilot, John Lindridge, and a couple of guests. The inspection wasn't as harrowing as I'd feared and everything was in order. It was a beautiful day so John took the group around Cook. They ended up walking back from the school, however, since our bomb of a car ground to an abrupt halt. We had it fixed but when I tried to start it the next afternoon, smoke poured out of the thing. It was such a bomb, but we were very glad to have it.

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

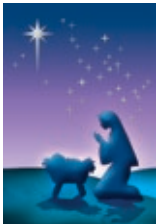
New 2025 Designs



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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Packaging and delivery \$10 per order				
TOTAL				

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We will be pleased to deliver your order to any number of destinations but ask that you include \$10 per delivery address.

Orders can also be placed by visiting our website bushchurchaid.com.au





Thank you AMS and calling other organisations!

The Bush Church Aid Society exists 106 years since its inception thanks to the generosity of our supporters; individuals, churches and organisations. One such generous organisation has been the Anglican Welfare Society/Bill Brady Welfare Org based in Victoria. Over the years the AMS have donated close to \$300,000 to various organisations including BCA.

The money was raised through yearly book fairs, dinners, Bunnings barbecues, snowball drives and member donations.

"We have enjoyed these fundraising activities as it has given us the opportunity to gift monies on a regular basis to the great work of BCA," said AMS member Geoff Murphy.

Sadly, the Anglican Men's Society/Bill Brady Welfare Org ceased to operate in early August, and the remaining funds were distributed. BCA was delighted to receive \$10,000.

"The Anglican Men's Society has been a wonderful and lengthy link in the chain of support for the Bush Church Aid Society's ministry," said Victorian Regional Officer Adrian Lane. "I thank God for the way He has enabled them to do such a good work. I ask that you please pray that God will raise up other donors to take their place."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A BCA VOLUNTEER?

BCA is seeking volunteers to come and assist with tasks in the National Office located above Wynyard Station in the Sydney CBD. Allan Piper (pictured) helps us with our stamps, both collating unused donated stamps for us to use to reduce postage costs, and going through old stamp albums to send to auction raising vital funds for BCA. Last year \$2455 was raised. Volunteer jobs include cutting stamps, packing deputation materials and helping with Christmas merchandise. If you are interested, please contact the National Office on 02 9262 5017. Please note that all volunteers need to complete online safeguarding training before they commence.



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.

Ways to give:

Online bushchurchaid.com.au/donate • Phone 02 9262 5017

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