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Cover: Revd Brian Roberts with Simon Hattrell at Zeehan in 1983

Looking Forward, Looking Back: Brian's Last Say, Brian Roberts was Farewelled at St Anne's in Ryde on Sunday the 15th of May 2011.

There is a famous quote from the 1994 movie Forrest Gump "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." Life is full of surprises; you can never quite know what is around the next turn. Our God is one who surprises in many different ways!

1 John 5:14-15 talks about the confidence we have in drawing near to God through prayer when we pray in line with his will. Time and time again, over these past two decades I have seen God answer our prayers in unexpected ways. In ways which surprised me.

I shouldn't have been surprised, but I was. Let me tell you about 5 prayer requests.

Looking back to 1981 when I was in ministry with BCA to Zeehan - I inadvertently commissioned about three hundred BCA supporters to pray for five fellows I had on my heart. Thirty years down the track, those five men are all now brothers in Christ or have had significant 'God encounters'.

I was asked to speak at a BCA rally in the Sydney Town Hall. I remember vividly all the people dispersed in between the columns of the lower Town Hall. Back then there were no data projectors or PowerPoint presentations. I used some creativity and printed photos of these five men on large bits of card. They ended up as pictures of

faces, four times life size.

I told the supporters the stories of these five men and as I spoke about the stories I held up their pictures. Many people committed that day to praying for these men. I didn't realize it at the time but God in His perfect timing had a plan to bring each one of these men into His Kingdom.

The first man's wife was a Christian and he would attend church but only when one of his kids was involved in some way. This man worked in underground mining as a fitter. After we had got to know each other, he came to me one day and asked me how to say grace. Confused by this question, I asked him why? He responded that he wanted to be able to say grace with his kids so he needed to know how.

Two weeks later, this man was killed in a mining accident. He was crushed to death by a truck. His wife came to me some time later and shared that in the week before his death, he had started saying grace with his family. She was overjoyed because she had been praying for years that he would come to know Christ and that was a clear indication that he had started some kind of 'God encounter'.

The second man I spoke of drove Haul packs underground in the mine. Unbeknownst to me, some time after I left Zeehan, he had a life threatening

Continued over



experience in the mine which really shook him up. I was on a deputation years later when a lady came up to me after the service and introduced herself as this man's godmother. She was thrilled to have seen his face as I held up the larger than life size photo. She shared how she had taken the godparent's promise seriously and had prayed for her godson daily, even though he was a grown man with his own kids. She told me the news that this accident had been a turning point in his life and that he had become a Christian and was going to church regularly. I was blown away by this news.

The third man who I asked the supporters to pray for was an interesting fellow. His wife was a Christian and every



Brian in Zeehan

second Friday I played nine holes of golf in gumboots with him. Sloshing through the wet course of Zeehan I was never allowed to talk about God stuff with him. Whenever I started to talk about God he would steer me away. It became a game for us.

Many years later after I started working in the role of National Director I heard

that this man had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of leg cancer. Looking on the bright side, he was pretty impressed that his physical condition allowed him to get a cancer that was normally restricted to teenagers!

I had the chance to visit him in hospital. Knowing that this wasn't a time to beat around the bush I asked him if he had

sorted his life out with God. "Yeah" he responded "I did it two years ago". He worked as a fly-in-fly-out miner and had been based out of northern Australia. At the time he was



Brian and his family before heading to Zeehan

working in a rough situation in a gold mine in Papua New Guinea. The mine was under attack and with bullets whizzing past his head he promised God that if he got out of there alive he'd live the rest of his life a Christian. He survived the attack and stayed true to his promise. Not long afterwards he went to be with his Father and Lord.

Another one of the blokes I asked to be prayed for became a board member of Scripture Union and he now does missionary work in the Northern Territory.

**"IT IS NOT WHAT MEN CAN THINK UP,
BUT ONLY IN GOD IS TRUE WISDOM TO BE
FOUND. THIS IS WHAT BCA IS ABOUT"**

The fifth man works in a gold mine here in NSW and has become a Christian through his wife's endeavour.

God may answer your prayers in ways that you may not want him to by taking people's lives. But the kingdom of heaven is greater than this life and to be much more treasured and valued. Job 28 asks the question "where is wisdom?"

These five fellows have found their true wisdom. It is not searching out the treasures that are buried deep in the earth. It is not what men can think up, but only in God is true wisdom to be found. This is what BCA is about, sharing with individuals the hope that can be found in true wisdom. BCA seeks to faithfully present the gospel so that lives may be transformed for Christ.

I opened my first public chapter with



Brian with one of the five pictures he used thirty years ago.

BCA at the rally at Lower Sydney Town Hall. I wanted to finish it off. I asked you to pray and now thirty years later I'm telling you the answer to these prayers.

We should never be surprised that God hears our prayers and answers them. He is a God of surprises - you never know how he is going to answer your prayers. Let me urge you to long for this surprise. Remain faithful in prayer and know that he will hear and answer them.

Keep praying for BCA and for lives to be transformed, it has been a pleasure to serve with the BCA family in seeking to reach Australians for Christ. •

Brian Roberts

Flood Relief Reflects God's Love

"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2:15-17

In January 2011, the Diocese of Bendigo was inundated with floods covering two-thirds of its area. Long after it had left the news headlines, the area remains overwhelmed by the impact of the floods.

As part of the result of BCA's Flood Appeal, Tracey Wolsley was employed by Bendigo Diocese and supported by BCA as the Flood Relief Ministry Coordinator.

During the peaks

floodwaters stretched out to 90 kilometres wide and grew up to three kilometres a day. In some of the northern parts of the Diocese many houses were still underwater in March. The damage from the floods is wide spread with houses, churches, shops and roads in various states of ruin. People in these rural communities have lost stock and feed and have a greatly reduced level of crop production.

It is not only the initial damage that



Some of the flood damage



Bear's Lagoon workers

has presented a problem. A toxic mould which mimics the symptoms of pneumonia has developed, spreading to places that were not directly damaged by floodwaters. Salinity also presents a long-term problem for farming in the region.

"Some places that thought they were okay are now finding out there are all these different impacts (due to the floods) that they never knew they had until a few weeks ago" says Tracey. "Just really what will transpire and develop remains yet to be seen."

Tracey has been working hard since her appointment in January. She has been co-ordinating donations of goods and services, allocating funds based on demand, organizing working bees and helping schools to rebuild and provide support.

"One of the most important things in my role is providing pastoral care and support emotionally to the clergy and helping them and their congregations in supporting the

community" Tracey says.

Tracey has at least two opportunities each week to share the gospel with groups of people and many more individual situations. She sees that she is reaching people based on the words of James 2:14-17.

"Instead of just writing a letter and saying my condolences we are able to give something tangible and to walk alongside people, to give support and offer hope" she says. "I think that we as Christians have that privilege and responsibility to follow his example and to be practical."

A team from the parish in South East Bendigo were able to connect with a woman who has five children whose home was significantly damaged as a result of the floods. The team were able to transform her property in a 'Backyard Blitz' style. "This was so meaningful for this woman who had no connection with the church."

Continued over

Flood Relief Reflects God's Love

The Bishop of Bendigo Diocese, Andrew Curnow commented that "the work of Flood Recovery is going to be slow and challenging and Tracey is doing an amazing job. Some parishes have been decimated and I believe it will take 2 to 3 years for many of the small communities to recover."

Words of Thanks

I greatly appreciate BCA's work in setting up a national appeal so quickly, and offering a tax-deductible method of donation to the national church. This money, and the prayer and affection it represents, will go a long way to restoring the spirits of those most affected.

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane

I am writing to thank you for your generous gift to the Diocese. The second cheque which includes a donation for Theodore was wonderful to receive and the Theodore money is already being used in that community. The remaining portion will go directly to the people and the churches most badly affected by the recent flooding.

The Right Reverend Godfrey Fryar, Bishop of Rockhampton.

Donations were also forwarded to the Diocese of North Queensland, the Diocese of Bendigo and the Diocese of Willochra.

Apart from the support for Tracey's flood relief ministry, there has been an overwhelming response of support for those affected by the recent floods and cyclone. Almost \$250,000 has been donated through the Kirkby Trust which means that through your generous support, the Society has been able to have a real impact on helping communities that were affected by the flooding and cyclone – communities in the Diocese of North Queensland, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Bendigo and Willochra in South Australia where the Ministry District of Southern Flinders at Orroroo was subject to flash flooding. We have sent funds to these Dioceses for their disbursement to those most in need and where supporters have specified a particular parish or region, the funds have been directed there. The donations will be used for benevolent purposes.

There is work still to be done in all of these communities and it will be an uphill battle for those affected but as Phillipians 4:6 says 'but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God! Continued prayer and support for these communities is greatly appreciated and needed, thanking God for what He has already been able to do in them and knowing that His will is being done in the areas that have been flood affected.

Source: Phone interview with Tracey Wolsley and Diocesan advice

Applicants Invited For The April Bottom Scholarship 2012– Value \$8,500

Previous applicants are invited to apply
Each year the April Bottom Scholarship provides funds for one student from the Anglican Parish of the West Darling to undertake either secondary or tertiary study outside the Parish.

April Bottom was a unique person – full of fun, life and vision with a Christian commitment. Born in Broken Hill, Allison House (which was to become a Hostel for children from surrounding areas who would come to Broken Hill for education) was her family home. She served on the Allison House Managing Committee until the time of her death. April and her husband David, ran Wirryilka Station for many years and experienced first-hand the difficulties of having their children educated.

April died in 2003 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Before her death, she expressed a desire to set up a fund to assist families from the West Darling Parish region with the education of their children, especially where they needed to leave the region to achieve their educational potential.

In years past, the winners have moved

from their homes or properties surrounding Broken Hill and Menindee to study in Adelaide, Bathurst, Sydney and Darwin. The criteria is simple:

- be a resident of the West Darling Parish
- undertake study outside the Parish in 2012
- submit your application and have it verified by parents/carers
- provide your last year's academic



**Matthew Schmidt,
awarded the 2011 April
Bottom Scholarship**

records and any other information (e.g. sporting, academic achievements, club memberships, etc.) to support your application.

The winner for the 2012 Scholarship will be notified in October this year and an amount of \$8,500 will be made available for their tuition fees/boarding fees/

text books, etc., as studies are commenced in 2012. Applications close on 26th August, 2011.

The winner of the 2011 Scholarship, Matthew Schmidt from Eldee Station, some 56km north west of Broken Hill has commenced his University career in Adelaide. His scholarship for the year will pay his boarding fees.

If you know someone who would benefit from the April Bottom Scholarship or you are interested in obtaining further information please email:

robyn@bushchurchoaid.com.au or phone ***02 9262 5017***.

*Applications can be downloaded from our website ***www.bushchurchoaid.com.au****

New Beginnings in Newman

With a history in mining, Derek and Amanda McCartney fit right into the community of Newman, where they started ministry in early 2011.

Derek started his working life in offshore exploration of oil. He spent seven years in this industry working all around Australia. He then spent eleven years as a sales engineer of centrifugal pumps to the mining industry.

"Coming to a place like Newman is not such a culture shock" Derek says. "Mining communities have many similarities whether you are offshore or in a place like Newman."

Derek and Amanda have a real enthusiasm to share the gospel with those around them. Amanda has taken a job as a mining bus driver where she comes into contact with around 240 people each day. In this role she has already had many opportunities to speak to people about Christ.

"We've got all these people who are hanging on every word with all the devastation that is happening in the world" she says. "People in the community are frightened. God is scaring people and it is quite an exciting time and place to be in."

The McCartney's see Newman as a place where there is work to be done both in the church and in the community.

"The big needs for the church and the

community are different" says Derek. "The big difficulty is how you connect those two because we belong to both."

"We are going to really concentrate on the church to begin with" Derek says. "We want to try to help people find their place in the church to try and increase the understanding that this is their home and they need to play a part in it. I'll be here to take part and guide them but the ownership will fall to them."

The community needs are also very high with alcohol consumption and isolation being two of the biggest issues. "There are many needs in the community"

says Derek. "People are isolated, they have no support and families are far away. Loneliness is a big issue."

But these issues present a great opportunity to reach people for Christ in Newman, which is exciting for the McCartney's. "Our whole core being is evangelism and bringing new people to Christ" Amanda says. "That's what our absolute passion is."

Derek reflects that these big needs can bring opportunities to share the hope they have in Christ with others around them. "People are isolated and vulnerable and they do need something to grab a hold of. We're not taking advantage of that but we are using it for God's purposes."





Derek and Amanda at St Stephens

They have already had many opportunities to share their faith, and have seen a few people come to Christ in the short time that they have been working in Newman. One of the fly-in-fly-out miners heard that Derek was the local pastor through Amanda's connection on her bus route. After speaking with him, Derek offered to take him through the Christianity Explained course. After the second session he began to understand the need he had for Jesus, and by the final session he was ready to commit his life to Christ.

Another lady also became a Christian through the course the McArtney's have been running. She came to the course as she wanted to get her daughter baptised but she realised that she was the one that really needed saving.

There are many more opportunities that the McArtney's are also exploring for outreach. Derek has joined the Lions Club to become more involved in the community. They are hoping to develop a concert to help in raising community awareness of BCA as part of Newman's Fortescue Festival which is held in August each year. Please pray that these opportunities will be fruitful for the Lord and many will come to know Him through the efforts of the McArtneys. •

Source: Phone interview with Derek and Amanda McArtney

BCA JOINS CFT TOURS IN 2011

Significant numbers of our supporters are aware of and in fact may have experienced a BCA Tour. The BCA touring programme has existed for the past 30 years in conjunction with Fantastic Aussie Tours and Buspa (John Cronshaw).

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Connections Ministry Training Apprenticeship

The Reverend Joshua Skeat was ordained as a Priest on Saturday the 9th of April 2011 at St Georges in Burnie. The Church was full of people who had come to show Joshua their support as he took this step in his faith journey.

In special attendance was the Reverend Dennis Quinn who is the BCA Honorary Regional Officer in Tasmania.

Joshua has joined BCA in a Ministry Training Arrangement (MTA) in Somerset, Tasmania. He is the first Ministry Training Apprentice to come out of the Connections Church which is headed by Will Briggs and makes up one third of Tasmania's Imagine Project.

As a family man with 2 young children and current commitments to many various things in Tasmania, the traditional route to becoming ordained of studying full time was not the best option for Joshua. Instead, he elected to work part time as an apprentice with Will Briggs at Connections. He is also studying a Master of Divinity, half load at Melbourne School of Theology by distance.

"For me and my family to pack up and

move to Melbourne so I could study for five years would have had a significant impact on my kids and my wife" says Joshua.

The Skeat family joined Connections in 2008 after a period of not attending church.

Will reflects that "as he became a part of the community it became very clear that he was the type of person who could step up into leadership of some kind."

Raised in a Christian home, Mr Skeat said he "walked away from the faith" during his teenage years but when he and his wife were invited to attend the Somerset church soon after moving to Tasmania's coast in 2008 he heard a

calling from God to enter the ministry.

He could see the path that God had set out for him, "In my final year of teaching I felt like God called me out of teaching and into ministry. I felt a particular call to the church where I was worshipping."

A MTA is a relatively new way of training in the Anglican Church but an effective way of learning on the job. There are many advantages to the strategy, the biggest



Josh in action



Connections meeting



Baptism

of which being that the theological study is informed on a daily basis by real life experiences in ministry.

"The whole apprenticeship model is that you use the context as part of the training" Will explains. "That way the training is better and the context is also blessed."

Completing the apprenticeship at his home church allows Joshua to continue the ministry he has already commenced. Will recognises this, stating "It would have

seemed strange to send him off to do the ordinary ordination track when he was doing such great work here already. What we needed to do was to train him up in place."

In his MTA, Joshua will work in pastoral care along with regular preaching, leading worship and leading church services. •

Source: Phone Interviews with Joshua Skeat and Will Briggs

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MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK FOR THE GOSPEL WHEN YOU HAVE ENTERED THE KINGDOM.
MANY LIVES CONTINUE TO GROW TOWARDS JESUS THROUGH THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED FRIENDS OF BCA
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MAKING A BCA BEQUEST CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE OR COMPLETE THE FORM INSIDE THE BACK COVER



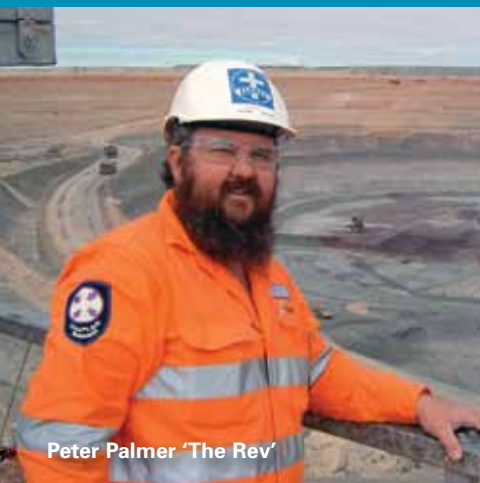
GOD'S MISSION ON HOME SOIL

Short term mission with BCA • Minister to fellow Aussies

There is much work to be done spreading the gospel here in our own backyard. Experience the ministry opportunities Australia has to offer in places such as Kununurra, Roxby Downs, Lightning Ridge, and many more. In a programme tailored to your ministry gifts and interests, learn what ministry in Australia is about.

For more information and an application form, please contact Chris Baxter on (02)9262 5017 or chris@bushchurcaid.com.au

Another Tool in the Mining Industries Toolbox



Peter Palmer 'The Rev'

In a new ministry initiative, Peter Palmer is set to expand his chaplaincy to mines throughout South Australia. Based out of Adelaide the ministry would be to fly-in-fly-out miners and would focus on building relationships and sharing the gospel.

Peter describes it as "a holistic approach to people so when they want to know the Lord or to talk about God you're there."

This proposal is still very much in its formative stages, with Peter still engaged in Coober Pedy. However, his passion to reach these miners is strong and he is full of ideas of how to effectively get it off the ground.

Peter has vast experience in working with miners. In his current role he acts as chaplain to the Prominent Hill mine out of Coober Pedy. In this role he has become known to many of the miners simply as 'Rev'.

Building relationships with the miners in Prominent Hill has led to many opportunities to share the gospel with individuals. Peter has had the opportunity

to take weddings and funerals, sharing with over 100 people at a time, to run marriage preparation and to provide practical help for individuals such as supervising a university exam. He also provides counselling support to the miners, having the opportunity to be a listening ear when things get tough.

"It's a matter of meeting people's needs where they're at and what they need at that time" Peter explains. "If we can do that, then we become more productive to the mine itself and for the gospel"

The proposal to expand this ministry was developed "out of a perceived need for miners in remote areas to be able to talk to somebody who is removed from the situation but who has empathy and an understanding of their situation."



Peter visits a mining site

Peter identifies that "miners are historically transient and therefore families quite often find themselves moving around to unfamiliar locations and need a support network who understands their situation."

His aim is to reach both the miners and their families, creating a supportive network for the families of the miners in Adelaide.

This style of chaplaincy not only impacts spiritually on the miners, but it is also of benefit to the mines themselves.

"It's a new style of chaplaincy, a holistic approach to it" says Peter. "Its aim is to keep people safe, keep people coming to work

with less no shows. It's all those sorts of little issues."

He wants to be a 'tool in the toolbox' for a number of different mines; he wants to be able to be useful to the mine in a practical way. His work would help keep miners safe, reliable and out of harms way. But most of all, Peter wants to be able to connect these miners with Jesus. He wants to be able to get out in the mines for the gospel and share Jesus' love with them.

Source: Interview with Peter Palmer and ministry proposal

Do you know a child under the age of twelve? Do you think they could benefit from knowing more about ministry to Australia?



Sign up for BCA for Kids! Receive a quarterly kid's newsletter packed full of games, stories, comics, activities and competitions.

Each new membership receives a welcome certificate, welcome letter and t-shirt.

To sign up send an email to:

BCA4Kids@bushchurchoaid.com.au

including the child's name, date of birth, address, t-shirt size and parents name or call 02 9262 5017.

Please note: postage of the t-shirt is \$7.

Please send a cheque for \$7 postage or pay by credit card on our website

www.bushchurchoaid.com.au

bca for kids

Winton: Looking Forward, Looking Back

The town of Winton is well known for a number of things. It is the home of the Australian Bush Ballad 'Waltzing Matilda', the birthplace of iconic Australia airline Qantas and is famous for its opals and beef.

It has also been described as 'dinosaur country'. However BCA is not interested in those aspects of Winton, we are interested in the hearts of the people who live there.

Looking Forward

Anne Nixon along with her husband Noel were drawn to the small country town of Winton after a Bishop informed them that the Winton Parish had become vacant and was looking for a Priest. After expressing interest and being put up as a candidate by BCA Anne was offered the placement.

She is hoping for a renewal of faith to come to the Parish and as there are no young people involved in the Church, Anne hopes that some of the younger people in



the community will start expressing some interest in Church.

"Our goals for the next while are to contact some of the younger parents, the people who have kiddies that aren't yet at school to try and get some interaction with them. So that we might be able to build relationships with them and see if they would like to have their kids baptised and come along to Sunday school." As a school teacher of 36-years Anne longs to see the children educated and is hoping to start a Sunday school as there isn't one in Winton for children to attend.

She is the only Priest in the small community of around 1000 people and longs for the Church to grow and for people to come to faith in Jesus Christ. "In terms of the people from the Church being involved in the community – they are very involved in individual ways. I don't know that the Church as a body has a huge involvement but I would love to see that change."

Looking Back

BCA became involved with the parish of Winton in 1975. The parish, which had been hit by a number of financial problems relating to drought, had experienced a



period of rapid transition of clergy. When Revd Gil Linden, his wife Marjorie and their three children came to the parish, their stay of three years was the longest since 1963.

The parish was previously a Bush Brotherhood responsibility. Since 1975 Winton has been financially supported by BCA in mission partnership with the Anglican and Uniting churches. The vast parish is the largest in the Diocese of Rockhampton. It covers an area of 106,000 square kilometres (the state of Victoria is 90,000 square kilometres) and spreads over three shires.

Since the first BCA appointment in Winton, there have been many different clergy ministering to this area. Over the years the parish has also been a popular BCA Nomads destination, with many contributing to the work of the parish through practical help. The last clergy to have attended the town were Bob and Sue Witten, who retired in late 2010.

There has been a long ministry to the people of Winton. Pray for their hearts to be softened and their lives to be transformed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Anne has been able to oversee an ecumenical service at Easter in the community. The service was put on at the local Billabong and was a community event. Continue to pray for Anne and Noel and their work in Winton.

Source: Archives and interview with Nixons

A Day in the Park with BCA for Kids



October 8th 2011 will see the second Day in the Park with BCA for Kids. Come along for an afternoon of fun and fellowship with games, music and surprises!

Learn more about the endangered Australian animal and BCA for Kids mascot the bilby.

Meet Rich Lanham and hear all about his work sharing the gospel with the people of Gilgandra.

Date: 8th October, 2011

Venue: Cumberland State Forest, Castle Hill Rd, Castle Hill NSW

Time: 11am – 2pm BYO lunch

Register online at www.bushchurcaid.com.au, call 02 9262 5017 or email

Vika Ta'ofi at

BCA4Kids@bushchurcaid.com.au.

Don't miss out! Please note: at least one parent or guardian must attend the event with every child and/or group of up to five children.

Coffee and tea will be provided for adults.



To God be the Glory

It has been an interesting year of ups and downs since we started the community schools worker/ chaplain role in the local schools. I have become involved in a number of different ministries and have been humbled by the blessing that God has shown the team here.

One of the ministries that I have been involved in – I like to call Chips, Chill and Chat. We go into the high school one lunchtime each week with hot chips and take a few games, cards etc and just chill out with the kids. The aim of this time is to come alongside the kids and be the listening ear that they need.

The Yass Youth Group is very much part of my life and work. Seeing the youth at both the lunchtime group and youth group has allowed strong relationships to form. I have also found that new people are coming to youth group who are not part of other church fellowships in Yass. Due to increased numbers in the youth group, we moved to the Baptist Community Church – a bigger venue with great facilities for our meetings.

It feels as though God has deliberately crossed our paths with these young people and we are committed to seek Him and work in His strength as we disciple the youth. In the youth group we have a blend of studies and discussions in age related

groups, along with music and food. We also seek to raise awareness in the youth of issues around the world such as injustice and fair trade.

It has been a lovely year at Dalton. We were invited to deliver scripture lessons weekly, which have been very successful. Dalton is a small school and has a very relaxed feel. The students are always inquisitive and asking questions. We held a church service in Education Week and the kids read the prayers, did bible readings and performed the songs that we have been learning. They even performed a skit



based on some of their lessons. After the service we had morning tea and it was a lovely chance to chat with community members, parents etc. We are very grateful to the parish of Gunning for supplying the scripture material.

We found it hard to get something established at Gunning as they had four different Principals in four terms during 2010. It was quite difficult for the school



Yass Youth Group

and not easy for a temporary Principal to agree to anything long term for the chaplain/schools worker role. We began the year by assisting with a reading program for the youth at risk boys, and assisting in the classrooms and chilling out in the playground with them. I took a back seat for terms 3 and 4 while the school was seeking to fill the Principal's position. Our goal is to run a Christian based kids club in 2011 now the new Principal is established.

We have been warmly welcomed into Bowring School. We started the year with an egg and bacon breakfast for all - nothing like food to break the ice! We built relationship with the kids and staff by helping in the classrooms and having the recess kids' club. The Principal has an idea that she would like us to help with in 2011 working with the older students and community members on a history project, this, we feel, will be a great way to



Chips, Chill and Chat

build relationship with the locals and be beneficial to the school students.

I truly thank you for your support of love, prayers and interest in the ministry. To those people have supported, or still are supporting financially, thank you very much, this ministry could not go ahead without your ongoing generosity. •

Source: Helena Painting's Newsletter

On a Mission in Lightning Ridge

With excitement and anticipation lacing the air, Rob Stewart and a team of 17 set off on Saturday the 26th of March, 2011 on a mission to the heart of outback New South Wales and the black opal capital of Australia, Lightning Ridge. A team from St Matthews Anglican Church at West Pymble have been going to Lightning Ridge annually for the past eight years to be involved in an outreach to the community.

Through the outreach St Matthews has been able to build a strong relationship with the Parish and community at Lightning Ridge. "What we wanted to do through

this mission was to form a link with the Parish" says Rob. "We don't go up there to minister to people – we go up there to minister with people."

After a tedious and lengthy drive the team arrived at Lightning Ridge late on Saturday evening and after settling in the first night, they got straight into things starting with their involvement in the Church services on Sunday. Apart from their involvement in the Sunday services the team keep themselves busy by being involved in heaps of different outreach programmes. "We get involved in the local school with Easter SRE services,

lunchtime BBQs and a high school lunchtime meeting. In addition we have Kid's Club and Youth Club after school, a Youth Night towards the end of the week, and this year we had the joy of travelling up to Goodooga and running a couple of small Easter SRE services with the kids there. There's a blokes night, women's craft night, church dinner, littlies big day out and a couple of visits to a play group and preschool and a bit more" Rob says, describing just some of



what they become involved in on the mission.

As the mission has been a long term thing

it's exciting for Rob to see who might join his team each year with those involved ranging from young teenagers of fourteen right through to people who are just that little bit more mature in years. "The oldest team member this time was eighty." Rob is always eager to meet up with old friends including the pastor Mike Keith and his family and to make some new ones on their visits.

The local Church, Lightning Ridge Community Church are described by Rob as a people that he is so thankful for; "they have always been so gracious and warm and welcoming

and we feel that we partner together and minister with one another." The link that has developed has been more than just one of two Churches working together but of people forming bonds of friendship and a community of Christians coming together to share the love of our Lord Jesus in the Lightning Ridge community.

When asked about the intention behind the mission to Lightning Ridge, Rob summed it up by saying that "we just want to bring Jesus into people's lives both in the church community and at the times when we

are with those who don't believe."

Their mission is to see the Gospel impacting lives "we go up there to seek to be faithful and serve and we leave the fruit side up to God." The Lightning Ridge annual mission trip is one that is put on by and through St Matthews West Pymble and Lightning Ridge Community Church and hopes to see the Glory of God affect this community through their faith and servitude.

Mark Henderson

Source: Interview and email from Rob Stewart

'If you've got the blues, get rhythm'

BOB SEDERGREEN* AND GREG JONES – TOGETHER FOR TWO NIGHTS ONLY!



The Bush Church Aid Society is pleased to present Bob and Greg in concert as they play some exceptional Jazz / Gospel and Blues music.



Friday 8th of July 7:30pm The All Saints Church Hall - 56 Woronora Parade, Oatley West

Saturday 9th July 7:30pm St. Aidan's Church Hall - 3 Pembroke Street, Epping

Tickets \$25.00 – General admission \$20.00 – Student & pensioner concessions.

Ticket price includes supper.

CONTACT (02) 9262 5017



All money raised will be used to support BCA in its mission to reach Australia for Christ.

Fixing and Fellowship in the Central Mallee

For three weeks in March, four Nomads spent time practically serving in Ouyen. Two couples, David and Sue Hines along with Bob and Marion Wittrien, were able to put their skills to good use in helping the Central Mallee Cooperative Parish and BCA's Helen Chick.

The group from St Peters Anglican Church in Glenbrook came specifically to serve as Nomads to the small town in Victoria. The township, even those not associated with the church, appreciated their service and expressed that appreciation.

"Everybody seems to be impressed when you tell them what you're doing" Bob says. "I hope and pray that they're not impressed with us rather impressed with what we're doing and our attitude. You can only be an example."

Both David and Bob expressed the way their faith in Christ led them to be Nomads. "Along with the other things you do at home it's a way of serving the Lord" Bob says. "It's works and faith."

"Being a Nomad is just another way



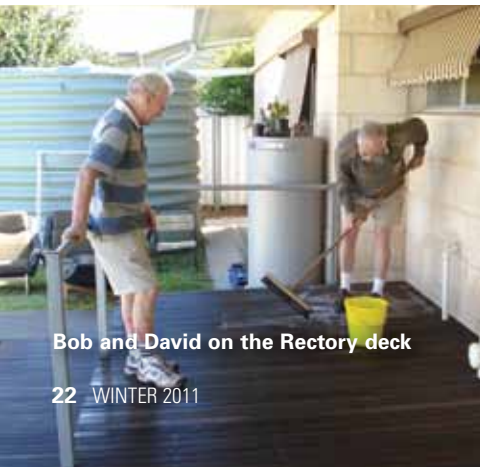
BCA Nomads Bob, Marion, David, and Sue, with Alan and Joan Willmore in The Shed.

of being a disciple" David says. "You can get out and you live your normal lifestyle, you meet some lovely people and you just demonstrate how good it is to be what you are because you have found the Lord."

The group has been able to complete a number of different tasks including oiling the deck of the rectory, painting part of the church building, sanding and sealing the floors in the vestry and gardening. The ladies even managed to help with cutting out over forty pairs of hands for Helen!

Bob has been involved in many smaller tasks such as devising a method for Helen to get her car into the garage by moving the UHF antenna, adjusting the speakers in the church and using sand absorbent to stop a blind clanging in the rectory. "If you look at it separately it's not very much but by the time you get around to all the little things it is a real help."

This is not the first time these four have been BCA Nomads. David says that he and Sue have been Nomads a number of different times in three different states. Bob and Marion were first Nomads in Winton



Bob and David on the Rectory deck

in 2009.

The thing that strikes David most about small town life and being a Nomad is the insight that is gained into rural life. It is a town that has dealt with drought for many years, only to have unprecedented rains and flooding in early 2011.

"You get a bit of a window into what the people have to contend with 365 days a year" David says. "We are seeing first hand how it affects them because everyone makes their living rurally. The thing that stands out is that the people are really resolute."

This is the second time that Helen has



had a set of Nomads in the Central Mallee. She speaks of the mutual encouragement that is received by their presence, along with being a practical helping hand.

"It reminds me of the body of Christ" Helen says. "There are no clones; each is unique with their own gifts. David, Sue, Bob and Marion, I've never met them before but they are brothers and sisters in Christ."

Source: Phone interview

If the small print in the *Real Australian* or *Prayer Notes* is becoming too difficult for you to read we have a solution for you – they are now available in a large print format.

We also offer the *Real Australian* recorded on an MP3* CD for the blind or people with serious vision impairment.

If you or anyone you know would benefit from either large print or audio copies please contact your Regional Office.

*(MP3 format CD's can be played on the Daisy Player supplied by Vision Australia or on DVD players, MP3

Compatible CD players, Computers and uploaded onto iPods and MP3 players)



Post & Rails

WELCOME

Anne Nixon has taken up the BCA Field Staff position in the Parish of Winton. She and her husband Noel have moved from the Keppel Parish in Yeppoon where Anne was Assistant Priest. The Bishop of Rockhampton Diocese, the Rt. Revd. Godfrey Fryar inducted Anne on 30th March, joined by the Queensland/N.NSW Regional



Officer, Ian McGrath.

Joshua Skeat - Ministry Training Apprenticeship, Somerset, Tasmania

Joshua is the first

Ministry Training Apprentice to come out of the Connections Church which is headed by Will Briggs. BCA is providing a training scholarship as part of its Ministry Training Programme. Joshua was ordained as a priest on 9th April last.

Beth Hazell has become the East



Co-ordinator of the Dusty Boots programme, overseeing it from Greater Sydney. Rob and Jenny Stubbs who began the programme some

years ago and moved to Dongara in mid 2010 will continue their support of this role from NWA.

Mark Henderson to the role of Media and Communications Officer. A Communications graduate from the University of Newcastle, Mark majored in journalism. He brings to BCA experience in television, radio, print and online communications. He has a Certificate in Bible and Theology and as the son of missionaries from the UK, has gained valuable experience in third world settings. We welcome Mark to the team on Level 7.



ON THE MOVE

James and Skye Coats moved from Tarcutta to Holbrook in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, where James has been appointed Priest-in-Charge.



James is a BCA Affiliate and as such receives the pastoral care and prayer support of the Society. He continues too as part of BCA's Ministry Development programme which is headed up by Royce Thompson, BCA's Strategic Mission Consultant.



FAREWELL

Graeme and Rachel Middlewick

The Society's financial support for the Middlewicks completed in March this year. Graeme and Rachel came to BCA as Nomads at Mt. Magnet when Graeme felt called to the ministry and went on to theological study at SMBC. Since that time they served as Field Staff in a BCA Ministry Training Arrangement at Bluff Point and most recently at Kallaroo Parish, Perth. Please pray for them, as a family, as Graeme continues as Assistant Minister in Kallaroo.



Natalie Sanders has resigned from the National Office as Media & Communications Officer to take up a role with the Australian Catholic University in

North Sydney. There Natalie will be part of a large marketing team and will be able to further develop her skills in research and events management. We have been thankful for the skills Natalie brought to the position and for her quiet achievement in this role. During Natalie's time we have seen the further development of BCA for Kids, along with the NSW Office PA, Vika Ta'ofi (Miss Vika), a different look Real Australian and the development of a soon to be released DVD promoting the work of the Society.

VALE

Mrs Allyn Mann

March 1911 to March 2011.

Allyn (affectionately known as "Tommie") passed away just 10 days after reaching her 100th Birthday. She went, in 1936, to be the assistant matron at BCA's Wilcannia Children's Hostel. It was here she met her future husband Ian (known as "Dal") whom she married in 1940. In 1942 they moved to Wentworth Falls where she became Assistant Matron at the Society's boys' hostel at Coorah. It was here that thousands of daffodils were grown and picked by Allyn, three times each week, for the Sydney markets, to support BCA. They moved back to Wilcannia in 1947 and then to Billilla station in 1952, where Dal had worked as a Jackaroo some 20 years earlier. After Dal's death, Allyn moved to Cobar to live with her daughter and where she was often visited by hostel "children".



Revd Reg Clark

January 1929 -
February 2011

A graduate of Moore College he undertook a number of curacies before serving

with BCA in Paraburdoo in the Diocese of NWA from 1971 - 1976. Reg had a great interest in people and a real gift in "getting alongside" them. That, combined with his practical ability and his deep desire to serve the Lord stood him well to serve in remote Australia.

So what have boats and St Paul got to do with BCA and me?

Picture this, a light north easterly breeze, the sun shining, with sails drawing and full, on port tack and a beautiful vista of Maria Island, not bad! The scene changes – its nighttime and gale force winds blow from the south west as a storm front comes through. Partridge Island is on starboard tack and close – way too close. I wait in fear alongside my wife and shipmate, Helen. Life jackets secured around us, we wait expecting the crunch of fibreglass on the rocks at any minute. Daylight comes, the front passes and we are safe!

A life time of sailing has taught me much about myself and about life, particularly living with the faith of Jesus.

In Acts 27: 13 Paul sets sail for Rome until a strong North East wind blew in from the island of Crete and captured the vessel. The wind was so strong and the ship ran before the wind in peril. This drama went on for two weeks and ended in a shipwreck on the coast of Malta.

This story is a "faith confirming" one for me. When I read it - I am there. I feel the wet, the cold and the fear. It is written with great authority of matters maritime. It is this clarity and accuracy that leads me to



Howrah Men's Group Sailing

accept the other stories of the bible of which I do not necessarily have a detailed knowledge or experience.

Sailing is a passion for me. Combining this passion with the love of Jesus often means Helen and I host guests on our own yacht and have an opportunity to tell people about Jesus' love for them. Sharing the

BCA story is just another way to share the wonderful truth about God's love for us.

My BCA story started when supporting BCA Regional Officer Greg Jones in his music ministry when he visited Tasmania.

As accountant for the Diocese of Tasmania, I could see first hand the amazing support BCA was giving. I resolved that I would help if I could by amongst other things, helping Greg. I play the drums for Greg's BCA fund raisers.

From this small beginning I am now on the Executive Committee and support Dennis Quinn who is the Honorary Regional Officer for Tasmania and his team in his role of raising the profile of BCA in Tasmania.

PS. I penned this contribution for BCA whilst away on our yacht. The very next day I managed to run into the rocks off Maria Island and had to return to Hobart for repairs. But all is well. I sail again tomorrow with our parish men's group.

Ray Phillips – Councillor

From the Archives

As the first BCA Field Staff to attend Winton, Reverend Gil Linden reflects on the parish in the September 1975 edition of the Real Australian

"The larger part of the parish extends west of Winton to the Northern Territory border and within its boundaries it has the artesian basin with its hot flowing bores; the channel country and the Simpson Desert. Generally there

is a striking variety of stark hills, varying in colour from red to pink. In every way it is 'A Big Country'. Included in the parish are two other small towns – Boulia and Bedourie (Aboriginal for dust storm). The total population of the parish is about 3,000. These people are found in the towns and also on properties, some of which are company stations and exceed 5,000 sq. miles in area.

The Rural Recession hit the district very hard; there was a drought which ran for six years. Then came the collapse of wool prices and many graziers turned to cattle. Now the



Revd Gil Linden



St Pauls Winton

catastrophe of the beef industry has come. An already familiar sight is that of graziers who can no longer afford the luxury of road transport walking their cattle to the sales. Recently one grazier 'drove' his cattle a hundred miles to the Winton sale. It's not surprising that over 1,000 people have left the area in the past year.

However, it's not all gloom! There are factors which make for encouragement – the fact that people

come long distances to attend services and support at the out centres. Bedourie for example has a total population of thirty-five and at a service held there recently over twenty of them were in church. There has also been an increased level of 'direct' giving and so many people support us with their prayer and concern.

As a new century begins, BCA starts a new era of ministry. Let us pray that God will bless the ministry as it is carried out and that the people will respond to the words of Jesus Christ and go into the future in company with Him." •

Gift Catalogue

CARDS

BCA 009	Real Australia Greeting Cards	Pack 6	\$7.70
BCA 011	Bygone Days Greeting Cards	Pack 6	\$7.70

MUSIC

BCA 229	Bring on the Day	Garage Hymnal	\$24.95
BCA 233	Super Saviour - Double CD	Colin Buchanan	\$24.95
BCA 223	A Very Very Very Big God	Emu	\$16.95
BCA 219	Meet the King	Emu	\$16.95
BCA 205	Outrageous Praise	2 CD set	\$33.00
BCA 206	Outrageous Praise	Songbook	\$16.50
BCA 210	10,9,8 God is Great	Buchanan	\$24.95
BCA 221	Jesus Rocks the World	Buchanan	\$24.95
BCA 226	Moving Devotions with Buspa	Dreamswork	\$25.00
BCA 227	Colin's Favourites DVD Plus Live in Sydney 2000	Buchanan	\$19.95
BCA 231	J is for Jesus	Karen Pang	\$19.95
BCA 232	Living On The Inside	Greg Jones	\$30.00
BCA 234	Take My Life	Garage Hymnal	\$19.95

BOOKS

BCA 108	Bush Preacher Bites the Dust	Kerry Medway	\$8.00
BCA 117	Desperate	Kerry Medway	\$8.00
BCA 101	The Meaning of Life	Jeanette Fogarty	\$12.00
BCA 111	Fox Tales from Far Flung Places	Barbara Fox	\$16.50
BCA 106	There are Flowers in the Desert	Audrey Aspeling	\$15.00
BCA 107	After the Desert	Audrey Aspeling	\$15.00
BCA 104	Unequally Yoked	Audrey Aspeling	\$15.00

BOOKS

BCA 112	The Last Lessons	Audrey Aspeling	\$15.00
BCA 114	Set of 4 Audrey Aspeling Books	Save \$10.00	\$49.95
BCA 124	Handprints of the Creator	Peter Nicholls	\$6.50
BCA 120	Credible Witness	Darren Cronshaw	\$25.00
BCA 127	Teenage Bushranger	Kerry Medway	\$19.95
BCA 128	Amazing Grace	Peter Rahme	\$7.95
BCA 129	Dying To Be Heard	David Hart	\$44.95
BCA 131	Party Cakes	Julie Lanham	\$24.95
BCA 132	Free Too	Chris Thiele	\$28.50
BCA 135	Losing my Religion	Tom Frame	\$34.95

NEW!



NEW LOGO DESIGN

BCA 318 Old Fashioned Glasses
Set of 2 gift-boxed \$15.00

BCA 319 High Ball Glasses
Set of 2 gift boxed \$15.00



BCA 018 Billy Bilby – BCA for Kids Mascot \$15.00 **BCA 013** BCA Teatowel new wild flowers design \$8.00



CHILDRENS BOOKS

BCA 130	Francy The Fearful Firefly	Jen Anderson	\$14.95
BCA 134	Lenny the Lying Lemur	Jen Anderson	\$14.95
	Set of hardcovers		\$27.95

SELF HELP & EDUCATIONAL

BCA 125	Tibby Briar–Her Story	Phyllis Collie	\$4.00
BCA 123	Good Grief–Bad Time	Terrence C.T. Tung-Yep	\$18.00
BCA 116	Faith & New Frontiers	Brian Underwood	\$22.00
BCA 122	Aboriginal Stereotypes	Alan Rogers	\$8.00
BCA 121	White Fella Culture	A must for Nomads	\$8.00

GIFT IDEAS

BCA 010	BCA Tie	\$25.00
BCA 013	BCA Teatowel	\$8.00
BCA 014	BCA Goldtone Pen (refillable)	\$7.50

Response Form

Personal details

Revd/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (*initials*) _____ surname _____
address _____
_____ postcode _____
email _____ telephone _____
Supporter number (*if available*) _____

I would like to receive:

- The Real Australian** magazine & **Prayer Notes** Information about how I can **support BCA through my Will**
- The Real Australian** magazine Information on how I can **donate shares to BCA**
- A money box** for my donations

I would like to support ministry in one of the following three ways:

1. My donation of \$ to BCA's ministry—General Funds

- Please tick here if you need your donation to be placed in a DGR fund
(*Tax deductible—Kirkby Trust; Medical; Outback Education; BCA's preference*)
- My merchandise Order Form is attached

I would like to pay by:

- Cheque/Money Order Credit card—please complete details below
- Mastercard Visacard American Express

Name on credit card

Credit card number

Expires on _____ Signature _____

2. I wish to make a regular donation

- Monthly Quarterly 6 Monthly Annually
- By direct debit from my account From my credit card

An authorisation form will be sent to you for completion



Billor Code: 88203

3. Donations can be made directly to 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). Our Bank details are: **Westpac BSB 032 008 Account 000706**

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