

# *The Real* **Australian**

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Encouraging  
times in  
Kununurra

10

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Last light  
Lindridge

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A very  
special  
BCA  
holiday

20

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# BCA Directory

THE REAL AUSTRALIAN IS A REGISTERED  
TRADEMARK OF THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY  
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Front Cover: Bellingen views  
(A very special BCA holiday)

# A new look



Photos of the  
Covers of old RAs

*The Real Australian* and Prayer Notes have a brand-new look for 2023 and later this year we will also launch our new-look website. While the appearance has changed, *The Real Australian* will still feature stories from our locations across the country and keep you up to date with BCA news and events. Similarly, the Prayer Notes will enable you to pray specifically for our Field Staff.

First launched in 1920, *The Real Australian* has changed over the years from a four-page black and white publication without photographs which supporters paid a fee for, to a full-colour 32 page publication delivered each quarter straight to your door.

If you look at *The Real Australian* archive – [bushchurchaid.com.au/archive](https://bushchurchaid.com.au/archive) – you will see that this is the 11th incarnation of the magazine.

***"The Real Australian has evolved many times in the last 103 years," says National Director Greg Harris. "But what remains constant is the great content that supporters have known and loved for years."***

We hope that you enjoy reading this edition and that the stories are an encouragement to you and inform your prayers for those who are going the distance to reach Australia for Christ.

*Janine van den Tillaart*

# Editorial



Vlamingh Head, Exmouth



More than likely when you read this article, we will be fast approaching Easter once again. A time of great celebration and yet a time I often find myself saying ***"I have no words!"*** (You probably never thought you would hear a preacher say that!)

To explain myself, let me quote some words from a young poet, Isaac Wimberley, who delivers his work in a semi-rap rhythmic style.

***If there are words for Him (God) then I don't have them.***

***See my brain has not yet reached the point where it could form a thought that could adequately describe the greatness of my God.***

***And my lungs have not yet developed the ability to release a breath with enough agility to breathe out the greatness of His Love.***

***And my voice, see my voice is so inhibited, restrained by human limits that it's hard to even sing the praise up, you see, if there are words for Him, then I don't have them.***

***He's unsearchable yet knowable, indefinable yet approachable, indescribable yet personal...***

***He is beyond comprehension, further than imagination, constant through generations, King of every nation, but if there are words for Him, then I don't have them.***

The poem may not be to your liking, but I hope that you may have understood the premise. It is not that we don't have words to describe God – we do have words and lots, masses, numerous, countless, and voluminous numbers of them! Yet how do you describe the indescribable mercy of the invisible and immortal Lord God Almighty?

When you come to Easter Sunday, I challenge you to adequately capture in words the victory and triumph of what occurred when Jesus was resurrected – because if there are words then I don't have them. How can you describe the willing sacrifice on a rugged cross and the conquering defeat of death in the resurrection by the second person of the Trinity, the incarnate Son, the Alpha and the Omega, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and all for those who were his enemies?

When I try to comprehend it (let alone describe it with words) then in my whole being to the depth of my soul I am overwhelmed, overcome, astounded and speechless.

Yet by God's gracious mercy He has given us words as tools – albeit limited – to proclaim His greatness, mercy, and grace. This Easter, and every day that follows, will you continue to pray with me that the words of all who are part of the BCA community might point to The Word! For to quote Isaac Wimberley again...

***... for my words point to THE WORD, and THE WORD has a name, Hope has a name, Joy has a name, Peace has a name, Love has a name and that name is Jesus Christ!***

**Every blessing this Easter.**



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

# No strangers to bush ministry

The city of Cowra from the town lookout (including the church)

Ben & Alissa Connelly, together with their children Josiah and Vivienne, have recently moved to Cowra in the Diocese of Bathurst. Ben & Alissa are no strangers to bush ministry having previously served at Narrabri Anglican Church.

Ben graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity from Moore College in 2018 and was ordained in 2020. He is currently studying a Master of Arts in Theology. At Narrabri Anglican, Ben was responsible for running Bible studies, preaching, service leading, teaching SRE and establishing the church's playgroup ministry.

He brings to the role in Cowra a wealth of experience having completed the Ministry Training Strategy apprenticeship through the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students; served in a church that ran services in several languages; and worked as a children's minister. Ben has also been an aged care chaplain and is registered as a disaster recovery chaplain.

***"During my time with AFES I worked training and equipping university students to read the Bible, run Bible studies and to grow in their own spiritual walks," says Ben. "As a student minister I worked in a church that ran services in multiple languages, this has provided the skills required to work***

***in multi-cultural settings. And having worked with both children and youth in churches, I understand the different needs of the various age groups. My work as an aged care chaplain has increased my abilities in pastoral care and conducting hospital visits."***



Ben & Alissa have been married for 12 years. Alissa has served with Ben in his two student ministry positions, and in the two parishes he has been employed since graduating. Prior to their time at College, Ben & Alissa served in an expat church in Switzerland. Alissa's gifts are in music ministry, Bible study leading and youth leading.

***"We look forward to working with God's people in Cowra who have persevered through a long stretch with no formal minister. We pray that we can encourage and refresh them as we partner together to proclaim Jesus in the bush."***

*Janine van den Tillaart*



Garrett family in Coober Pedy on the way to Darwin

## Bringing the good news to school kids in the Territory

In January this year Kylie, Matt & Ava Garrett took the long drive from Port Macquarie to Darwin, visiting Coober Pedy on their way (see above). On 23 January, Kylie commenced as the Scripture Union NT Field Development Manager. In this role, she oversees and coordinates the Religious Instruction and Chaplaincy programs, SUPA Clubs and ISCF groups in the Darwin area.

Kylie previously worked at Port Macquarie Public School as a Chaplain two days a week and also as a School Learning Support Officer. In her role as Chaplain, she provided wellbeing support for students, staff and families at the school. She ran friendship groups which taught social and relational skills and also helped deliver a welfare program which included providing breakfast, class fruit tubs and uniform financial support.

*"It was a great delight when the school extended my hours out of their own pocket after seeing the changes in the kids I worked with and the benefit to families and the wellbeing of the school,"* says Kylie. *"At the*

*last Generate training day I was also asked to speak in a session on how I've been able to link my church to school ministry and the successes I've had."*

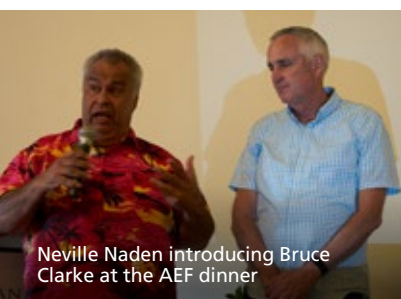
Kylie is going to use these skills in her new role in the Territory, *"I hope that my contribution to BCA will be through providing an advocating voice for its work and ministry, a prayer support in the field and to make a difference in Darwin. My plan, God-willing, is to bring the good news of Jesus to children in their schools and community."*

Please pray for Kylie & Matt who have left behind their daughters Chloe and Macy, son Isaac and son-in-laws Kyle and Cornelius. Pray also for Ava who adjusts to school and life in the Territory. Pray for Kylie as she continues to meet and inspire supporters and as she heads to Alice Springs in March to visit schools where Scripture Union has chaplains, meet their principals as well as local pastors.

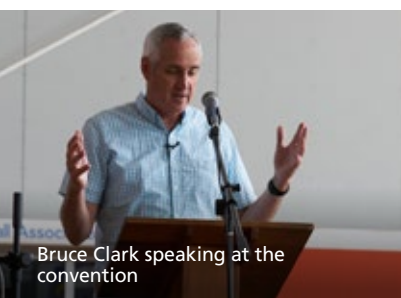
*Janine van den Tillaart*



Kathie Naden addressing the Eastern Area Ladies group



Neville Naden introducing Bruce Clarke at the AEF dinner



Bruce Clark speaking at the convention



Some of the conference attendees enjoying worship



First Nations Ministry Training Principal Dennis Taylor preaching on the last evening

# What a wonderful way to start 2023!

Around 300 people from across the country gathered in Port Augusta in the New Year for fellowship and strong Bible teaching at the national Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Convention.

The Revd Bruce Clarke, from one of our BCA supporter parishes, was the keynote speaker and focused on the theme of 'Trusting Christ in Challenging Times'. Bruce opened the gospel of Mark and encouraged those present that Christ can be trusted when challenging times come our way. He gave five compelling talks.

During the night services our Aboriginal men graced the pulpit, including our very own Dennis Taylor, and they all did an amazing job.

Other highlights of the conference were the various testimonies and items. The Wednesday evening was concert night. Some sang in their own language while others testified to the faithfulness of God.

Following the various evening services, several people gathered at the OTR Service Station to drink coffee and enjoy fellowship around the meal table.

BCA was well represented at the conference with SA/NT Regional Officer John Warner and myself looking after the sound. It was also great to catch up with Glen & Beth McDonald and their children who were also present.

On our way home at the end of an encouraging week we hit a kangaroo. Both Kathie and I were okay, but the Roo was a little worse for wear.

All in all, the time spent in Port Augusta was well worth the effort.

We give thanks to our BCA supporters that allow the Society to support the AEF with their ministries.

*Neville Naden*

**Indigenous Ministry Officer**





# First fruits of the FNMT

**Since BCA started partnering with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship's First Nations Ministry Training (FNMT) initiative in mid-2022, Principal Dennis Taylor and his wife Valda have been tirelessly working building relationships and forming partnerships.**

When we were commissioned to serve with BCA last May I said, *I don't know why God has launched us into this new work when I am only one month away from retirement age, but who am I to question God, He knows, and I trust Him to take my wife and I through this next phase of ministry for His good.*

The fruit of our ministry was celebrated on 28 September 2022 when ten students completed the first Discipleship 1 program – 'Getting to know God'. The feedback was encouraging, and the group are excited about the next instalment

– the 16-week Discipleship 2 course ('Gifts that can be used to edify the church'). One of the things that excited us most is that one of the students approached his Pastor to see if we can run the course for their church.

We would value your prayers as the FNMT continues to grow. We are looking to run training in remote and isolated areas in WA, in the Kimberleys and have also had some interest from South Australia. Please pray for continued strength for us – the workload has increased, and the task ahead is looming large.



*Dennis Taylor*



# Encouraging times in Kununurra

**Daniel & Bec Faricy and their kids have served with BCA in Kununurra for five years now and continue to praise God for all his blessings. Here Daniel gives an update of what's been happening in far north WA.**

Our God can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20) and we constantly thank God for all that he is doing in this corner of the country.

I have been working with some of our congregation equipping them to pass on God's word in preaching. In particular two guys are studying God's word by correspondence through Moore and Ridley Colleges; it has been a joy helping them grapple with God's word. It's great to see the fruit of their labour as they encourage and build up the church with their preaching. It's a blessing that God has bought these people to Kununurra, and we thank Him for them.

As a church, we have several Bible studies which we call grow groups. Through 2022 these groups slowly multiplied as more people looked to grow as Christians through studying God's word – a great encouragement to us.

When I was a youth minister in the NSW Blue Mountains, Lucie (pictured) was a shy teenager who became a Christian. Since then, she has gone to Bible College and grown in her faith. It was a blessing to have her visit to find out about ministry here. It is great how when God starts a work in someone, He continues that work.



**FAR LEFT:**  
Kununurra Carols

**TOP RIGHT:**  
Holiday Time!

**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
Lucie in Kununurra

Christmas is always a busy time of ministry. Our Carols service saw much answered prayer, with the name of Jesus resounding joyfully through singing Carols, and the message! We had a special visit from Butternut, our local puppet, and I got to share how in Jesus, God fulfils his promises to us. Close to 300 people attended. We pray that God would continue to be at work in these people.

Kununurra, like many remote towns, is a place where people come and go, and in Term 4 we said goodbye to several key members of our congregation. There was happiness as we celebrated the partnership in the gospel we shared, the fellowship we had and as we prayed for them as they went off to serve in other parts of Australia (and in one case, the world). But there was also plenty of sadness as we said goodbye to friends and co-workers in the ministry here.

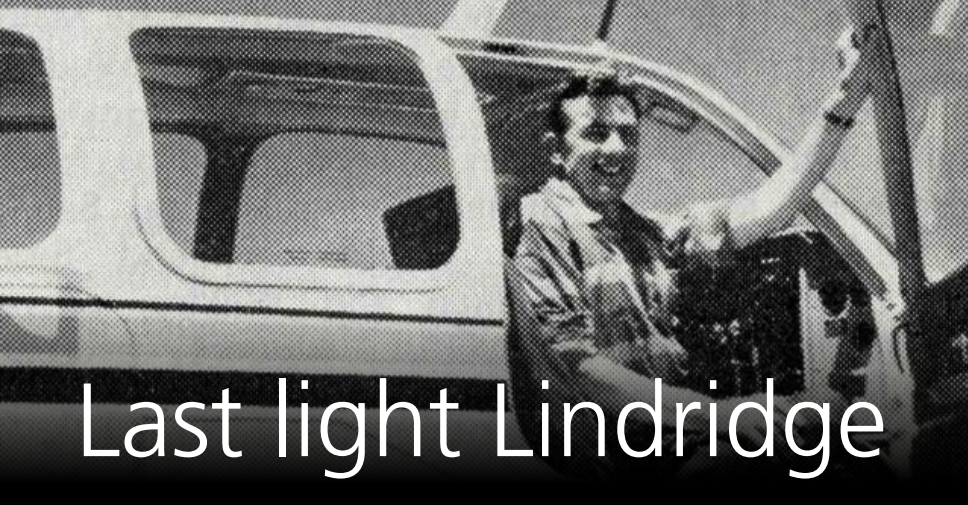
At the end of 2022, due to some people leaving town, our Year 6-8 group in Kids Church became leaderless. Praise God, that before we put out a call for help, a couple asked if they could serve by running this group. We thank and praise God for their ministry hearts.

In January we drove to Darwin to enjoy some time of relaxation together as a family. We celebrated Emily's 4th birthday, did the annual shopping trip, got to feel an awesome earthquake and went ice skating – as you do in Darwin! It was a good opportunity to be refreshed physically, but also spiritually.

As a new year begins, we are deep in planning mode for what ministry opportunities to pursue. We pray that God will build his house so that our labours are not in vain!

*Daniel Faricy*





# Last light Lindridge

**Australian Historical Author and Forester Robert Onfray recently contacted us after writing a history of BCA on his website. He has also written an article on former BCA pilot John Lindridge. Below is an abridge version of this article.**

While finalising a previous blog, I was reminded of the tragic plane crash on Daisy Nolan Hill, near Hampshire, in 1983, which killed the sole occupier, pilot John Lindridge.

I researched what I could about John and quickly discovered he had a remarkable flying career, first as a pilot with a flying medical service in outback South Australia in the 1960s, then part of critical freight and transport in the Bass Strait, to more flying in Tasmania.

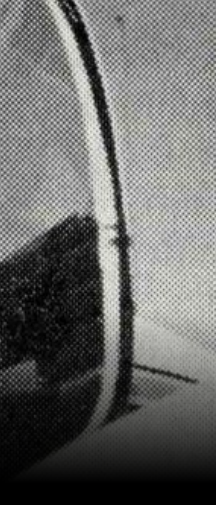
In 1955, John left for Australia as a 'ten-pound pom'. He studied at night at the Tasmanian Aero Club to get his commercial pilot licence while doing his day job at the paper mill. It was during this time he met schoolteacher Marie Morse at church, and they married in 1957.

After getting his commercial pilot's licence, John was alerted by his wife to a job with the flying medical service run by the Bush Church Aid

Society (BCA) in South Australia. BCA started in the late 1930s with a single light plane. However, by the early 1960s, the flying services were in strong demand in the vast outback, and BCA purchased a second plane and advertised for a pilot. With a Christian sense of vocation and his newly acquired pilot's licence, John successfully applied for the job in 1961, and he and Marie packed their bags and moved to Ceduna.

Both John and Marie were looking for more in their life at that young age, not that living in a fibro-cement house at Ceduna wasn't challenging and isolated. On the contrary, it was a barren, dry and dusty place. Ten days after arriving there, their first child Gillian was born, and two boys followed with Michael in 1963 and Geoff in 1966. For John, he managed to see the vast outback and experience plenty of adventures within the routine flying visits of doctors and nurses to the outback





**FAR LEFT:** John in his beloved Beechcraft Baron

**TOP RIGHT:** John is about to fly The Reverend Bernard Buckland to the Trans-Continental train

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Plane with a damaged nose on the Cook runway

towns. For Marie, she had support through BCA, and they became part of the local community, meeting wonderful people, some of whom have remained life-long friends. Marie helped at the hospital and was the Secretary of the School of the Air Mother's Club.

John was required to land in whatever the conditions. In some cases, on the Nullarbor, there were caves under the runway, and potholes would appear after rain. He had an unfortunate incident on the very rough runway at Cook, a railway town halfway between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie. The nose of the aircraft was damaged after trying to land on an uneven surface (see above).

As a rule, he was required to land before dark to avoid the airport putting on the runway lights and then reporting this to the aviation

authorities. As a result, he earned his nickname 'Last Light Lindridge', as he always managed to land before the last light.

John later acquired his night flying rating, which allowed him to fly at night without a valid medical reason. In addition, it allowed him to bring the doctor home at night after a day's consulting.

Marie recalls one incident when they received a call in the middle of the night from the only residents of an idyllic island off the Eyre Peninsula, near Elliston. A frantic wife found her husband's dinghy washed up on the shore with him missing. He had gone out to check his large boat was still moored securely during the gale force winds. They were the only ones living on the island. John flew out with the Harbour Master and the matron. The frantic wife had to drive the tractor to the end of the runway with its light left on and place lanterns along the runway. After safely landing, the Harbour Master rowed out in the dinghy and found the husband safely on his boat. He was unable to row back to shore because the dinghy had drifted away.



Marie Lindridge with daughter Gillian at Ceduna.

*continued next page*



**TOP LEFT:** John about to fly the Beechcraft Baron in Ceduna

**TOP RIGHT:** Captain John Lindridge

**LEFT:** John's plaque at Ulverstone cemetery

There were many trips to treat sick people and mercy dashes to save lives, such as Aboriginal babies with gastroenteritis, miners falling down opal mineshafts and landing on the Nullarbor for a car accident. One patient was violently sick all over John and the control panels. When John was cleaning the plane afterwards, he found a pair of dentures. On another occasion, John was called out at midnight to take the doctor to Kingoonya, where a man collapsed at a dance. A suspected brain haemorrhage turned out to be a heart attack. They flew the man to Woomera hospital. John and the doctor arrived back at Ceduna at 5am. Needless to say, neither attended the church service that morning.

John was fortunate to work with chief pilot Allan Chadwick, the original and only pilot of the flying service since 1938. Every month was busy for the two pilots covering such enormous areas. A typical month involved transporting up to ten patients to hospitals, racking up nearly 10,000 kilometres of flying.

In early 1967, BCA began assessing the viability of its flying medical service and in 1968 decided to bring down the curtain on its long and eventful service that covered some 130,000 square kilometres based out of Ceduna. The Australia-wide Royal Flying Doctor Service took over their work.

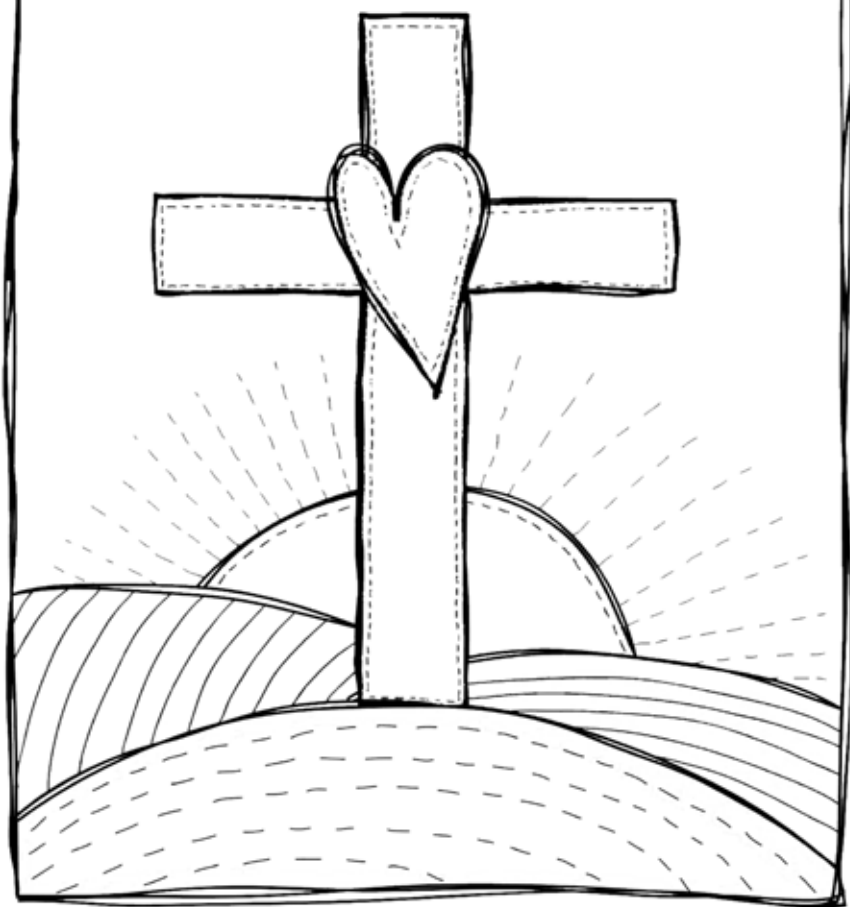
*Robert Onfray*

*Photos courtesy of Robert Onfray and the Lindridge Family*

You can read a complete version of this article on Robert's blog [robertonfray.com/2022/06/24/last-light-lindridge/](https://robertonfray.com/2022/06/24/last-light-lindridge/)

You can also read Robert's article on BCA [robertonfray.com/2023/01/13/a-benevolent-service-to-the-outback/](https://robertonfray.com/2023/01/13/a-benevolent-service-to-the-outback/)

# He IS RiSen





# Focusing on the message of Easter

One of my favorite times of the year is Christmas, the countdown, the lights, advent, special food, and my playlist (Amy Grant features heavily naturally). As I wrap up the Christmas tree and all the decorations, I turn my eyes to Easter and wonder what are the rituals and traditions in this space to help us concentrate on the meaning and wonder of salvation weekend?

Here is a list of ten things I have done over the years with my family to help us focus for a season on the message of Easter, and some I have yet to try. Maybe you could try some of them if you haven't before or send me some of your ideas.

1. **Decorate the house for Easter** with bunting, eggs, an egg tree and little Easter messages throughout the house that draw attention to the season.
2. **Make an Easter playlist** with songs that sing of the Easter message and play it throughout the season, in the car, in your home...
3. **Give Easter gifts** to friends and teachers with messages that celebrate the joy of salvation.
4. **Read the Bible** together from Palm Sunday to Easter Monday and the events of Jesus' final week on earth.
5. **Share an Easter meal** with a spread of different Easter foods, I do this every year with my Bible study and am sure to include my traditional hot cross bun and easter egg pudding. You could also do this with your friends and family and come up with a special Easter recipe of your own. Giving out fun Easter jar gifts to your guests with a special Easter message can add to the fun.
6. **Enjoy a Passover meal** together on the Thursday night to learn about the customs of the day in Jesus' time. I haven't done this every year, but it is something I truly love and would like to do again.
7. **Church and Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday** followed by an afternoon of watching a Jesus movie or show (age appropriate for kids).
8. **Easter Egg Hunt** – after spending Good Friday in its somber rhythm and enduring the waiting of Easter Saturday, waking up to run around the house and garden looking for Eggs because Easter is finally here is a really fun time





we have had in our family. Everyone wakes up with a basket and a certain number of Eggs to collect – this is not my first rodeo, equality in chocolate hunting matters.

9. **Easter Eggs and Milk** – after all of the eggs are collected and the excitement fades, chocolate is on the menu for breakfast. Every year we bite the top off a medium hollow egg and fill it with milk for a chocolate milkshake on the most wonderful day of the year. A celebration feast for the King of Kings who can even beat death and He lives.
10. **Easter Day Church** is a party where we go on more Easter Egg hunting adventures, sing and celebrate with our church family rejoicing together in the wonderful resurrection.

*Rachel Dirks*

**BCA for Kids Coordinator**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Matilda L  
Genevieve M  
Nathan R  
Isobel L  
Hamish C  
Gem T  
Lara T  
Jane S  
Archie N  
Dustin F



# I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF



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

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

OR

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

Every member receives a welcome letter,  
 a welcome certificate and a drink bottle.  
 Soon we will launch our new BCA for Kids  
 magazine too!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## BCA MONEY BOXES

Kids give great support to BCA, and every dollar you put in the box is a dollar which goes to help tell people about Jesus! Thanks to our wonderful young supporters!



# Around the country



**WALGETT, NSW:**  
Kurt Langmead and George Ferguson were sworn in as Police Chaplains in Walgett late last year.



## **BATHURST, NSW:**

Greg Harris led an ordination retreat in the Diocese of Bathurst in late November/early December. He also preached at the ordination service on Saturday 3 December 2022 where our very own **James Daymond** and **Steven Klouth** were priested.



**ADELAIDE, SA:**  
Jack & Lill Harradine were commissioned to serve with the Aboriginal Berean Community Church in Adelaide on Sunday 22 January.



## **PAKENHAM, VIC:**

The Bush Church Aid auxiliary group based at **St James' Pakenham** celebrated its 65th anniversary on Wednesday 26 October 2022, with a worship service and fellowship lunch. The Pakenham auxiliary raised a total of \$3000 for BCA last year, and president Gwen Williams presented a cheque to BCA Victorian Regional Officer Adrian Lane.



**BENDIGO, VIC:**  
Jacob Kelly was priested in the Bendigo Diocese in late November 2022.



**SOUTHERN BEACHES, TAS:**  
Greg & Karen Harris joined **Dave & Lauren Horne** for Southern Beaches Anglicans five-year anniversary.

# A very special BCA holiday

For more than 45 years a unique form of ministry – the BCA Coach Tour – has been linking faithful Christians with the BCA Field Staff working in Australia's remote and rural regions.

Time spent in fellowship with these hard-working Field Staff and their parishioners is invaluable to the continuation of these BCA centres as well as spiritually enriching for all concerned – inspiring for visitors and encouraging and affirming for Field Staff.



Lightning Ridge Mine Tour



Bendigo City

In 2023 we invite you to join us on a very special holiday as we travel all over South-Eastern Australia to visit both old and new BCA centres and meet up with the missionaries doing God's work in these communities.

On this 16-day tour we will celebrate the wonderful diversity of our beautiful country. We travel from the coastal regions of the Eastern Seaboard, across the Great Dividing Range on to the vast plains of outback New South Wales and South Australia before returning to Sydney via the fertile Riverina and the Goldfields of Victoria and NSW.

On the way we will share many great experiences such as incredible Silo Art, the rock carvings of Lightning Ridge and Broken Hill and museums celebrating our pioneer history. Get ready to join in the fun as we go on 'safari' at Western Plains Zoo, learn about the Royal Flying Doctor Service and relax on a paddleboat cruise on the Murray.

During the tour you will meet 14 BCA Field Staff past and present: Neville & Kathie Naden; Simon & Alison Reeve; George & Carmel Ferguson; Kurt & Bec Langmead; James & Brittany Daymond; Brendan & Laura Hurley; Steve & Vanessa Weickhardt;





**FAR LEFT:** Cobar

**TOP LEFT:** The Three Sisters

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Wollomombi Falls

George & Sarah Hemmings; Jacob & Sarah Kelly; Steven & Caitlin Klouth; Ben & Alissa Connelly; James & Charly Boardman; Rachael Bell & Tim Stevens.

#### **Tour highlights include:**

- Welcome dinner harbour cruise in Sydney (meet National BCA Staff)
- Inverell Pioneering Village, Gilgandra Rural Museum, Cobar Heritage Centre
- Dubbo Western Plains Zoo, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Murray River Paddleboat Cruise
- Black Hand Cave, Living Desert Sculpture Park, Brushmen of the Bush
- Silo Art
- Olivewood Homestead, Cowra Japanese Gardens
- Connecting with BCA Field Staff

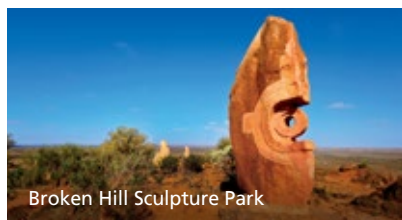
#### **Your holiday includes:**

- A Christian Tour Leader throughout your holiday
- Daily devotions and time for worship
- Air-conditioned touring coach
- Quality accommodation with private facilities
- 15 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 15 dinners
- Sightseeing as outlined and all entry fees included
- Return economy airfares for interstate passengers

Journey with purpose as you travel with like-minded people on a holiday that offers so much more than just a sightseeing trip.

To find out more or to book visit [christianfellowshiptours.com](http://christianfellowshiptours.com) or call **1300 635 358** or **02 4780 0750**.

*Jason Cronshaw*

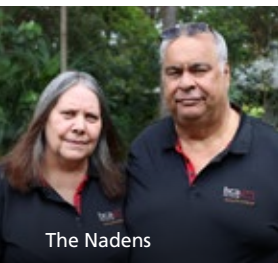


Broken Hill Sculpture Park



PS Melbourne, Mildura

# Annual General Meetings 2022



The Nadens

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Tuesday 30 May 2023 from 9.30am*

### **The Branksome Hotel**

60 Robey Street Mascot NSW

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia will hold its Annual General Meeting for the purpose of adopting the audited accounts for the Society for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 and to elect councillors.

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA/NORTHERN TERRITORY**

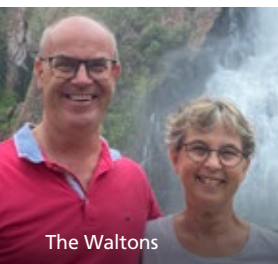
*Thursday 23 March 2023 from 10 am*

### **Trinity Church Adelaide**

88 North Terrace Adelaide

Including Bible 'n' Bush featuring Neville & Kathie Naden, Ruth & Lee Walton (Nungalinya College), Greg Harris & John Warner

For more information or to register please call 08 8221 5444 or email [sa@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:sa@bushchurchaid.com.au)



The Waltons

## **QUEENSLAND/NNSW**

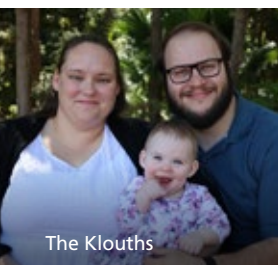
*Saturday 1 April 2023 at 9 am*

### **St Philip's Anglican Church**

270 Rochedale Road, Rochedale

Incl Bush & Bible Day – Guest Speakers: Neville Naden and Jen Hercott (CQ Registrar)

For more information or to register please call 07 3349 9081 or email [qld@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:qld@bushchurchaid.com.au)



The Klouths

## **VICTORIA**

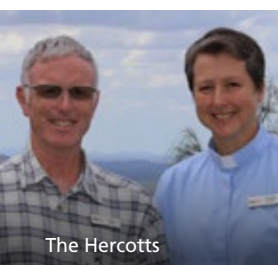
*Saturday 22 April 2023, 5:30 for 6pm (AGM and Dinner)*

### **Glen Waverley Anglican Church**

800 Waverley Road, Glen Waverley

Guest Speaker, Bishop Greg Anderson (Diocese of the Northern Territory)

For more information or to register please call 0414 382 621 or email [vic@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:vic@bushchurchaid.com.au)



The Hercotts

## **NEW SOUTH WALES/ACT**

*Thursday 4 May 2022 at 11am*

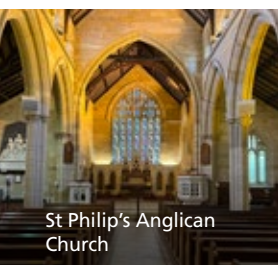
### **St Philip's Anglican Church**

3 York Street, Sydney

Bible teaching by Simon Manchester

Guest Speaker Steven Klouth, Field Staff West Wyalong

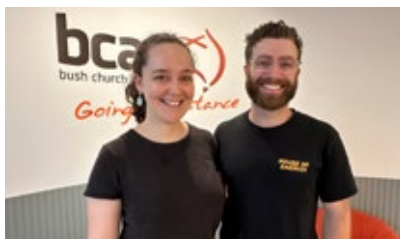
For more information or to register please call 02 9064 9923 or email [nsw@bushchurchaid.com.au](mailto:nsw@bushchurchaid.com.au)



St Philip's Anglican Church

# Post & Rails

## WELCOME



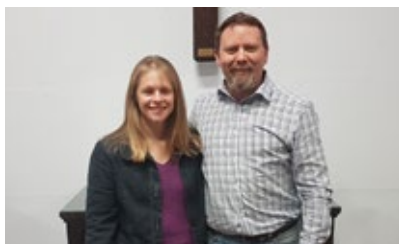
**Matt & Emily Goldman** have moved from Sydney to Darwin, where Matt is working as a ministry trainee in the Cathedral. Matt has recently finished his Bachelor of Divinity and Emily is a fourth-year doctor who plans to become a GP.



**Emily Quinn** is the Coordinator of the Foundation Studies Department at Nungalinga College. In this role she oversees the three foundation courses that Nungalinga offers, as well as teaches. Although a continuing role, Emily is now supported by BCA.



**James & Charly Boardman**, together with their children Elijah, Joshua and Hannah, have moved from Sydney to the Central West. James has completed a Bachelor of Divinity at Moore College and will take on the ministry trainee role in the Bathurst Cathedral which was recently vacated by Steven Klouth.



**Steve & Vanessa Weickhardt** have returned to BCA. The Weickhardts previously served with us in Strathfieldsaye from 2011 to 2019. Steve & Vanessa have moved from Port Lincoln to the Mallee district of the Bendigo Diocese to take on the new role of 'Mallee Missioner'.



Former Field Staff **David Mitchell** has re-joined BCA as a Deputationist in Western Australia. In this role he will visit churches, encourage supporters and seek to garner more support for BCA. David is married to Traci and they have three kids in primary school. David's main work is with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students at Curtin University where he's been serving since 2019.

## WELCOME (Continued)



After 18 years of providing support for the **Watson family**, and in particular Jim's work with Indigenous young

men (in Kununurra, Nungalinga College, NT Christian Schools and TAFE), BCA has switched its primary support from Jim to Natalie. **Natalie** is the Women's Pastoral Ministry Worker for the Diocese of the Northern Territory.



**Elza Lee** has joined the NSW/ACT team in the role of Administrative Assistant. In this role she will work

alongside Paul Sampson in caring for the supporters and Field Staff of this region. Elza previously worked as a menu development and research chef for a catering company. She attends and serves at Full Life Ministry, the English ministry of Sydney Full Gospel Church (Korean) in Greenacre.

## CONGRATULATIONS



**Simon, Angela, Grace & Esther** Owen welcomed Josiah James Owen on Monday 14 November 2022 at Mount Isa Hospital, weighing 3.45kg and measuring 50cm long. Josiah means 'God supports and heals'.

## FAREWELL



After 15 years serving with BCA in the parish of Sunraysia South, the Barclay family concluded their service with us in December 2022. **Dale, Rachel, Eden & Talitha** have moved to Eaglehawk where Dale has taken on the role of Senior Minister at St Peter's Anglican Church.



Simon Reeve is now the Senior Minister of Northern Beaches Anglicans following the resignation of The Revd Canon David Hanger. While staying in the same parish, his new role is not funded by BCA so we bid farewell to **Simon, Alison, Ella, Zoe & Joel**.

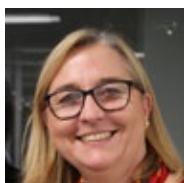


## FAREWELL (Continued)



**Sue Rice** who has worked at BCA twice in her career, has officially retired. Sue worked in the Accounts team

from 2006–2009 and then returned between 2017–2022 where she worked on updating our databases as well as filling in as the EA to the National Director, and most recently as the Admin Assistant for the NSW/ACT Regional Office. A vital cog on the Level 7 Sydney team, Sue's absence will be deeply felt both personally and professionally.



The National Office said a very sad farewell to **Kim Hinkley** in early January. Kim worked as the Executive

Assistant to National Director Greg Harris as well as previous NDs Mark Short and David Crain. Kim is now working at St Paul's Grammar School in Cranebrook where she is the EA to the Principal. In her four years at BCA Kim became a valuable colleague and dear friend to those in the office and in the field – she will be greatly missed.



**Philip, Jess, Jasper, Tabitha, Otto and Corin van't Spyker** have moved to northwest New South Wales where Philip is serving as the new Assistant Minister of Moree Anglican Church. Philip will seek to grow ministry in the parish as well as work with children and youth.

---

## VALE



**The Reverend Robert (Bob) Collie** (17 October 1927 – 13 November 2022) was ordained as a minister in 1961

and finished full-time church ministry with BCA in Wilcannia, serving with wife Phyllis (dec) from 1986–1993. In his book 'How God changed my life' Bob said, "The BCA motto was 'Never too far, never too few'. No one, however remote, should miss out on hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ." Bob is survived by son Michael and wife Elspeth, Lucy, Katy and Kevin; daughter Angela and husband Rob, Grace, Jonathan and Sofia, David and Naomi; Marrianne, Mary, Ros.



**Beverley Bell** (10 December 1939 – 28 December 2022) served with husband Brian with BCA in a lay role in the Parish of Wilcannia/

Menindee from 1997–2001. They were initially looking to work there for a period of eleven months, but God had other plans. Beverley is survived by husband Brian, children Coralie, Nerida, Hilton and Lyndon, and their partners Samantha, Yas, and Kelly as well as grandchildren William, Lachlan, Emily, Charlie, Christiana, Hollie and Evie.



# From the Archives – Cook celebrates

**The archives at the BCA National Office contain nearly 104 years of interesting memorabilia; from the cap worn by Australia's first flying parson Len Daniels, to the radio used at Ceduna. But key to preserving the memories of past faithful servants are the countless recollections and photos from Field Staff. Many years ago, the former Sydney radio station 2CH used to feature BCA on their broadcasts. Here is one extract from a 1986 broadcast...**

The driveway at the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital at Cook doubles as a landing strip. There are two four-wheel-drive vehicles, one able to travel on the railway track.

This is South Australia's most remote bush hospital.

Cook has a fixed population of about 80, the town itself a dot on the Nullabor Plains.

On Saturday, the 26th April 1986, its population swelled by almost 50 per cent when the South Australian Minister of Health, Dr Cornwall, flew in for a thanksgiving and dedication service. About 40 well-wishers arrived, some from NSW which included The Revd Brian Roberts and others from Victoria plus a bus load of people arriving from Adelaide and several pick up points along the way. This was organised and accompanied by our BCA South Australian secretary, The Revd Bruce Cliff.

The celebration? Completion of \$200,000 worth of renovations, to supply adequate and proper medical care. A major event for the Cook township, which literally exists to serve the Port Augusta-Perth railway line.



1979 evacuation from Cook to Adelaide



**FAR LEFT:** BCA Flying Medical Service and car outside Cook Hospital

**TOP LEFT:** 1937 Sunday School Class at Cook

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital under construction (1937)

The hospital is recognised as a vital base by people of the Far West. That's why BCA raised \$150,000 towards its updating and the South Australian Health Commission provided the other \$50,000.

Just imagine. Emergency procedure involves reaching patients from small railway towns using the four-wheel-drive vehicle which runs along the track on railway wheels. The nomadic kangaroo shooters and fox hunters or those camped in the area are served by the conventional vehicle.

In emergencies the Royal Flying Doctor service aircraft can taxi right up to the hospital so that patients can be transferred to Adelaide, Port Augusta or Ceduna. From the initial emergency call up until the patient's arrival at a major hospital can take six to seven hours.

Sister Margaret Barnes says, 'isolation isn't the only hardship facing a hospital such as the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital'. In summer, even with some air conditioning, the temperature inside the hospital can reach 50 degree Celsius. To keep patients' temperatures at a safe level, they either had to be immersed in a bath or wrapped in wet cloths.



Cook Hospital – rare flood

Another of the mind-numbing effects of the vastness of the plains can have is to instil the fear of open space and your remoteness. Margaret remembers how a Sister who had come out to the hospital to do relief work only lasted one day. The flat, vast, open space called the Nullabor frightened her so much that she just couldn't stay.

Let us thank God for the faithfulness of the staff in the past and praise Him for the work done on the hospital and the ongoing ministry and faithfulness of the present staff.

**The Cook Hospital was opened in 1937 as a memorial to BCA's organising missionary SJ Kirkby. It was decommissioned in 1998 when the railway township was scaled down in operations and a local medical service became excess to needs.**

# Councillor's Column

It has been, and continues to be, my great privilege to chair the Society, working closely with our current National Director and his two predecessors. For more than 100 years the Society has been constant in its aim to go the distance to bring the gospel to all Australians, particularly those in regional, rural and remote areas. Despite its longevity, the Society has never remained stuck in past ways of achieving the aim. What I find most exciting is that it has always been innovative and pioneering – whether that be establishing the first flying medical service in South Australia; providing Field Staff to new towns established in remote areas to service new mines, such as Newman and Roxby Downs; seed funding new forms of ministry or establishing – with God-given foresight – digital communication of worship services in readiness for the pandemic.

We will never be perfect this side of heaven, but we continue to strive to undertake all of our activities and processes to the best of our abilities, learning from our mistakes and constantly improving. This applies as much to corporate governance as it does to processes for selection and induction. Throughout the decades prayer has always undergirded everything we do and every new initiative follows prayer and seeking of God's will. Sometimes it can be frustrating when this answer is slow in coming, particularly for the right candidates to fill vacant positions. However, we know from God's word that he is faithful and will answer our prayers in His timing, even if it is not ours.

A recent exciting answer to our prayers involves the Diocese of Bathurst. We agreed with Bishop Mark Calder that we would take on the task of finding and supporting ministers



for the parishes of Cowra, West Wyalong and Cobar in addition to continuing to fund a ministry training placement at Bathurst Cathedral. It is a matter of extreme joy that all four positions have been filled and the four couples were commissioned in January and February this year.

Reaching our First Nations brothers and sisters has always been a part of our mission. However, we have been able to give this area renewed focus with the appointment of The Reverend Neville Naden as a Senior Officer of the Society and with his assistance we have adopted a Bible-based Acknowledgment of Country, a Reconciliation Action Plan and cross-cultural training for the Council as well as Field Staff and Home Staff. Recently Dennis & Valda Taylor have joined as Field Staff to develop theological training pathways for First Nations candidates (see article on Page 9).

2023 will be yet another exciting year for BCA but not without its challenges. I covet your continuing prayers for myself, Greg Harris, the Council and the Executive as we lead the Society, to make the decisions that God wants.


*Fred Chilton*  
**Chairman**



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

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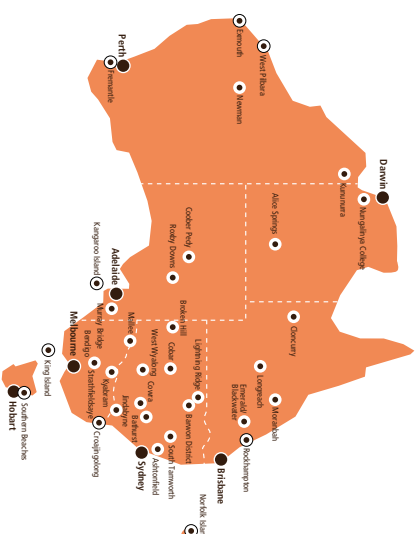
☐ Information about how I can support BCA through my Will



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