

*The Real*



summer  
2020/21

# Australian



*Mining for  
the true treasure  
found in Christ*

Joining Christ's seek and find mission with BCA 6  
What is it like to be a BCA Nomad? 20

# BCA Directory

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Cover Photo:  
Mining in the Pilbara

**Recently, while travelling through western NSW, I was greeted with the wonderful site of what appeared to be bumper crops; many almost ready for harvest. I took the opportunity to get some wonderful drone footage (see page 19 for an article on BCA's drone).**

However, just a few days later while watching the TV news, I saw a farmer recalling how much of his crop had been destroyed, or at least severely downgraded, by torrential rain and hail that had swept across the region. In his voice and manner he projected a resilience in the face of adversity, no doubt fashioned through years of drought. In the end he spoke of the hope that he had that next year might be better.

Yet we all know there is no guarantee that next year will be a better harvest season. We even have the old adage that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. Still, that is not the case for us who put our faith in the 'Lord of the Harvest'.

The summer edition of *The Real Australian* coincides with the beginning of Advent; a time of hope. Interestingly, we often misunderstand that the hope spoken of at Advent is not so much about the birth of Jesus or His first coming, but in fact His second coming (which is clearly shown in the prescribed lectionary readings).

The old adage of 'the only certainties in life' is lacking for followers of Jesus. For there are other certainties that can be added, such as forgiveness and peace with God; all possible in and through Jesus.

But Advent reminds us that there is another certainty. The farmer I spoke of has no certainty that next year's harvest will be better, in many ways it is a hollow hope. But Advent reminds us that our hope is in the one who will return and make all things new. Who will take us to be where He is (John 14).

May this sure and certain hope, which cannot be 'downgraded' by rain or hail, strengthen us all to go the distance. May it spur us on to love and good deeds as we approach the end of this difficult year and begin another.

***Greg Harris***  
**National Director**



**Advent reminds us  
that our hope is in  
the one who will  
return and make all  
things new**

# Mining for the true treasure found in Christ



Roger Kyngdon (second from right) with a mission team from Moore College

**Innovation in spreading the gospel is nothing new to BCA. Over our 101-year history we've established remote hospitals where there were none, operated Australia's only complete flying medical service, had Australia's first ever flying padre and even ran a school of the air.**

Since the late 1950s BCA has been sending Field Staff to mining towns – ‘the new outback’, places where many people travel to search for worldly treasure instead of looking for the true treasure found in Christ. Here outreach and ministry need to be highly innovative and flexible around transient populations.

One such place is Newman, WA in the Diocese of North West Australia. Field Staff Roger & Amanda Kyngdon have seen about 30 parishioners move away over the past year. It's a town where it is difficult to build and maintain long-term friendships.

“In Newman we don't expect people to be here for the long-term,” says Roger. “You grab the opportunities when they come your way and you thank and praise God for them. In the last few years we have met many people who have moved away from the church but when they've come to Newman they have started re-examining

their faith. One such woman had grown up with a faith but experienced many struggles in her life. She came to our church and was encouraged by the ministry here. She even spoke with my Mum who encouraged her to start reading her Bible again. When this lady eventually left Newman her faith was active and energised.

“We also get a lot of fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers in Newman and very recently one contacted me out of the blue wanting to join a Bible study. It's not always easy for mine workers, especially FIFO ones, to make regular commitments to attending church or Bible study but this man has joined our group and has not only been encouraged but been an encouragement to me.”

To support the vital gospel work in mining towns we launched our End of Year Appeal last month. To help our Field Staff reach out to people with the true treasure found in Christ, we need your help to reach a \$225,000 goal by Christmas.

Can I please encourage you to be prayerful and generous? Your donation will help Bush Church Aid continue to go the distance to reach Australians for Christ in 2021 and beyond.

*Greg Harris*



# Making disciples in Tasmania

**The Revd Josh Skeat is passionate about opening the Bible with others so everyone can be equipped to do the work that God has called us to – make disciples of Jesus. Josh commences in the role of BCA Tasmanian Regional Officer in early November.**

Josh together with his wife Naomi and their children Elizabeth, Lachlan, Caleb and Abigail have served in the Parish of Deloraine in Tasmania for the past three years. He will continue working in the Parish alongside his part-time role with BCA.

The Skeat family are no strangers to BCA having served in a Ministry Training Arrangement (MTA) at Connections Anglican Church, Somerset from 2011–2013. Connections was the family's home church after they moved to the area in 2008. There Josh worked in pastoral care & leading worship and church services, alongside preaching. At Connections Josh's theological study (Master of Divinity at Melbourne School of Theology via distance) was informed by real life experiences in ministry.

"I love being part of the BCA family," says Josh. "BCA's work is so important because it supports ministry in places that can't support themselves. In our experience as Field Staff we found that significant things occurred in our ministry and/or personal life on 'our day' in the Prayer Notes. As Field Staff, knowing that you are being prayed for is amazing but getting messages from those pray-ers is also so encouraging – reminding you that you're part of a bigger network."

**BCA's work is so important because it supports ministry in places that can't support themselves**

Josh is excited to see God at work in the coming months, and prays that as people hear stories about BCA and opportunities for gospel ministry, it would encourage and excite existing supporters. More than that though, that it would catalyse new prayer

partners and new financial supporters for the work of BCA – and even (God willing) more workers for the harvest.

Josh asks for your prayers for the family and their parish as they transition into the new role. "Praise God for the opportunity to work with BCA and the support that we have been given at parish level," says

Josh. "Pray for wisdom in management of time, and energy resources as we begin."

*Janine van den Tillaart*



# Joining Christ's seek and find mission with BCA



**BCA is delighted to announce The Revd Canon Dr John Warner as the new SA/NT Regional Officer. John is passionate about spreading the good news of Jesus.**

I'm married to Geetha and we have four adult children, along with our pup, Sufjee who thinks she's our fifth child. We are currently revelling in becoming grandparents with the arrival of Ari to our daughter Aiesha and her husband Jamie.

I grew up on a dairy farm at Jervois in South Australia and was taken along to St Luke's Anglican, Tailem Bend when my busy dairy farming parents could get there. This lasted until I was about 14 years old and then I spent a good ten years living life without giving God a thought.

It was in my first year working as a doctor and coming face to face with the reality of death and questions around life's purpose and meaning, that a colleague challenged me to explore the truth and significance of Jesus and invited me to her

church, Holy Trinity Adelaide. Then began a journey exploring the truth and significance of Jesus and looking at the evidence and historical reliability of the Bible. This involved meeting up with several blokes who cared enough to read through the historical gospel biographies of Jesus and answer my questions, sitting under Christ-centred expository preaching each week, along with my own reading.

Four months later, I was convicted of being one of the many lost sinners for whom God sent His son to seek and save by dying on the cross. It was

**Convinced that any person can meet Jesus for themselves in the Bible, I love training and helping Christians talk easily and naturally about Jesus to others**

August 1992 that I turned and received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour for the forgiveness of my sin and the sure promise of eternal life (Luke 19:10).

I love talking to anyone and everyone about Jesus and every person's 'right' to turn to Him for forgiveness of their sin and become a child of God (John 1:12–13). Convinced that any person can meet Jesus for themselves in the Bible, I love training and helping Christians talk easily and naturally about Jesus to others.

After studying theology for four years, I have lead youth and young adult ministries, worked as an evangelist and in 2006 planted Trinity Church Brighton. Since leaving Brighton in 2017, I have worked with Geneva Push Church Planting Network helping young men, couples and churches start new churches in Australia. I am passionate about seeing new churches evangelised into existence to give all people the opportunity to explore the truth and significance of Jesus for themselves. Part of this role has involved several trips to the Northern Territory to work with some NT Diocesan churches.

Over the past three years I have become increasingly involved in the life of the Anglican Diocese of the Murray. This has involved preaching evangelistically and training faithful Christians and clergy in how to share Jesus. I was made Canon Missioner of Evangelism and New Churches in the Diocese in December 2017.

Geetha and I are humbled and thankful for the opportunity to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and His mission to see the message of the gospel extend to more people in regional, rural and remote parts of South Australia and the Northern Territory with BCA. Having lost (and thankfully found



John & Geetha

again) all our children, we are reminded from Luke 15 just how deep our heavenly Father's love is for people who remain lost to Him. That He sent His own Son into our world to seek out and save people lost to Him (Luke 19:10) is a reminder what it cost God to save me and all of us. But also that the importance and urgency of Christ's mission continues until His return. We're very much looking forward to being part of Christ's seek and find mission with BCA and getting to know some of the big-hearted faithful servants of the gospel.

We would very much appreciate your prayers as we transition into this role. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as I commence one day a week with BCA before increasing to four days in 2021. Please pray that God might be honoured and glorified.

**John Warner**  
**SA/NT Regional Officer**

# Putting Jesus forward as the rescuer that Katherine needs



**After four years serving with BCA in Katherine, Kristan & Kathryn Slack together with Levi, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Elianah are moving to Alice Springs in 2021. Kristan has taken up the position of Rector of the Anglican Church of the Ascension in Alice Springs. In his new role Kristan will look after the church in Alice, the parish in Tennant Creek and have oversight for Yulara. Here Kristan gives us some insight into their time in Katherine.**

It's after lunch on Monday. After a two and a half hour burial outside in 35 degrees, high humidity, where very little went to plan, I had finally sat down in my office ready to eat my lunch and in walked a tearful 70 something stranger 'just wanting to pray by herself'. I offered to pray with her and spent the next 45 minutes listening and offering relationship advice, along with praying and giving her a gospel of Luke. I ate my lunch mostly cold.

When we moved here more than four years ago nobody in Katherine thought we

were heroes for living where they live. It was a helpful realignment of our identity. Yes, it's isolated. No, we didn't move here for the lifestyle: no one in our family are keen fishers/shooters/etc. Yes, it's hot for much of the year. No, I don't agree with the Bishop that it's a more human-friendly climate (yes, that's what he told me when we were considering moving here).

We've helloed and goodbyed a lot of people in our short time here. Births, deaths, arrivals and postings. We haven't tried to do spectacular ministry, and nowhere near as much evangelism as we might have. We've lived in front of the people of this town and

put Jesus forward as the rescuer they all need: at funerals, in the newspaper, in church, and in personal conversations.

We've failed in many ways.

Mostly we did what we did with the conviction that God is alive and speaks in His word (and His last word Jesus) – so we tried to get the Bible into the lives of our church family more than before, convinced that Jesus' sheep hear His voice and that He – not we – is the great shepherd of the sheep. Convinced also

that as they hear His voice, they (not only the 'minister') will do the works of service (ministry).

As we pack up in the coming months, and as the predicted proper wet season arrives for the first time in three years, may God also cause His word to bear fruit here.

**We've lived in front of the people of this town and put Jesus forward as the rescuer they all need: at funerals, in the newspaper, in church, and in personal conversations**

*Kristan Slack*



# Developing new generations of Christian leaders in Bendigo



**George & Sarah Hemmings, who together with their children Micah, Joshua, Jacob and Isaac, are our newest Victorian Field Staff. George, who was recently appointed as Archdeacon for the Diocese of Bendigo, will take on the role of Youth and Families Ministry Development Officer.**

George has been the rector at Christ Church Anglican Echuca for over five years and finishes there at the end of November. "It has been a privilege to serve at Christ Church and through God's grace, the parish has grown considerably over the past five years," says George. "During my time as rector I was also successful in establishing a ministry partnership with Bush Church Aid which enabled us to employ Jacob Kelly as a student minister."

In his BCA funded role, George will work to establish & grow connections and fellowship between the children and young people across the Diocese through a camping ministry, discipleship, and raising up youth leaders. George & Sarah will build on the work begun by Trevor & Cindy Bell who will continue to work as BCA Affiliates to complete the Sunday School in a Box project.

"I was very humbled to be asked by Bishop Matt to take on the role of Archdeacon for Bendigo and the goldfields," says George. "In this role I will assist the Bishop with looking after the pastoral care and administration of the Diocese. And I feel that my gifts and skills really align with my BCA supported role. I have a passion for ministry to children, youth and families.

"I will be able to contribute to the Society's vision to develop new generations of Christian leaders, through equipping young people, discipling them in the faith and encouraging them in ministry so they can lead others to Christ."

*Janine van den Tillaart*

**In his BCA funded role George will work to establish & grow connections and fellowship between the children and young people across the Diocese**

# New Nomads Coordinators ready to hit the road



**Greg & Jocelyn Lay from Melbourne are BCA's new Nomad Coordinators. They are passionate about combining their love of travel, meeting people and serving the Lord.**

Originally from New Zealand, we've been living in Australia since 1996. Our priority upon arriving in Melbourne was to find a church family and build a network of friendships. A colleague suggested we try Glen Waverley Anglican Church where John Harrower was the vicar, and the rest is history. We were warmly welcomed and remained at GWAC until we moved into a retirement village in Rowville in 2017. We now worship at RAFT Anglican Church.

Prior to coming to Australia, Greg had several career changes which in hindsight was a training ground for what we now do as BCA Nomads. Jocelyn was a children's dentist but gave that up to become a full-time mother and support to Greg on the farm. Dairy farming was an important part of the training along with farm machinery and engineering, and the need to learn patience when dealing with animals.

From 1975–76 we did the great overseas experience with two young children; our first long stay was in South Africa. We went to Cape Town to catch up with friends and ended up staying and working there. It was in Cape Town that we both became committed Christians.

This was the beginning of a new way of life for us.

We bought our first caravan in Australia in 2008 and had our first long service leave trip from Melbourne to Cooktown via Kurumba and back home in six weeks. This was a real eye opener as we found that many of the grey nomads would end

up staying months in the same spot and do absolutely nothing apart from eating and drinking or going down to the local club. There had to be something better than this.

In 2011 we had a young family come to our church who were travelling around Australia as BCA Nomads. They talked about what they did as they travelled. We were immediately impressed by what they told us and started to make enquiries. At the time Greg was on vestry with Bob Barclay (BCA Victorian Office Manager) and learnt more about BCA. We signed up, contacted Doug Orr and our journey with BCA started in 2012 (after Greg had retired). Doug & Fran Orr became close friends from a distance. Greg became the administrator for the BCA Nomad Facebook page which keeps us in contact with Nomads and Field Staff around Australia.

When Doug's health started to fail, we were very aware of the hole that his passing would leave and felt that we needed to do something to keep his and Fran's dream alive. After much discussion we agreed to take on the role of Nomads Coordinators and as we have visited most of the BCA sites in Australia, we feel experienced enough to take on this role.

Over the last couple of years Jocelyn has been battling cancer which has been defeated by surgeries, chemo and prayer. It is currently being mopped up with radiotherapy and prayer, so we should be ready to hit the road once restrictions are eased.

It's our intention to make sure that Nomads are aware of the various challenges they face when going the distance. Such things as working with children checks, Faithfulness in Service and regulations that vary according to which dioceses you are travelling in. Regulations are changing so fast they are hard to keep up with. So rather than deter people from becoming Bush Church Aid Nomads we will try to make things easier to understand. We also plan to encourage more younger people into the Nomad family.

COVID-19 has been both a curse and a blessing, it has given us time to reflect on how to do things differently. Technology such as Zoom, Skype and MS Teams have suddenly become necessary tools in the world of communication, and for those in remote places and lockdown, a lifeline. We look forward to getting back on the road and serving both our Nomads and Field Staff in the years ahead.

*Greg & Jocelyn Lay*

**We look forward to getting back on the road and serving both our Nomads and Field Staff in the years ahead**

# You should write a book



**I'm sometimes told that I should write a book about my years in ministry – to be sure, there have been many moves, places and faces, varied ministries, joys and sorrows; and the rock-solid constants throughout it all have been...God and His gospel.**

A large chapter in the book would be devoted to our 14 rich years with BCA: 2007–2020. We had already been in Anglican ministry in NE Tasmania for three years when God led us to Launceston and the opportunity to be BCA Field Staff for the next eight years. Alongside working as Enabler for the Parish of Riverlinks, my Diocesan role entailed providing theological and ministry formation for Tasmanian Anglicans around the state. This was especially important for local church leaders bravely leading and preaching without any formal training of their own. Those years brought me much joy watching these saints steadily grow in their understanding of the Bible, God and the gospel, in their ministry skills, and in confidence; and knowing their churches were better off for it.

Bush Church Aid's enthusiastic support for this pioneering ministry revealed to Julie and me BCA's heart for supporting Christians 'on the ground' and for equipping local leaders for fruitful ministry. The same can be said for the Diocese of Tasmania and my then Bishop, John Harrower, who also happens to be BCA's President!

What we didn't know was that God had also been preparing us for a new role with BCA three states away in Queensland. BCA Regional Officers travel a lot. There have been some hairy

I have considered it a joyful privilege to open the Word of God to God's people and to encourage them in their support of BCA; in other words, to be an ambassador for Jesus and the gospel, and for His gospel work through BCA





runway landings, not to mention countless cars, motorbikes, trucks, tractors, road trains, and wildlife that we have passed on the road, along with the occasional unfenced cow! These are the things that have stood out most from the last six years:

- Firstly, God equips and enables you to do the good work that He has prepared in advance for you to do.
- Secondly, the Lord Jesus has His faithful people in many and varied places.
- Thirdly, I have considered it a joyful privilege to open the Word of God to God's people and to encourage them in their support of BCA; in other words, to be an ambassador for Jesus and the gospel, and for His gospel work through BCA.
- Fourthly, faithful BCA supporters throughout QLD and NNSW have greatly encouraged us. Hearing some ask, "How are Gabbie and Jordan? I have been praying for them and your family since you started with BCA in Tasmania in 2007," has humbled and comforted us. Sometimes their love for our Field Staff is palpable. Through the Prayer Notes over the years, they watch with great interest and affection the Field Staff children growing up. They watch, read, and pray. We say to you: Thank you for your faithfulness, and your example and encouragement to us.
- Fifthly, in answer to your prayers, God sends special people to serve on the field with BCA and it is a privilege to support them. They stand for Jesus and the gospel, therefore it's always a battle. They go out with targets on their backs.

L-R: David & Julie  
Julie staffing the BCA table  
on deputation  
David with Seka

continued next page

# You should write a book (continued)



L-R: David & Julie at Gordonvale Church; David in Longreach

They often go where the majority of us wouldn't go; and they grow to love these places and their people. They do much with little and they learn to be highly flexible, adaptable, and resourceful. They're trusting God with their marriages and their children's needs. They're not climbing ministry career ladders. They're living for the Kingdom, wherever and however that leads.

- Sixthly and finally, we have seen firsthand that BCA matters. BCA Field Staff and their families' matter. Their gospel-centred lives and ministries matter. BCA supporters matter. Why? Because God and the gospel matter. Human sin matters. Countless remote and regional people without God and without hope, matter. It matters that every Australian has access to a healthy Jesus-exalting church. It matters that these churches love their communities and share the gospel with them. It matters.

So we leave the BCA ministry team with sadness, deep thankfulness, and joy. It truly is a special team and a vital work. We move on to other fields. But we won't move on from the BCA family of supporters.

With you, we're in this Kingdom work for the long game; so is BCA; and so is our great God. I don't know if I'll ever write that book; but that's okay, because in the service of our great King, we all contribute a chapter to His story: the unstoppable advance of the Kingdom of God, one tribe, one people group, one person at a time...until "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

*David & Julie Rogers-Smith*

**BCA Field Staff and Regional Officer  
2007–20**

**David & Julie Rogers-Smith are returning to Tasmania in December. In January David will take on the role of Rector of the Parish of Bridge of Hope (Latrobe and Port Sorell) which has been vacant since Chris & Wendy Thiele joined BCA on King Island.**

# Happy Birthday

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

bca  
for  
kids

## December

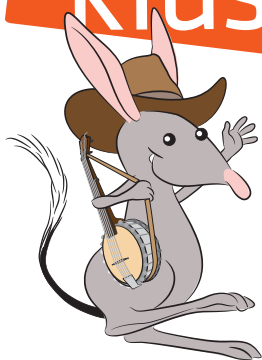
Daniel P  
Elizabeth F  
David N  
Emilie C  
Mirabelle M  
Rhianna C  
Oliver V

## January

Zoe F  
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Charlotte A  
Lola T

## February

Mackenzie C  
Joseph C  
Elijah M  
Annabelle P  
Gina S  
Emerson B  
Lachlan M  
Sarah T  
Natashia B



# The Slacks in Katherine



**The Slack family left suburban Sydney for the remote Northern Territory four years ago. They are a family of six but here their three boys Levi, Ezekiel & Jeremiah tell us a bit about their life in Katherine (with a little help from mum):**



Katherine is mostly flat with only a couple of small hills. The town is surrounded by dry bush with red/ brown dirt and in the wet season it sometimes turns green because of the rain. We also have a beautiful river called the Katherine Gorge but it's full of crocodiles.

Our favourite thing about living in Katherine are the friends we have and the school we go to. We also love the dry season weather and the river at the low-level bridge where we can watch the water flow (see photo).



The funniest things that have happened to us while living here have been hearing our little sister Elianah talk and make funny noises. This always makes us laugh. Also Levi once drank red cordial and it came out his nose!!

One of the hard things about living in Katherine is the time from October to December because it is hot and humid every day.



Here in Katherine we go to Kids Church every week and do family devotions at breakfast time. We enjoy reading books and have just finished the 'little Pilgrim's Progress'.

At the moment we are reading Genesis in the Bible and we learnt that God created the world, made us in His image and always keeps His promises.

If you could come and visit us in Katherine we would love to take you to the skatepark and the playground. We love going up and down the ramps on our scooters and bikes (see photo). We also love to climb, swing, slide and play a game called 'the ground is lava' at the playground. It's hard because you can't touch the ground!



Please pray that all of us (including Elianah) continue to learn and grow in our trust in Jesus. We are really missing our family down south and we don't know when we can see them again so please pray for us. And pray for us as we move to Alice Springs and leave behind our friends.



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S	P	T	N	C	M	O	T	H	E	R	E	K	U	L
E	H	O	E	E	R	E	J	O	S	E	P	H	J	H
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[illegible]

# 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

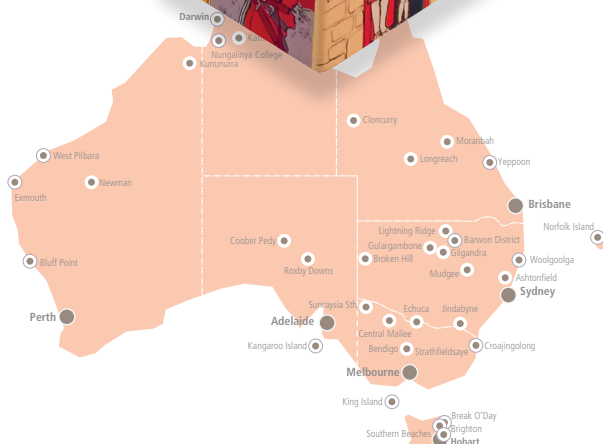
What church do you go to? \_\_\_\_\_

## 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



# Meet SJ2

'How did you get that shot?' That was a question I was asked recently. If you have seen some of the videos I've filmed on my travels you will have noticed that I have tried to get some good footage of places and people. Nearly all of it is shot on my phone with a decent microphone.

But in the spirit of 'going the distance' I have had some help to get those shots; shots that not only show the distance but also involve a lot of vertical distance. That help has come from a little 'guy' who I have affectionately named after our founder Sydney James Kirkby – 'SJ2'.

When travelling restrictions are relaxed my hope is to use SJ2 more often. If you live in, or are travelling to one of our Field Staff locations maybe you could suggest somewhere for me to get some footage. My only advice would be to consider places where SJ2 won't go berserk and just refuse to fly, namely away from airstrips or other restricted areas!

*Greg Harris*

Top to bottom: SJ2 with Mandy the dog

Greg Harris flying SJ2

Greg Harris & Ted Brush on the road photographed by SJ2



## The Western Australian BCA AGM

**The Western Australian BCA Annual General Meeting  
will be held on  
Saturday 20 March 2021 at 12 noon  
At St Alban's Anglican Church Beaufort Street, Highgate**

A light lunch will follow the AGM

**Guest Speakers:**

The Revd Simon and Mrs Alison Roberts  
BCA Exmouth/Onslow

**Cost:**

\$20 or \$15 concession (pay at the door)

**RSVP:**

by Friday 12 March for catering\*

To The Revd Rob Healy WA Regional Officer  
on 0428 288 473 or

Email [rob.healy@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:rob.healy@bushchurchaid.com.au)

\*Please indicate if you have any food allergies

# What is it like to be a BCA Nomad?



Anna and pet bullock Max

**We had been caravanning for many years and wanted to put a purpose to our travels so last year we joined the BCA Nomads. Our first trip in 2019 following the Nomads Gathering in Narromine was to Longreach where we saw first-hand from Graeme & Susan Liersch what a difficult job it is to be BCA Field Staff. We joined in with church activities & services and worshipped at Longreach, Muttaborra, Winton and Barcaldine.**

Our main task was to visit graziers on outlying properties and hand out IGA vouchers from Samaritan's Purse. Longreach had received a lot of support and drought relief funds but Graeme didn't have the time to distribute the vouchers. We travelled long distances and got an idea of what it is like to bring up a family in remote places. The people we visited usually had a connection to the church, but not always. They were all appreciative of our visit and the chance to tell people who care about their drought story. We always prayed before we left.

We then travelled with Nomads Anne & Ralph Latimer to the NT to help out at the Katherine Christian Convention (KCC). This was an amazing experience where about 650 Aboriginal people from remote communities came together to hear God's word and praise Him. It was a great time of fellowship with fellow Nomads, Maitland Evangelical Church volunteers and our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

We returned to Longreach in May to join other Nomads in celebrating 100 years of BCA. With Linda & Phil Simpson we visited more graziers and publicised BCA at the Longreach Show. We had a stall where we gave out knitted teddies and

Despite the long distances travelled, being a BCA Nomad is very rewarding as we can encourage the Field Staff and the people we meet, using the spiritual and practical gifts God has given us, which in turn encourages us



pamper packs donated by South Wagga Anglican Church as well as Christian brochures and Bibles. We also took the Centenary service in Winton.

This year has been different with KCC cancelled and borders closed due to COVID. We managed to enter Queensland in July when the border opened briefly. After visiting friends and family in Northern NSW and Queensland we went to Longreach at the invitation of Graeme. The locals were a bit wary of us at first, so we were glad we had been in Queensland three weeks before arriving in Longreach.

It was good to catch up with parishioners we had met the previous year. Our aim was to be an encouragement not a hinderance. We were greatly encouraged by the Liersch's enthusiasm and commitment and their faithful ministry of God's word. They face the challenge of small and elderly congregations spread over some 200,000 sq kms.

Warren travelled with Graeme to Barcaldine and Winton where they did some repairs on the old rectory. Sue joined six ladies from various churches in a KYB group. She also gave her testimony at a church service. Warren loved having coffee and a sausage roll in the main street, chatting to those nearby and sharing the gospel, as he felt led. We also did two trips to Muttaborra, a round trip of 250km.

A highlight of the trip was having morning tea with a Christian lady who has Bible verses displayed on the walls of her home and even on the chook pen. Her husband has the words Isaiah 40:31 on his truck and delights in the opportunity to explain to those who ask what that means. They live their lives in difficult circumstances, including long-term drought, plane crashes and truck accidents, but trust in God's direction and provisions.

We also visited the small village of Stonehenge, some 150km south of Longreach. On the way we called in to see a family that we had met last year. The young mum had taken on the job of driving the school bus, 300km a day, picking up children for the school which now has nine students.

Despite the long distances travelled, being a BCA Nomad is very rewarding as we can encourage the Field Staff and the people we meet, using the spiritual and practical gifts God has given us, which in turn encourages us. Romans 1:12.

*Sue & Warren Chapman*



Top to bottom: Graeme & Susan Liersch with Sue & Warren

Nomads Phil & Linda Simpson talking with a lady at the 2019 Longreach Show

Sue at Winton's Centenary Celebration giving an overview of BCA

# Reflecting on our time at Southern Beaches Anglican



**In March 2018, just a month after he was ordained, and 10 years after he became a Christian, Jamie Bester and his wife Claire launched Southern Beaches Anglican. With support of the Diocese of Tasmania and BCA, this church plant has flourished under the leadership of the Bester family. Late last month Jamie commenced a new role as Rector of the Parish Howrah/Sandford. He will also lead a church planting working group for the Diocese of Tasmania.**

In reflecting on our time at Southern Beaches Anglican (SBA) there is so much to be thankful for. More than anything else we can only look in awe at the God who is in the business of transforming lives, families and communities.

We have seen God at work drawing people into this community and then miraculously calling them into His kingdom, with many people saved. As I reflect on this it's so obvious that God is the real power behind this gospel fruit. God has used us to help create a vulnerable, authentic, loving community where people experience the gospel in a tangible way through His people, the Church.

There are so many BCA thank you's to be made! From the regular prayer support,

phone calls and the random visits from BCA Nomads – thank you Bush Church Aid for your love and support!

One special thank you also highlights what Southern Beaches Anglican is all about. Joel & Tegan Gillie left jobs and family in Melbourne to come and help us plant Southern Beaches Anglican. God's power to call exactly the people we needed and their willingness to answer the call is what encourages me most.

This is what a kingdom life is all about. Hearing God's call and being obedient. All we have done at SBA is listen to God's word, trust in His leading and obey. God has directed the ministry and is the power that has driven it.

This gives us great confidence that SBA will flourish and be fruitful as will the next kingdom role God has called us to – Praise be to Him.

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20–21

*Jamie Bester*

# 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**

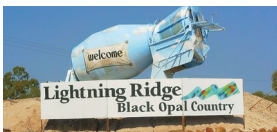
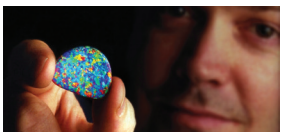
Come with CFT as we explore this beautiful South Pacific Island, connect with local Christians, learn about the unique culture of the Norfolk Islanders and join in their 'Foundation Day' celebrations. Find out why the locals believe it's "Da Bass Side Orn Earth" (the best place on Earth) as you relax, 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](http://www.christianfellowshiptours.com)  
or call 1300 635 358**



# Post & Rails

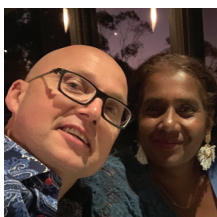
## WELCOME



### **Josh & Naomi Skeat**

and their children Elizabeth, Lachlan, Caleb and Abigail serve in the Parish of Deloraine in Tasmania. Josh will continue working

in the Parish alongside his part-time role as Tasmanian Regional Officer with BCA.



### **John Warner**

together with wife Geetha is our new SA/NT Regional Officer. Before accepting the role with BCA, John has worked as an

evangelist, pastor and church planter. More recently he has been recruiting church planters working as Canon Evangelist in the Diocese of The Murray and as the Locum at Trinity Church Mount Barker.



### **George & Sarah Hemmings**

together with their children Micah, Joshua, Jacob and Isaac, are our newest Victorian Field Staff. George has taken up the

Youth and Families Ministry Development Officer role in the Diocese of Bendigo.



### **Greg & Jocelyn Lay**

are our new Nomads Coordinators. In 2008 they started travelling around Australia and a few short years later they combined their

passion for caravanning with their passion for serving Christ.

## FAREWELL



### **Jamie & Claire Bester**

together with Xavier, Adlai, Phinehas and Hope moved to the Parish of Howrah/Sandford

in October. Jamie has taken on the role of Rector of the parish and will also lead a church planting working group for the Diocese of Tasmania.



After 14 years with BCA (Field Staff and QLD/NNW Regional Officer) **David & Julie Rogers-Smith** finish up in December. They are returning to

Tasmania where David will take on the role of Rector of the Parish of Bridge of Hope (Latrobe and Port Sorell) which has been vacant since Chris & Wendy Thiele joined BCA on King Island.



### **Kristan & Kathryn Slack**

together with Levi, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Elianah are moving to Alice Springs.

Kristan has accepted the role of Rector of the Anglican Church of the Ascension. In this role Kristan will look after the church in Alice, the parish in Tennant Creek and have oversight for Yulara.



### **Cheryl Hallinan**

retires from her role of Bush Scripture Adviser at the end of December. Cheryl confidently hands over the 58 currently supported schools,

boards and contacts to four wonderful

Generate staff. Cheryl and Michael look forward to joining the BCA Nomads and reflecting on how they may continue to support rural ministry.



**Graeme & Susan Liersch** have accepted a role in the Diocese of Gippsland. After five years travelling long distances in outback Queensland,

Graeme will serve as rector of the Parish of Wonthaggi and Inverloch.

Bishop Greg Anderson has advised that the Parish of **Katherine** currently does not require BCA funding.

After supporting the parish of **Port Hedland** since 1957, the Bishop of North West Australia Gary Nelson has advised BCA that funding is no longer required thanks to a very generous benefactor.

**CONGRATULATIONS**



**Brendan & Laura Hurley** welcomed Grace Eden at 2:26pm on 11 August. She was 2.6kgs and is a little sister for Ethan, Jake and Oliver.



**The Revd Joe Mullins** celebrated his 100th birthday in July. After his retirement from full-time ministry he served with BCA as a locum in

South Hedland and also promoted BCA in churches in Perth.

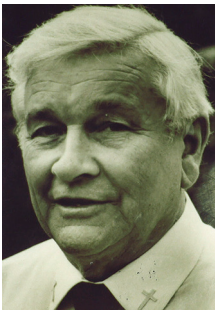
**VALE**



**Marie Ann Nelson** (nee Parchert) 10 November 1959 – 1 August 2019. Marie Ann was a dedicated nurse who worked in Tarcoola (1980–1981). She

did midwifery training in Scotland to be able to return to work for BCA in South Australia. From 1984–1985 she worked as the relieving nurse/midwife between Cook and Tarcoola. The skills she learnt during these years saw her go on to become the Director of Nursing in outback Queensland, managing and working in three country hospitals. Marie Ann is survived by her husband James and her family. She was compassionate and supportive to those around her and strong in her faith to the end. Vale good and faithful servant.

*(Lynn Pickersgill Nurse at Cook SA 1984).*



**The Revd William John Douglas Stockdale** (John) passed away on 29 August 2020 aged 95. John and his late wife Jeanne served with BCA in Wilcannia from 1953–1961. He was Victorian State

Secretary from 1961–1968 and then Locum State Secretary from 1991–1992. John was the much-loved Uncle of Sally, Jane, Prue, Lizzie and their families.



# From the Archives — A Radio School



Calling the roll

**Over the years the ministries of BCA have adapted to meet the needs of those whom we serve. In the mid-1950s we offered the facilities of the Ceduna Radio Control Station to the Correspondence School of the South Australian Education Department. This excerpt from an article in the June 1956 issue of *The Real Australian* tells you a bit about this initiative.**

On February 7th, 1956, many children (and their mothers) of Eyre Peninsula, the far West Coast, and the North Western areas, sat beside special transceivers and eagerly waited to hear a teacher speak to them from the control room at Ceduna. The transceivers were supplied by the BCA and the Correspondence School supplied the lesson papers. Miss K. Miller, a member of the Correspondence School staff, was sent to establish the school, and to conduct regular sessions dealing with the lessons supplied. Each day three school sessions are conducted, and children in each grade from Grade I to Grade VII have at least one lesson explained to them.

The "Classroom" is unique. It covers an area of 100,000 square miles of mallee scrub, salt bush grazing country, farmlands and salt lakes. This area is greater than that of the United Kingdom. There are 20 families with transceivers and there are 41 children on the Radio Roll. The children live in places as far apart as Koonalda on the far West Coast, Coober Pedy opal field, and Woomera in the Interior, Iron Knob near Whyalla, and Coultas near Pt. Lincoln.

Many more enquiries have been made, and parents have requested that more lessons be given, so, in the near future, it is hoped that there will be many more pupils enrolled, and many more lessons taught.

The scheme allows the children to hear a lesson just as it is given in an ordinary classroom. Children, mothers and supervisors may ask a question simply by turning a switch, and lesson problems are dealt with immediately. The teacher may also ask questions, and by doing so, she can test the ability of her pupils. When a question is asked and answered, all listeners can hear it. In this way the children hear their classmates, even though they are three or four hundred miles away, the children no longer feel so isolated or alone in their work.

**The "Classroom" is unique. It covers an area of 100,000 square miles of mallee scrub, salt bush grazing country, farmlands and salt lakes. This area is greater than that of the United Kingdom**

**To read the whole article visit *The Real Australian* Archives at [www.bushchurchaid.com.au/archive](http://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/archive)**

# Order for Christmas

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2020

## Christmas Puddings

### Newcastle Pudding Lady Traditional Christmas Pudding

Suitable for microwave

**BCA 312** 500g Pudding \$30 **BCA 313** 1kg Pudding \$45



### Newcastle Pudding Lady Plum Pudding Log

Wrapped in calico and suitable for diabetics/coeliacs in controlled portions; gluten free

**BCA 314** 500g \$32



### Newcastle Pudding Lady Christmas Cake

**BCA 315**

700g Cake \$40



## Christmas Cards

**BCA 016** New Designs for 2020

Pack of 6 – 2 each of 3 designs \$5/pack



**BCA 017** Discounted 2019 Designs

Pack of 6 – 2 each of 3 designs \$4/pack



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



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

**BCA 138**      **Discounted price \$20**  
Postage and handling \$8.50



**BCA 018**      **Banjo Bilby \$15**

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Your purchase helps gospel work across Australia

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Orders can also be placed by visiting our website [bushchurcaid.com.au](http://bushchurcaid.com.au)



# Distance Giving Program

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

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

**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**

### BPay **Biller Code 88203**

Reference number is your supporter number which can be found on the back of this magazine above your name and address.



### Direct Deposit **Westpac BSB 032 008 Account 000706**

Donations can be made directly into our bank account. PLEASE use your supporter number as a reference (or, for anonymous donations, the reference ANON followed by the first letter of your State).

Please process my donation on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each month.

☐ **\$20** ☐ **\$30** ☐ **\$50** ☐ **\$100** ☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Donation Form

**Yes, I would like to help share the gospel and provide care to reach Australia for Christ.**

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Donations can be made directly into our bank account. PLEASE use your supporter number as a reference (or, for anonymous donations, the reference ANON followed by the first letter of your State).

**Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to BCA's ministry**

☐ I would like to donate to General Ministry **OR**

☐ I would like a tax deduction

(A tax-deductible gift can only be directed to a narrow range of ministry areas)

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☐ Cheque/Money Order ☐ Credit card – please complete details below

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### I would like to receive:

☐ **The Real Australian magazine & Prayer Notes**

☐ **A money box for my donations**

☐ **Information about how I can support BCA through my Will**

# The Bush Church Aid Society

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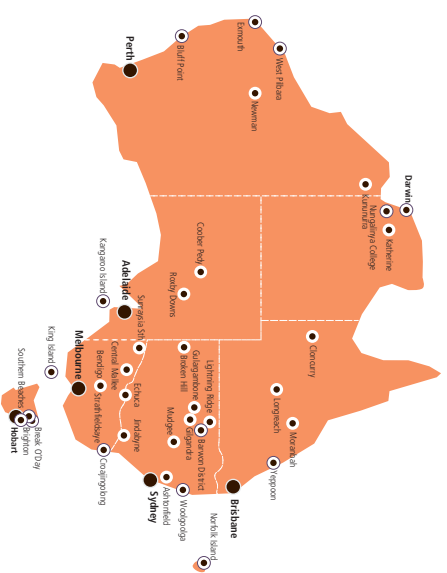
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*Going the distance*

*Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919*

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