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All enquiries to

The Editor, The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia,
Level 7, 37 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

email ra@bushchurchaid.com.au

website www.bushchurchaid.com.au

Patrons Most Revd Dr Peter Jensen

Most Revd Dr Phillip Aspinall

President Rt Revd Dr Peter Brain

Vice President Revd Canon John Butler

Vice President Emeritus Revd Tom Morgan

Chairman Mr Fred Chilton

Hon. Treasurer Mr Richard Host

National Director

Revd Dr Mark Short

National Office

Revd Dr Mark Short

Level 7, 37 York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone (02) 9262 5017—Fax: (02) 9262 5020

email Mark.Short@bushchurchaid.com.au

Administration Manager Mrs Robyn Williams

email robyn@bushchurchaid.com.au

NSW/ACT Office

Revd Chris Baxter

Level 7, 37 York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Phone (02) 9262 5017—Fax: (02) 9262 5020

email chris@bushchurchaid.com.au

Victoria BCA Centre

Revd Greg Jones

PO Box 281, Heidelberg, VIC 3084

Phone (03) 9457 7556—Fax: (03) 9457 7610

email greg@bushchurchaid.com.au

SA/NT BCA Centre

Mrs Vivien Bleby

30 Croydon Road Keswick SA 5035

Phone (08) 8351 5950

email vivien@bushchurchaid.com.au

QLD/Nthn NSW Office

Revd Ian McGrath

PO Box 6565, Upper Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122

Phone (07) 3349 9081—Fax: (07) 3849 7927

email ian@bushchurchaid.com.au

Tasmania Office

Revd Dennis Quinn

63 Belar St Howrah TAS 7018

Phone (03) 6244 5098

email tas@bushchurchaid.com.au

WA BCA Centre

Revd Michael Stuart

c/-GPO Box W2067, Perth WA 6846

Phone 1300 554 025

email michael@bushchurchaid.com.au

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Cover: Cover: The East Coast Christian Indigenous Youth Network Camp – Broken Hill 2010



Sharing with others the life changing good news of Jesus is the task of every Christian. Fulfilling this commission presents a challenge in the everyday routine of life - it can sometimes be costly in terms of personal sacrifice.

All our Field Staff have responded to the call of Christ to serve Him in places that may stretch them to their limits. Whether in isolated communities, or in new and innovative ministries, those working in the field know first-hand the cost of being away from their nurturing congregations and wider family, serving sometimes in places with exhausting climates or with pressing social needs.

Their real life stories that are published in the *Real Australian* issue by issue are evidence of their efforts to fulfil the Society's goal to reach "Australia for Christ".

Christian author Philip Yancey writes "Christians best influence the world by sacrificial love, the most effective way to truly change a world. God's kingdom gives itself away in love, for that is precisely what God did for us."

More and more we see evidence of a world that needs changing. We have inherited and pass on a world that is far from the perfection that God intended.

Many human advances have disastrous consequences. Yancey concludes, "We master the atom and nearly obliterate ourselves; we tame the Great Plains and cause dust bowls, harvest rain forests and create floods, harness internal combustion and melt the icecaps."

How encouraging therefore to read that by living out the Gospel, sharing its message of God's love in word and action, those who represent us around Australia are seeing new spiritual life spring up in surprising ways. God's Spirit continues to work in changing lives.

Talking of change, we are in a period of change in BCA. As our National Director, Revd Canon Brian Roberts takes up a new challenge and we wait for our new National Director the Revd. Dr. Mark Short to commence, we thank you for standing with us by your continued support in your interest, prayers and gifts.

How reassuring to know that in all the changes and chances of this life our confidence and trust can be placed in the Saviour who remains the same, "yesterday, today and forever."

Revd Canon John Butler
Interim National Director

Reverend Dr Mark Short – Welcome to BCA!

The Reverend Dr Mark Short has been announced as the next National Director of The Bush Church Aid Society. He has been serving as the Archdeacon of Wagga Wagga and will begin his new role in late September.

After a unanimous vote by the BCA Council Mark will replace Reverend Canon Brian Roberts who ministered in this position for the last 18 years.

Mark grew up in Leeton and Western Sydney and came to know the Lord in his



At St Albans with some Parishoners

teenage years. He worked as a newspaper journalist and in the public service in Canberra before studying theology through Moore College and was ordained in the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. He worked as the Assistant Curate in the Parish of Temora before moving to England to continue in postgraduate study at the University of Durham. He remained in England until 2002.

Since returning Mark has served as

the Rector of Turvey Park and as Priest-in-Charge in the Parish of Tarcutta. He is described as 'an outstanding pastor, leader and mission strategist' by Bishop Stuart Robinson of the Canberra and Goulburn Diocese.

Mark is married to Monica and has two sons, Andrew and Matthew.

He recently spoke about working with BCA stating "BCA's vision of 'Australia for Christ' is compelling and urgent. I look forward to working alongside a great team of staff and volunteers, supported by the prayers of many and the lessons God has taught me during my time in the Diocese (of Canberra and Goulburn)."

Mark took some time out of his busy schedule to speak with Mark Henderson about his past involvement and attraction to BCA and plans for the Society in the future.

What first attracted you to the Role of National Director with BCA?

The most important factor was our knowledge of the great work that BCA has already done in so many places. We've been members and supporters of BCA for many years and enjoy hearing about what God is doing in different parts of Australia through the Society. We also know it's an organisation that values prayer and teamwork and we were very excited about being part of the team.

Personally, we've spent quite a lot of time in rural Australia. Although both my wife Monica and I grew up in Sydney we've lived in country areas for a number



Revd Dr Mark Short and family

of years since and we've become aware of what great opportunities are out there for spreading the gospel. We've also become aware of some of the challenges as regions go through rapid change and the need to explore new models of ministry and mission. With God's help we look forward to being a part of BCA as it rises to those challenges.

What do you see this role to be?

In the first instance my role will be to learn and to listen. I want to hear what God is doing through our Field Staff, through our Regional Officers, through our supporters and volunteers. I want to work alongside people and to see them use their gifts for the glory of God. I want to be working in partnership with Diocesan Bishops and others in leadership positions so that we can identify opportunities for doing gospel mission and in turn match those opportunities with people who have the

appropriate gifts and passions.

Do you think that your perception might change over time?

I'm sure it will – I hope it will!

I'll come in wearing my L-plates, and there are people on the ground who have spent a lot longer than I have thinking through some of these challenges – mission is always different closer up than it is from a distance.

I know a little bit about the challenge of doing ministry in mining communities for example but I'm sure as I become part of the BCA family I'll come to understand more of that.

Likewise I've always had a passion for doing ministry among Indigenous people but I'm sure as I spend time with people like Joy Sandefur, Neville Naden and others who are already involved in this kind of ministry that I will gain insights from their

Continued over

Reverend Dr Mark Short – Welcome to BCA!

experience and wisdom. I hope I will be changed along the way and I'm sure that under God I will be.

What is your vision for BCA?

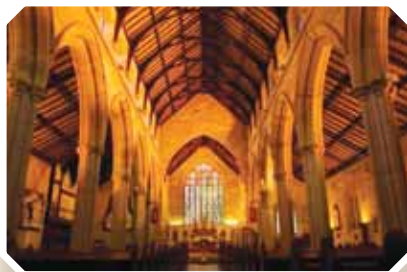
My vision is that we continue to build on the work that's gone before. I want to sustain a presence in remote areas where BCA may provide the only gospel ministry for a community. I want us to continue exploring new models of doing church and church planting, to strengthen our ministry with and amongst Indigenous people and to work together to raise up a new generation of leaders who will support BCA with their prayers and giving, but also under

God go out and be the agents of mission throughout Australia.

And for my last question...

How important to you is it that mission be undertaken here in Australia?

I think it's absolutely vital. God's vision is for the gospel to go to the ends of the earth, but as Australian Christians we have a particular responsibility to see that people in all parts of our nation have the opportunity to hear the gospel clearly proclaimed and to see the gospel lived out in the life of God's people. Mission doesn't end at home but it certainly needs to begin here.



*The Council of the Bush Church Aid Society invites you to attend
the Commissioning of the Reverend Dr Mark Short
as National Director*

*by The Rt Reverend Peter Brain (BCA President)
on Wednesday, 16th November, 2011 at 5.30pm
at St Philip's Church, 3 York Street, Sydney*

*The Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Peter Jensen, will be the preacher
Refreshments will follow the service*

*RSVP 9th November, 2011 jenny@bushchurchaid.com.au or
(02)9262 5017*

Bishop Peter Brain on the Ministry of BCA

The President of BCA, the Bishop of Armidale, Peter Brain has a unique view of the work that the Society does in Australia.

'It's always encouraging to read field reports and have a chance to meet our State Regional Officers. The main things I think are to hear how the ministries are going and to see how some of the initiatives (of BCA) are impacting people's lives' says the Bishop.

Bishop Peter's role in BCA is that of an overseer; it is a minimalist role but one that BCA could not operate without. During his five years as President, Peter has been able to visit some of the Field Staff, building relationships with them.

'I think it's always good to be able to observe the growth in some of the places where our missionaries are working, especially in some of the youth ministries.'

Seeing lives changed for the gospel is the heart cry of BCA and Bishop Peter knows how important this is and is encouraged by the initiatives that BCA has taken. Bishop Peter has been able to have close contact with the Keiths at Lightning Ridge and has witnessed first hand how they have employed some of these initiatives, melding them for the particular community they work among.

'The closest contacts I have had (on the Field) are through Lightning Ridge. I have certainly seen and heard of people's lives being changed through that ministry

and have no reason to doubt that it's not happening in other areas' Bishop Peter says.

He also states that 'other Bishops have spoken to me in appreciation of the difference that is being made in their Diocese because of the support of BCA!'

Before taking up the role of BCA's



Bishop Peter Brain

President, Bishop Peter worked as the Honorary Regional Officer in Western Australia. He was able to see more closely the impact of BCA's work when he held this position.

'I saw the impacts primarily because of the Field Staff who came through Perth. It was always good to hear their stories and their disappointments which were often that they had seen people come to the Lord and nurtured them only to find that they were leaving the area. That's a constant pressure on our Field Staff.'

'Certainly I saw the faithfulness of the Field Staff and I heard some stories about people's lives that were changed as a consequence of BCA's mission.'

'I'm hoping that the proven ministries will continue to occur; pastoral care, youth ministry – that sort of work. I'm also hopeful that God will continue to raise up faithful people. That's really the strength of BCA, the people who are sent and the people who support and pray – it's really a partnership' he says.

**Source: Interview with Bishop Peter Brain
BCA President**

Mark Henderson

From Sydney to Sunraysia South



Briefing before the run

Running 27 kilometres won't quite take you from Sydney to Sunraysia South – it will take you through the Royal National Park just south of Sydney from Bundeena to Otford!

But what has that got to do with Sunraysia South in Victoria?

Every year the Parish at Sunraysia South plans a special conference called 'The Bible in the Bush'. The conference will be held from Friday the 28th until Sunday the 30th October. For the first time this year there will be optional workshops to help people improve their knowledge of the Bible. There will be a couple of guest speakers including Bishop Stephen Hale and Revd Neville Naden, BCA Field Staff at Broken Hill.

What has this got to do with a run in Sydney?

A group of guys from Sydney recently got together to raise some money for BCA and a particular cause - 'The Bible in the Bush' weekend!

Cameron Noakes and some friends had decided to undertake this run from



Cameron Noakes finishes the run

Bundeena to Otford. They took the run as an opportunity to promote the work of BCA and to make it a fundraiser for 'The Bible in the Bush'. The money that they raised will help to supply course materials, provide accommodation and help with the youth ministry for the weekend.

Running 27 kilometres might not take you from Sydney to Sunraysia South but 27 kilometres of running did raise some money to help keep 'The Bible in the Bush' alive. •

Mark Henderson

God's Blessings For Blackwater

It's always interesting to see how a community can change when the Lord's work is being done there. Blackwater is a coal mining town of about 8000 people.

Since beginning to work with BCA in Blackwater four years ago Captains Stuart and Katherine Haynes have seen lives changed as they have come alongside and built relationships with many of the locals and as they have ministered in the area.

Their latest endeavour has seen a brand new community playground set up at the church. Katherine couldn't contain her excitement as she wrote about it.

'Over the last four years it has been an extraordinary experience to see how God has blessed and impacted our ministry here in Blackwater. We have seen lives changed, a small faith community grow and watched God's hand on so many people's lives. This ministry from the beginning has been one of transformation whether upgrading the grounds and church facilities or sharing the love of Jesus with people.

Last year Dave, an outgoing member of the church decided to invest time in applying for community grants. The result is this amazing playground. Words can't describe how excited the children are to play on it as well as the feeling of anticipation we have of what God will do with it. We know He has given us this blessing for the gospel's sake and look forward to sharing our playground with the community. On 21st May we held an 'Open



Day' official opening celebration and invited people to come and visit our little church. We hope to connect with many new people and reconnect with some who have been distant.

When we discovered we were receiving the playground, I began asking mums if they would help me start an afternoon playgroup. The response was great and "Busy Beez Playtime" was born. This is a new ministry direction for us and a great way to meet a whole new group of families.

Please pray that new families come to church and thank our amazing God for His love for the people of Blackwater! •

Source: Kathy Haynes

Six Years on the Road

John and Marion Geoghegan have been BCA Nomads since 2004 and have travelled extensively in their caravan around Australia since then.

Recently they were invited as guest speakers to the Ladies Connection Dinner at Christ's Church Mandurah in Western Australia to talk about their experiences as BCA Nomads. About 30 ladies attended the dinner and listened to their presentation.

John and Marion explained the need for BCA and where the Nomad programme fitted in. Coming from a church sponsored by BCA, they explained it was an easy decision to become BCA Nomads with the aim to visit as many BCA sponsored churches as possible as they travelled.

While travel to see our wonderful country was the main aim of the trip, John and Marion planned to dedicate some of their time back to the Lord to help the BCA churches where they could. The variety of jobs was quite extensive and challenged their skills and initiative: i.e.

Cleaning out sparrow nests and sealing

John and Marion addressing the ladies in Mandurah



Sewing at Port Hedland



the eaves with wire netting around the church building in Winton; digging up and preparing an area with a rotary hoe for a community garden and cleaning bricks in Gilgandra; general clean-up and maintenance repairs to the rectory in Lightning Ridge; gardening, mowing and general maintenance repairs to the church hall in Hillston; creating and making a nativity scene in Broken Hill; painting



Ladies of Mandurah



Camping at Devils Marbles



Painting house at Heathcote



The church at Winton

the inside of the ablutions in Mallacoota; painting the front of the church house in Heathcote; gardening and general repairs to the rectory and church hall in Sunraysia; roofing and floor maintenance to the church hall and sheep sitting in Snake Valley, general maintenance and sewing for the church hall in Port Hedland.

Visiting some of these churches was an incentive to go to places that were not on the regular tourist route. Every place had its own unique story, some funny, some serious and some just hard yakka but putting something back by helping was wonderfully rewarding. John and Marion explained that sometimes it was just being there that gave the local parish a sense of not being forgotten, strengthening their faith and helping to break their isolation. It also gave them a chance to join in personally and mix with the members of the local community, many of whom were surprised

that all the work was done voluntarily, asking for nothing in return except for their friendship.

At the end of the talk, copies of the Real Australian, the Prayer Notes and some BCA money boxes were given out as Mandurah had chosen BCA for their mission giving in January. While there are no BCA supported churches in the southwest of Western Australia, John and Marion hope to plant seeds to encourage some of the Grey Nomads in the area to become BCA Nomads as God's work is never done.

NOTE: If any other churches are interested to promote the work of the BCA Nomads in the southwest of Western Australia, John and Marion are happy to help.

Contact nomads@bushchurchaid.com.au and we will put you in touch.

Philip and Elke Knight and Family

It has been another busy year for the Knight family in Port Hedland as their ministry continues to grow. Philip is still ministering at St Matthew's. He has seen God do some amazing things as he shares the word of God with the congregation and encourages them to be obedient to it as they walk with Jesus.

During the service that Philip conducted on Easter Sunday, a real encouragement was felt when Steve, a man who has been attending the church for the last two years finally understood what Jesus had done for him on the cross and gave his life to the Lord, becoming a Christian.

'Steve was down to do the bible reading at church – the reading was on the resurrection. He got up to do the gospel reading and said he wanted to do it a little differently and he said, 'I'll read the first verse and you read the second verse and so on.' After he had done the reading he came to me and said 'Philip the lights came on and I understand that Jesus actually died on the cross for my sins' Philip recalls.

'You can see the power of God's word through that.'

Philip has also been heavily involved in seeing the new rectory building project

advance which has been time consuming and not always easy. Philip is hoping that the building will be able to begin in the next few days or weeks.

'We will build four new two-storey houses and will rent them out in order to pay off all the work that is being done – after they are all paid off we will be able to use the houses for chaplains, a youth worker, maybe even an assistant minister

down the track. It will also help the church to become self-sufficient' Phil says of the building plans. There is a real need for housing in Port Hedland so this building project will be of great benefit to the town.

'We are very thankful for the return of Robert and Dawn Allen from Eden, NSW

to oversee this project which has taken a big burden off of our shoulders.'

Elke is still working alongside Philip in helping out with jobs at the church including leading a women's Bible study which she loves. This year the women have been studying Revelation and Titus and will now move on to Job.

'It is always a great encouragement to see the women grow in their understanding of the Scriptures as a whole and how that affects their love for Christ and the way in





which they live' she says.

The first weekend in July, Elke attended the annual Pilbara Women's Conference in Karratha. It provided the opportunity for her to fellowship with some of the other Christian women from around the area and listen to some great quality teaching.

'We spent the weekend looking at women in the New Testament. There were probably around 15-18 of us there and it was just a great encouragement' she says.

Peter and Sarah Bull along with their three children have recently moved to Port Hedland from Mittaong which is a supporting church of Philip and Elke. They came to help, wanting to experience life in the outback and also help out around the church in both spiritual and practical means. This has been really encouraging for Philip and Elke and has helped to make the workload just a little bit lighter for them.

Due to a high turnover of people in Port Hedland, like many mining towns Philip and Elke see people come and go regularly but keep encouraged as they do see growth among those who continue to attend the church.

'Pray for our church family as people are continually coming and going. Give thanks for a good core group of families and individuals who faithfully love each other and seek to live out the gospel. We thank you for your ongoing support. Your prayers for us are much needed and appreciated'. •

Source: Philip and Elke's Newsletter and Interviews with Philip and Elke

BCA TOURS – A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

If you are planning an Australian holiday, a great option could be one of the very unique Australian tours that are arranged for supporters. On the journey there are opportunities for sight seeing, visiting Field Staff, as well as enjoying fellowship with likeminded people.

TASMANIA TOUR including Flinders & King Islands **January 2012**

22 days with shorter options available
Launceston – Flinders Island – Tamar Valley – Cradle Mountain – Strahan – Franklin River Cruise – Hobart – Port Arthur – Bicheno – King Island – Melbourne, and return to Sydney by coach if you choose.

RIVERLANDS TOUR **July 2012** **8 days**

Sydney – Wagga Wagga – Hillston – Griffith – Bendigo – Ouyen – Swan Hill – Mildura – Adelaide.

NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA TOUR **12, 15 or 25 days** **August 2012**

Darwin – Newman – Tom Price – Broome-Fitzroy Crossing – Monkey Mia

For more information contact your Regional Office or email:

BCATours@bushchurchaid.com.au
Tours operated by Christian Fellowship Tours

Katherine Christian Convention – all one in Christ

In the year I was born, 1968, another event was born in the Northern Territory town of Katherine. The brainchild of Bruce and Janine Morrow - The Katherine Christian Convention (KCC) has faithfully proclaimed the word of God on the first weekend of May for the last 44 years.

KCC is a celebration of the unity we enjoy in Christ as people from remote aboriginal communities join with city folk from Darwin and other towns along the Stuart Highway down to Alice Springs.



Tom Slockee

This year Tom Slockee spoke from Romans 12 and 13 on giving ourselves to God. Tom is well known to BCA supporters from his ministry in Mogo, NSW and last year as

Canon Missioner in the Northern Territory.

In 2009 I was asked by the KCC Committee to run a youth programme in partnership with Ruth Brigden (CMS Missionary working with youth in Numbulwar) and a small team from the Anglican Parish of Cherrybrook in Sydney. Our strategy with the youth programme is twofold. Firstly, we want to provide a good programme of Bible teaching and fun for the teenagers at KCC. We want to share



the gospel with these youth and introduce them to a lifelong relationship with Jesus as their King and Saviour. But we also have a long term goal for the youth programme training up the future generations of aboriginal leaders.

This year we saw the tangible fruit of the partnership. Some community leaders attended all sessions of the youth programme and brought their youth. Marlene and Craig both live in the remote Arnhem Land community of Ngukurr (previously known as Roper River Mission). Marlene and Craig both prepared and gave talks in Kriol from Romans 12. They have taken part in a number of other youth leading and training events in the last year. They are enthusiastic about helping teenagers in Ngukurr come to know Christ



During the Convention Meet

and grow to maturity in him.

We also had a couple of boys approach us this year at KCC to play and sing some songs in the youth programme. One of the boys called Mark I've met in various locations (his school at Litchfield, his home at Ngukurr and Kriol youth camp) through my role as a travelling Diocesan Youth Minister. I've developed a good relationship with Mark and a small number of other youth like him. They now feel confident to participate in the KCC Youth Programme.

Our challenge is to keep encouraging and training more aboriginal leaders from all the different communities to disciple



The Katherine Christian Convention

youth. We also seek to continue to build relationships with the teenagers so that we can help them to grow in their relationship with God. Please continue to pray for us and perhaps come and visit Katherine one year on the first weekend in May to see one way God is growing His church in the Northern Territory.

Source: Bruce Chapman
Diocesan Youth Worker, Northern Territory

See also www.kathcc.org.au and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJIOD_7jvQU for a video of this year's youth program.

Mallacoota – Christ for Campers

The seaside towns of Mallacoota and Croajingolong were bustling at Easter time. The small and isolated townships are located about half way between Sydney and Melbourne (over 500 kilometres each way) and were buzzing with life as over 10,000 people came to stay for the holiday – a substantial increase from the usual population of less than 3000.

The Croajingolong Co-operative Church was able to use this opportunity to minister to the people of the region with the help of Greg Jones who is

the BCA Regional Officer for Victoria and a somewhat musical man. Greg was able to use his talents as a *Jazzman*, playing gospel, blues and jazz music all over the Easter weekend. Rowena Harris who is the minister at Croajingolong Co-operative Church had organised for Greg to perform at all sorts of venues across town.

'I think I played seven gigs' Greg says 'the response was really good this time.'

He was able to perform at cafes, under the Mallacoota rotunda, in the local market place, at the church and in other services – even in front of the local newsagency!

For some of the performances Greg was even joined by

Michael Stevenson who is the son of the Inlet Christian Fellowship Church minister and although only 11 years old is a gifted percussionist. This was enjoyed by the crowd Rowena describes as 'delighted'.

In Mallacoota there is a new age culture and very few professing Christians.

'There's a search for meaning but not much response

from the locals when it comes to church – one of the reasons that I go out there is to reach out to them' Greg says.

Rowena was excited at the crowds that did attend the ecumenical Good Friday service and the services across the Easter weekend. •

Source: Interview with Greg Jones and an email from Rowena Harris

Mark Henderson



A service at Croajingolong



Greg with some of the locals

Dusty Boots: Penrith Anglican College



Bondi Vet Dr Chris Brown with PAC students

A group of 20 year 11 students from Penrith Anglican College along with four of their teachers and two BCA Nomads have taken time out of their school holidays to go on a Dusty Boots service trip to Broken Hill.

While in Broken Hill they will live together as a group at BCA House. The students will be split into three teams and each of the teams will have a daily duty – they will be cooking for everyone, helping BCA Field Staff Neville and Kathie Naden in the Community Garden ministry or going to the school at Menindee to assist out there.

As you can imagine taking 20 students from Penrith in Sydney all the way out to Broken Hill for eight days isn't a cheap undertaking so the students did some fundraising by having a cake stall and face painting at Orchard Hills fair where they even had a special guest show up, TV personality Dr Chris Brown – The Bondi Vet.



Painting faces

Kirsten Duffy, a student going on the trip to Broken Hill says that she wants to be a part of the Dusty Boots trip because 'it's something different and I get to help other people that might not have as much as I do. It's an opportunity to help and to learn something at the same time'

Dusty Boots NSW Co-ordinator Beth Hazell explains that 'not all of the students who are going on the trip are Christians but their focus is on service. A significant purpose of the trip is for us to live as a group in Christian community while in Broken Hill.'

Kirsten's hope for the trip is that 'the people we meet out there can learn from what we do and that we can learn from what they do as well.'

The Dusty Boots team left for Broken Hill on July 16th. ●

'Nothing is impossible with God'

These are the words on the foundation stone of the Roxby Downs Christian Community Church building. There are no names of the people who were involved in the construction or opening of the building – why not? It was decided in a unanimous vote by the Church Council members that the glory belonged to God for all that had happened in allowing them to build at Roxby Downs.

This year was the 10th anniversary of the Roxby Downs church building which was celebrated across the Easter weekend.

'They moved a building from Woomera and set it up on a block of land and made this the church building' says the Revd Mary Lewis who is currently serving as the minister at Roxby Downs.

It was a tough task to get the building moved from Woomera to Roxby; it had to be disassembled and brought to the area in pieces and had its ups and downs, at one point even falling down during the assembly. Ten years later the small church is still standing.

'It's the size of a large community hall

with some side rooms for meetings and a foyer with some bathrooms and a kitchen – it can fit 200 at a squeeze' she continued.

For those in attendance it was a great opportunity to revisit the history of the place and remember some of the stories of how it had all come about, the tremendous donations of the concrete for

the foundations and floor; the small army of volunteers who finally laid the concrete after working for 12 hours.

'One of the volunteers was heard to exclaim, "I am an atheist – what am I doing here?" This was met by hearty laughter from the other workers. God used all sorts of unlikely characters in the construction

process – even me, and I failed woodwork and metalwork in year 8' Ian McGrath recalls.

It also allowed the previous ministers including Revd Ian and Glenda McGrath and Revd Colin and Ruth Nelson to see how the church had continued developing into a joyous and vital part of the community through the work of the Lord and the ministry of Revd Mary and Dr Owen Lewis.



Across nations and cultures



The girls night out



Families mingling



Waiter please!

On the

Friday night, the ladies

heard from Glenda McGrath, Jan McKay and Ruth Nelson while the youth had a regressive dinner with the Bishop. There was a brunch for the men on Saturday with Ian McGrath and on Saturday night a celebration dinner was held for 120 guests. On Sunday Ian preached at Roxby and Andamooka.

'There may have been lots of different faces at Roxby from last time I was there, but what hadn't changed was the enthusiasm of the congregations at both places' he says.

It was so good to see a few marks on the walls in places and general wear and tear - this signalled to me that the building was being well used. The local Scout group as well as other groups regularly use the building so it is very familiar to many

members of the community.

'While in Roxby we were able to catch up with some of the people we knew from our time there. While most are still walking with the Lord, which is a great encouragement to us, sadly some have slipped away. Some do not attend church at all. It is not that they have stopped believing in God, but the cares of this world and materialism have seen them slowly drift away' Ian says of the congregation.

'The celebrations were something that the parish chose to organise themselves; it was something that the people had wanted. It was their celebration' says Revd Mary. It was a celebration of the work that God has done through this small church building and through the people He has chosen to be there.

Like the plaque says 'Nothing is impossible with God' and this small church is a testament to that.

Source: Ian McGrath, Mary Lewis

As I walk with you



Joy Sandefur on Ministering among the Indigenous people of Australia

My first encounter with Aboriginal people in Northern Australia was at Fitzroy Crossing in 1971. It was life changing as God showed me that my future work would be with Aboriginal people.

After forty years of walking beside Aboriginal people what have I learned?

One thing clearly stands out and that is if God calls you to serve Him in a particular setting He will give you the abilities you need to do the job. I have experienced this many times throughout my life.

It was clear from my studies at university that I wasn't particularly gifted in learning language. God did enable me to learn two wonderful Aboriginal languages and to be involved in the translation of the Kriol Bible. When you learn a language from the people who speak it they are the

teachers. Learning language and culture also allows for insights into how they view the world and meaningful friendships can be formed.

I approached my ordination, six years ago fearful of the challenges that lay ahead of me. God assured me once again that He would give me the strength and ability to do this work. He did this as I encountered new challenges and moved into a new role of leadership.

Over the years Aboriginal Christians have helped to shape me in many ways. Their strong and obvious faith in God has helped to deepen my own trust in Him, making it stronger and less complicated.

The Aboriginal Christians with whom I have worked are so sure that God is the all powerful one and approach him in prayer with great confidence in many varied situations. It was a welcome lesson for me as I liked to solve my problems myself.



Nungalinya graduation



Class at Nungalinya



Training workshop

Years of listening to Canon Gumbuli Wurramarra preach taught me that the best illustrations for sermons are ones from everyday life.

When Aboriginal Christians accept you as a friend and into their families you are a friend and family member for life. *They accept you warts and all.* A wonderful

picture of how God accepts us.

These past seven and a half years with BCA, working with people at Nungalinya and as a Ministry Support person for the Diocese of the Northern Territory have been rich years of ministry and learning. To walk with Aboriginal women before and after their ordinations was an unexpected ministry. It was a rich period as we shared the good and hard times of ministry together.

Starting an Aboriginal congregation with Aboriginal Christians stretched me in many new ways as I learned with them.

To see Aboriginal clergy and church leaders grow as they participated in Diocesan training workshops and studies at Nungalinya College was rewarding and stimulating.

My years of working with Aboriginal Christians and churches have matured me in countless ways. I never thought about how I might change and develop when God made it clear that working with Aboriginal people was what He wanted from me. The Aboriginal people that I have worked with have, in many ways contributed to who I am today.

Now as I settle into retirement in Melbourne it is a new season of ministry that is still unfolding. Part of it will be in a voluntary capacity, being available to BCA when something comes up in relation to Indigenous ministries. I have no doubts that God has other new and unexpected challenges ahead.

Source: Joy Sandefur

Post & Rails

FAREWELL

The Society's support for **Meredith Campbell** in the Huon Heartz Ministry was extended at the end of last year but has now come full term. Meredith will continue in her role in Kingston, assisted for the remainder of this year by Church Army Gap year student, **Maie Maranik**. The Society you may recall also supported Maie's travel arrangements as she was required to return to the Blue Mountains outside of Sydney for continued training.



Will & Gillian Briggs and their family are on the move from Burnie.



Will has been appointed Senior Associate Priest at St. David's Cathedral in Hobart where he will work to assist the Dean, Richard Humphries. He is also going to work as the Research Assistant to Bishop John Harrower. Gillian will continue on as a deacon in Hobart.

Please pray for Will, Gillian and their children as they move from Burnie to Hobart in the coming months. The BCA Chairman, Fred Chilton thanked **John Wenden** for his support and service to the Society over the past 30 years, as



John was farewelled by BCA's Finance and Property Committee. John has been a Mission Contact in his churches (Box Secretary), a member of the NSW Regional Committee, the Executive, the Finance & Property Sub-committee and a BCA Councillor.

BCA BABIES

James and Skye Coats welcomed a new baby girl, Hannah Kay, into their family on 19th July. Hannah weighed 3.26kgs and was 51cm long. She joins the Coats family as a sister for Eleanor (2007) and Miriam (2009). On 31st July, **Gary and Nikki Alexander** welcomed their first child, a son, Thomas Trevor. He weighed 3.6kg and was 54cm long.

We wish the Coats and the Alexanders all the best and God's blessings as they each adapt to having a new baby in their family.

VACANCIES

In partnership with the Diocese of Willochra and North West Australia respectively, the Society is looking for gospel-focused ministry candidates for Coober Pedy and Paraburdoo/Tom Price who would offer a minimum commitment of 2 years.

In addition, the Diocese of Adelaide, along with BCA, is looking for a ministry candidate who meets its requirements to minister at the three parish centres on Kangaroo Island.

VALE

Allyn Mann

In the last issue of the Real Australian we acknowledged the passing of Allyn (affectionately known as "Tommie") Mann.

Her daughter Elizabeth has provided some further information which we include here.

Allyn Mann passed away following ill health 23rd March 2011 aged

100 years. She was a long time supporter of BCA at St James Church, Wilcannia, with her husband, Ian (Dal) Mann, who was a Lay Reader, and she was the author of "The Boundary Riders", a history of St James Church, Wilcannia, published in 1983.

Allyn was the daughter of the Rev. Stephen Taylor and his wife Elizabeth of the Sydney and Newcastle Dioceses. She grew up in church rectories at Erskinville, Wahroongah, Wentworth Falls and Kiama; nursed at the Camperdown Children's Hospital; and in 1936 went to work for BCA at the Children's Hostel, Wilcannia, where she

met and married Ian.

When Ian saw duty overseas during WWII, Allyn became Assistant Matron at the BCA Boy's Hostel at Coorah, Wentworth Falls.

Both Allyn and Ian's family have a long history of service to BCA – Ian's mother Charlotte Mann was with BCA for 32 years before her retirement and Allyn's sisters served at Ceduna.

Allyn and Ian returned to Wilcannia in 1948 and raised their family at Billilla Station. In 1999 Ian passed away and Allyn went to live with her daughter in Cobar, where she was often visited by Hostel "kids" as they passed through Cobar.

Her funeral was conducted in Broken Hill on 28 March by Allyn's great-nephew, Revd Richard Maude (ex BCA Lightning Ridge).

CAN YOU HELP??

Word has come to us that the Intercontinental Church Society has retrieved a 1957 portable 'Colonial and Continental Church Society' Communion set, in memory of Mrs EJE Lea: can any reader help with the story behind this? •



The April Bottom Scholarship—\$8500

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 9th September, 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.

**CLOSING DATE
EXTENDED**

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

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

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

COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

A church member, John has just passed away. His life had been radically changed by Jesus having been delivered from alcoholism and drug addiction.

He still carried much pain because of past mistakes and broken relationships and occasionally John slipped backwards but he also carried much joy because he knew that the Lord had forgiven him and given him a place in heaven. Before John's health deteriorated he had decided to collect aluminium cans, recycle them and then send the proceeds collected to BCA. He did this because BCA helped people in the bush come to faith in Jesus. John's attitude and practice is a reminder that true conversion to Christ leads us away from a preoccupation with ourselves to a heart which is interested in others and their lives and their need of Christ.

In my role as a BCA Councillor I hear the joys and struggles of BCA Field Staff around Australia. It is wonderful to see evidence in their lives that they have met Jesus and have been transformed by Him. I think of Neville and Kathie Naden in Broken Hill who are reaching out to Indigenous people. They do this through Christ centred ministry such as pastoring and teaching a congregation and are also involved in running a drop in centre for youth so that they can be given life skills to live productive lives. I recently spoke to Gary Alexander working for BCA and the Diocese of North West Australia in Kununurra, WA. Gary together with his wife



David O'Mara

Nikki has the challenging work of serving many people whose family lives are under pressure because of relationship problems and often a product of being away from family support. Each day he holds out the hope of Christ as the one who can change lives and bring healing.

BCA is a wonderful organisation because it is a Society whose members have been transformed by Christ and so they in turn want to share Jesus' love and hope with others, especially those in the bush. The Society has been running for over 90 years because its focus is Christ and people coming to know Him. Every day BCA Field Staff speak to people about the hope of Jesus. Please pray that God will continue to use BCA so more people find Christ and that their lives are transformed so that Jesus is honoured.

Source: Rev David O'Mara, BCA Council Member



BCA's ministry is to change people's lives and to point them towards Christ. The Real Australian of January 1937 tells a story showing this very thing,

We quote, "over four months ago Cliff aged 19 years, an only child, was admitted to Ceduna Hospital with pleurisy. Within a fortnight he was up again, only for a day or two, and then back to bed again for a long and trying illness. During the early part of his illness, when he was feeling comparatively well, Cliff was led to know Christ Jesus as his own personal Saviour and friend and from that time he began to know Christ as the source for all of his needs. It will ever be remembered when he told his Christian mother that he had given his heart to the Lord Jesus, and the joy that filled his mother's heart when she knew that God had answered her prayers for the boy. Shortly after this his condition grew steadily worse, and for two months that lad was drawn very close to his Lord through intense suffering. Not one who, coming

into contact with him could but marvel at his bright Christian witness – he was an inspiration to all.

What joy it was to see that little circle of father, mother and son joined together in prayer together and Bible reading at his bedside. He often remarked as we had prayer with him, 'you don't know what it means to me when nights are so long and the pain always there, it keeps me going!' The secret of his bright spirit was his consciousness of the presence of God with him. On the day of his 'Home Call' his daily calendar read "and so having patiently endured, he obtained the promise." Surely this was one who had come out of great tribulation and washed his robes in the blood of the Lamb!"

This reminds us of BCA's motto, "Australia for Christ", seeking to change people's lives.

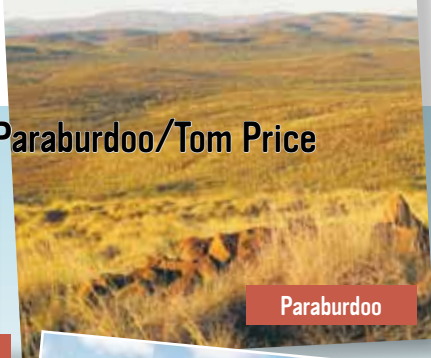
Clem Kirkby
Hon Archivist

Vacancies

Coober Pedy, Kangaroo Island, Paraburdoo/Tom Price



Coober Pedy



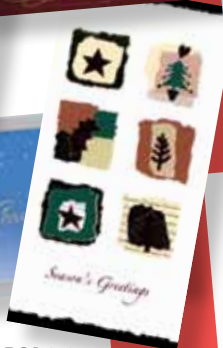
Paraburdoo

BCA, in partnership with the respective Dioceses, is seeking gospel focused ministry candidates for each of these vacant parishes. With a minimum commitment of two years, the right candidates will have the opportunity to build on well-established ministry. A full stipend will be received, along with access to other ministry benefits offered by the Society. **Contact: The National Director**
Phone: 02 9262 5017 or email: nd@bushchurchaid.com.au



St Albans Kangaroo Island

ORDER EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!



CHRISTMAS CARDS BCA 016

Pack 10 assorted Christmas cards – including new designs
Pack 10 cards of your choice (while stocks last)

\$7.50 or \$7.00 for 3 or more packs
\$8.00 or \$7.50 for 3 or more packs

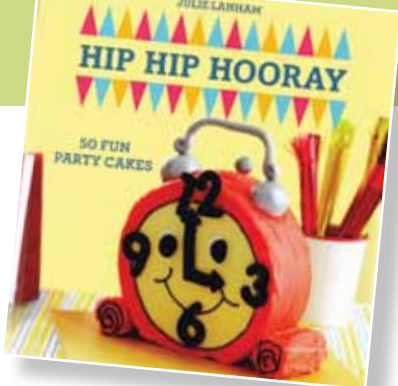
Gift Catalogue

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 137 \$24.95

Hip Hip Hooray – the latest party cake cookbook from Julie Lanham
50 inspired cakes with clear step-by-step instructions, including baking tips and decorating techniques, recipes for cakes and icing, and all the templates you will need!

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
BCA 112	The Last Lessons	Audrey Aspeling	\$15.00
BCA 114	Set of 4 Audrey Aspeling Books	Save \$10.00	\$49.95

ORDER EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!

BCA 018 Billy Bilby
 BCA for Kids Mascot \$15.00
**ORDER NOW FOR
 CHRISTMAS DELIVERY** –
 Billy will be available again
 from mid-November.



CAKES & PUDDINGS

BCA 312	500gm Traditional pudding in calico cloth	\$28.00
BCA 313	1kg Traditional pudding in calico cloth	\$43.00
BCA 314	Gluten Free, no added sugar & no dairy 500gm Pudding log	\$31.00
BCA 315	700gm Christmas Cake gift boxed	\$37.00

BOOKS

BCA 137	Hip Hip Hooray – Cookbook	Julie Lanham	\$24.95
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 – Cookbook	Julie Lanham	\$24.95
BCA 132	Free Too	Chris Thiele	\$28.50
BCA 135	Losing my Religion	Tom Frame	\$34.95

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
BCA 018	Bilby	\$15.00
BCA 318	2 Gift-boxed Old Fashioned glasses	\$15.00
BCA 319	2 Gift-boxed High Ball glasses	\$15.00

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

