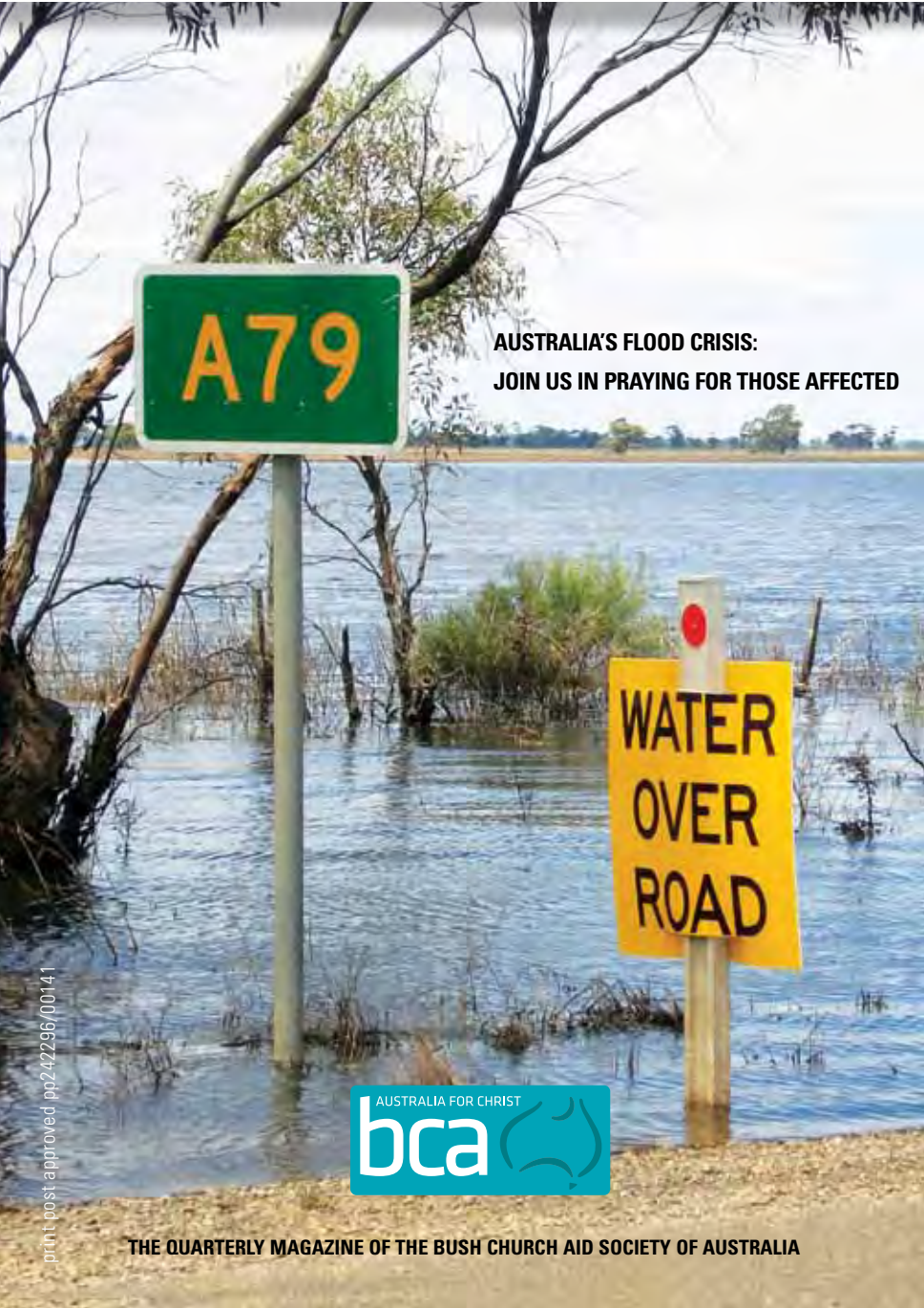


AUTUMN 2011

the real australian



**AUSTRALIA'S FLOOD CRISIS:
JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THOSE AFFECTED**



THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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Cover: Calder Highway roadside near Wycheproof, Victoria

Editorial

Whilst the BCA family will continue to be very dear to us both, the time has come for Denyse and I to make some changes and for me to pass the baton to others to lead the team at BCA.

After 18 years as National Director I have announced my retirement from the role. Though this will be effective from mid August 2011 my last official public functions will be in mid May. After that we will take some leave and seek out a new ministry path.

Denyse and I have a strong sense of call to return to parish ministry somewhere, and it seems right and proper to look to a rural or regional setting in which to share the skills, insights and equipping that has come to us over our years in the BCA family.

Our first contact with BCA came from a 'chance' encounter in the 1970's as a result of my technical skills. What started as a voluntary position fixing tape recorders, has progressed to a long association with the Society.

After ordination and a short curacy we took our family to Zeehan, Tasmania with BCA. These were very formative years for each of us, setting the shape of things for the future. Then followed about six years working as the NSW & Queensland Secretary and General Secretary. A role where we meet so many of the BCA

supporters and really began to appreciate the extent and prayerful commitment of the BCA family to the mission work to reach Australians for Christ.

These early years and this later stint as National Director have been exciting and rewarding times for us. It has been a privilege to be part of it all and we look forward to seeing the adventure in mission continue under fresh leadership.

The Executive Committee under our Chairman's leadership have formed a nominations committee to find a new National Director. Please join with us in praying for the Society in this time of change; for the Committee who have the carriage of finding the person of our Lord's choosing and that the call will be clear for that person. Pray also for all at BCA as we all enter a new chapter in the Society's mission to reach our fellow Australians with the call to respond to God's grace, freely given in Christ.

Denyse and I look forward to continuing to be part of the family but in a different capacity.

**Warmest regards,
Brian**



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY IN THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE REAL AUSTRALIAN. THE RESPONSE WAS OVERWHELMING AND IT PROVIDED US WITH HELPFUL INSIGHT INTO HOW WE CAN IMPROVE OUR SERVICE TO YOU, OUR SUPPORTERS.

Strategic Mission in Outer Bendigo

On the outskirts of Bendigo lies a community that is booming. Schools are overflowing, several new housing estates have popped up in the last few years and it is continuing to grow. The area is Strathfieldsaye, and the people living on the margin of this growing community are in need of a revamped ministry.

As part of BCA's charter to reach Australians for Christ, the Society has placed the Weickhardt family in Strathfieldsaye to help reach people on the margins of Bendigo.

"This is a missional opportunity in the establishment phase that is strategic to the advance of the gospel" comments Brian Roberts, National Director. "We are seeking to plant a church in an outer regional area of rural Victoria where there is a high level

of receptivity to most things as people are looking to make new networks and connections and establish a healthy and viable environment for their families."

The area currently has two church buildings, an Anglican church and a Uniting church, both with regular congregations of around 15 people. In the area that houses around 4000 people, mostly with young families, the main demographic of churchgoers is people over 60.

Greg Harris, who currently ministers to the Anglican Church of South East Bendigo, has been involved in the implementation of this ministry. "It all came about because we could see a growing community on the outskirts of Bendigo that has very little protestant church input" he says. "It's a growing area and will continue to grow."



The congregation at South East Bendigo Anglican Church



Left to right: Barry Rainsford, Tom Williams, Jenny Rainsford, Jennifer Minol, Tracey Wolsley, Richard Minol, Ida Horth, Ernest Horth, Annette Hill, Kelvin Hill, Lilian Morgan, Steve Weickhardt, Denyse Roberts, Helen Chick, Dale Barclay, Brian Roberts
 Not in photo: Carol Williams, Susan Heath



Greg Harris leading singing at the church

There will be great value in having a residential leader in the area. Previously both the Uniting and Anglican ministers were commuting out from Bendigo.

"Really what we saw was this mission field on the edge of Bendigo" Greg says. "The idea that came was to try and work together in order to plant a ministry that would reach people for Jesus and

particularly getting a residential leader; getting someone on the ground."

The Weickhardt family is made up of Steve and Vanessa and their two girls Alyssa and Zoe. As a stereotypical representation of the demographic of the area they are a strategic ministry choice. Many of the families living in the community are around their age with children in a similar age bracket. The Weickhardts will reside in the Uniting Church manse, situated in a prominent position within the community and Steve will be part of the Anglican ministry team in the South East Bendigo parish.

"We want to explore lots of different ways that we can be involved in the community, particularly with a family and children's focus" says Greg Harris. "The idea is then to develop in time not only a ministry but also a family service as well."

Brian Roberts sees this ministry as a

Continued over

Strategic Mission in Outer Bendigo

strategic opportunity not to be missed. "This sort of thing is essential for the Anglican Church if we are to keep a sharp gospel edge in rural and regional areas."

Close to 400 people attended Steve's ordination by Bishop Andrew Curnow on 23rd January at South East Bendigo Anglican Church, Flora Hill. A bus arrived with some 50 people from Steve's previous parish of Bacchus Marsh along with other parishioners in their own vehicles. A contingent from the BCA family of ex-Field



Staff were there to support Steve as were many ministers and lay people who had travelled through flood ravaged areas with extreme difficulty. Others, who remained isolated by the floods, could not attend.

Source: Phone interview with Greg Harris

AN INVITATION TO AN AFTERNOON TEA TO FAREWELL AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE REVD CANON BRIAN ROBERTS

Sunday 15th May 2011 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

at St Anne's Anglican Church

42-50 Church Street Ryde

RSVP by Friday 6 May to Jenny on 02 9262 5017

jenny@bushchurchoaid.com.au

Moving Forward with Indigenous Ministry



Bishop Greg Thompson ordains Yulki

At the end of December 2010, Joy Sandefur retired from BCA after a long period of faithful service.

Her knowledge and insight into Aboriginal culture and language, along with her passion for teaching indigenous Australians the bible, has made her a valuable asset to the work of BCA.

Joy's work at Nungalingya Theological College in Darwin has been vital in continuing ministry to indigenous Australians. Yulki Nunggumajbarr is evidence of the importance of the work, as a female indigenous priest she has a unique opportunity to connect with many indigenous individuals from the Top End. She trained at Nungalingya College under the tuition of Joy. Her ordination was an inspiration to many and was featured on

the ABC's *Compass* on November 7th 2010 in a programme called: *Yulki: Arnhem Land Priest*.

Yulki's ordination was significant in many ways. Bishop Greg Thompson of the Diocese of the Northern Territory reflected on this significance as he was interviewed. "For Australia, Yulki's ordination demonstrates that we are growing up" he said on *Compass*. "We are recognising that Aboriginal culture and people have much to contribute, as well as receive our help and friendship."

1973 saw the start of Nungalingya College. It was developed in response to the need for locally trained indigenous Australians. Prior to the College, anyone wanting to train at Bible College was

Continued over

Moving Forward with Indigenous Ministry

required to go to a major city in one of the southern states. "It was a model that just didn't work and didn't produce ordained people" explained Joy Sandefur on *Compass*. "Nobody was interested in going for that long."

Yulki's ordination is evidence of the importance of this ministry. "Yulki's ordination as a Priest is very significant for Aboriginal leadership," said Joy, "it is a model for future generations of Aboriginal women who might aspire to Church leadership."

In reflecting on her role as Priest, Yulki sees that she has a ministry of evangelism to the people of Groote Eylandt. "I am a Priest now" she stated. "I see it myself that I am a fisherman, going out catching people in other places and catching all the people for the Lord."

Having indigenous leadership is an important step in growing the church on Groote Eylandt and around Australia. Yulki takes with her an understanding of the indigenous framework of the island, allowing her to present the saving words of the gospel in a culturally appropriate context.

"The church sits at the rub between two cultures" Bishop Thompson reflected on *Compass*. "Between an Indigenous culture which is thousands of years old in this place, connected to this land, and the

Church which brings with it the Gospel... so in this church [on Groote Eylandt] the language of the people and the language of Christ come together."

With Joy's retirement comes the close of a chapter of BCA's involvement with Nungalingya College. The Society will

continue to look for opportunities in partnership to ensure that the work carries on and lives continue to be touched by the gospel.

However, as Joy retires, BCA does not wish to lose her

valuable insight into indigenous matters. As such, Joy will be retained as the BCA Consultant on Indigenous Matters. It is foreseen that this position will provide support when any appointments or growth within the Society contain an indigenous aspect. With a commitment to best practice for all people impacted by BCA, Joy will endeavour to provide a cultural context for any decisions made.

BCA continues its support of the Northern Territory Youth Minister, Bruce Chapman. Pray for Bruce as he continues to minister to the youth of the Territory, in particular as he builds up young people in leadership. There is much work to be done in the Territory, many ears to hear and hearts to be changed.

Source: *Compass* programme Yulki: Arnhem Land Priest 7 November 2010



**A PLEA FOR
FURTHER SUPPORT**



Calder Highway roadside near Wycheproof, Victoria

STOP PRESS

As we go to print the towns of Tully, Mission Beach, Cardwell, Silkwood and Innisfail have just born the brunt of Cyclone Yasi's 285kph winds. Cairns and Townsville have been spared major damage. Whilst there have been no reports of deaths or serious injuries, Queensland has again been devastated. Please refer to our website if you wish to make donations for the relief of those affected by the cyclone. www.bushchurchoaid.com.au

As Queensland started to clean up, Victoria found itself gripped by the news that rivers were rising and that peaks would occur in a matter of hours.

Those hours lengthened to days and people were left waiting to see what the rivers would do.

The Society is very grateful to those who donated so generously for the flood relief in the Dioceses of Rockhampton and Brisbane. The donations received have been allocated to relief in those Dioceses and have been forwarded to Archbishop Phillip Aspinall in Brisbane and Bishop Godfrey Fryar in Rockhampton for distribution amongst those parishes and parishioners who they find in most need.

In the meantime the Diocese of Bendigo in Victoria has appointed the Revd Tracey Wolsley (ex BCA Eaglehawk, Victoria) to the position of Flood Recovery Ministry

Coordinator. For the past 2 years, Tracey has been involved in fire recovery and will now be required to operate as a bridge between official recovery teams, parish communities and Municipal Recovery Managers in the City of Greater Bendigo, Loddon and Mt Alexander Shires.

Bishop Andrew Curnow has advised us that over half the Diocese has been flooded with widespread inundation over some 15 parishes (at 23rd January 2011).

"As you can imagine, the impact is quiet devastating" Tracey said at the end of January. "From almost the very southern parts of the Diocese to the northern regions hundreds of houses, farms and businesses have been inundated with floodwaters, and countless livestock lost...in some towns 80% of the population has been affected. At present we are still facing major flood

Continued over

Flood Relief Ministry

warnings in some areas and the full extent of these recent downpours is yet to unfold. Needless to say, the recovery process will take months, even years with some businesses and farms really struggling to survive."

The impact of the floods follows years of hardship throughout Victoria. "In a region that has already faced 13 years of drought, and was greatly affected by the Black Saturday Bushfires, the floods have brought the plea for added support."

BCA has responded to this plea for additional support and has undertaken to support Tracey in her role of coordinating the relief and ongoing ministry.

Apart from liaising between officials, Tracey will liaise with the clergy in flood affected parishes and support them as they ascertain the needs of their parishes. She



Damage to road near Ouyen

will also listen and encourage those who are struggling and in need of assistance and pastor those in the flood affected communities.

To our valued supporters – we appreciate your support to maintain the continuing ministry of BCA but this is a special one off (we hope) event, and therefore ask that if you can find some extra to support this appeal and Tracey's unique ministry in the Diocese of Bendigo then we would certainly appreciate your additional support.

Tax deductible donations, if required, can be made to the Kirkby Trust, otherwise donations to the General Ministry Fund will be used for ministry to those affected. Secure credit card donations can be made via our Website, indicating Tracey or Bendigo in the Comments field or you may use the tear off slip below:

Please accept my donation of \$ to **BCA's Kirkby Trust for Flood Relief... OR**

Please accept my donation of \$ to **General Ministry for Flood Relief (not tax deductible)**

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

BCA Field Staff Orientation



In mid-January Field Staff from around Australia gathered for our first orientation course.

Those who were either beginning service with BCA or beginning a different Ministry with BCA (such as Arthur Tanner moving from the outback of SA to Island Ministry) gathered at Newtown for a week of learning, fellowship and mutual encouragement.

Michael Stuart showed us how not to do a deputation which was a learning experience for us all. Max Boyley who is the BCA Nomads coordinator spoke about the history and blessings that result from this wonderful Ministry. Robyn Williams and Brian Roberts along with the other Regional Officers talked about how BCA operates and who does what.

Pastoral care is an important priority for BCA. Ian McGrath and Royce Thompson presented the Mental Health First Aid course over the first two days. Knowing what to do when (not if) a mental health crisis arises, will be of great help to our staff. A barbecue at the BCA chairman's place on Wednesday night was fun after working hard. Thank you Fred and Jill!

As BCA grows, the need for this orientation course has become apparent. Staff conferences can only be held every three years due to the cost, however regular orientation courses like this are very cost-effective as we can train small groups of staff as the need arises.

Ian McGrath

Qld and Nthn NSW Regional Officer

Ministry Experience and Encouragement in Broken Hill



Emily spent time working in the Community Garden

In 2010 BCA launched its short term mission programme. The aim of the programme was to connect individuals with BCA ministries to provide experience in ministry around Australia. The first person to complete a short-term mission was Emily Shields, who went to Broken Hill for three weeks in November.

With an interest in mission, Emily completed an Associate Degree in Theology through Sydney Missionary and Bible College in 2010. It is a requirement of this degree to complete a cross-cultural mission experience. As a Canadian, Emily chose her cross-cultural mission in Australia "I figured I was already overseas so was cross cultural enough and I was interested in finding out more about Aboriginal ministry" she explains.

Emily was able to experience the ministry in Broken Hill as a fly on the wall, along with getting some practical experience. She got a feel for many of the ministries there including hospital visits, the community garden of Broken Hill, a

women's computer group run in the BCA Hostel, prison ministry, youth work and many other relationship-building ministries in which Neville Naden is involved.

Through Neville's example, Emily was encouraged in practically living out her faith. "He visited people who were poor and people who were sick" she says. "He was doing all these things that the bible encourages us to do. It would be great if many more people were able to do that."

Some of the opportunities that were present in Broken Hill also provided great encouragement. During a prison visit to meet with those in charge, Emily described how the suggestion of bible studies was met with enthusiasm from non-Christians. "It was really interesting to see that the men in charge of the gaol, while they weren't Christians were not opposed at all to the bible study. They were actually excited about them."

When asked what she would say to someone considering short-term mission, Emily enthused about the benefits. "I

think short term missions are amazing. People say how you shouldn't do them your whole life and should settle down somewhere. In my current situation they are great because you get to test out where you think God might want to use you."

Emily reflects that her time serving in Australia and experiencing indigenous ministry here has given her an interest in finding out more about ministry to Native Americans in Canada. "In Canada there are not a lot of programmes catering to the Native Americans. It was encouraging being here and hearing about so many different



Emily with the Nadens - Kathie & Neville

organisations working with indigenous people."

If you would like to 'test out' a mission opportunity, or even just experience what mission in Australia is like, contact Chris Baxter for more information at chris@bushchurchaid.com.au or on 02 9262 5017.

Source: Phone Interview with Emily Shields

**SEND
US YOUR
STAMPS!**



Thank you to all those who have been donating stamps to BCA over the years. The stamps have raised a large amount of funds for the Society.

We still need stamps! Please keep collecting and sending them in. We have a large demand for newer stamps (55-60 cent plus), as well as overseas stamps. We have little demand for older stamps as we have them in large supply.

If you have or know of anybody wanting to buy the older stamps or stamp albums please ask them to contact our National Office on 02 9262 5017.

Thank you for your support of the Society!

The Last Frontier

Nikki and I have now been in Kununurra (far NW Australia) for the past 2 years, how time flies!

The local Shire Council logo says 'the last frontier', making it sound as though we have stepped into a western movie!

It's been a road with ups and downs, but one in which we have clearly seen God at work. God is working his purposes out here in Kununurra and it is a great time to be involved in ministry here, teaching and explaining the Word of God.

Ministry and outreach here is diverse, because the town is different to most 'normal' towns. With thousands of tourists visiting each year, foreign backpackers coming here to work, a transient population who work only for a year or two for adventure and money, along with a large Indigenous population and a farming community that are much more long term.

We work hard on being a welcoming church to all the different groups that come through our doors. We have also been working hard this past year to encourage people in the church to be hospitable and to provide opportunities for Christian fellowship, with church dinners and a real highlight of the year being our church camp. This is the first of its kind here. One specific way we have encouraged hospitality is through running FISH (Food In Someone else's House) events which include all the new people in church.

We started a monthly Men's breakfast this year which has been a great success. Recently we loaded our 6 burner BBQ into



Nikki with Haul Pack



Men's Breakfast BBQ - Ord River

one of 4 boats and headed 50km's up the Ord River with 25 blokes to a sandy beach, where we cooked up a feast and heard from God's Word. It was a fantastic morning!

Indigenous ministry has also been a real focus in 2010. We have ministries in Wyndham and Kununurra specifically for indigenous people which includes church, bible study, street evangelism and prayer. We have also started an Indigenous Ministry Committee.

Our church is in a building phase. We are working hard to build up our ministries and ourselves in Christ. In 2011 we plan to continue to outreach in a number of ways.

Tourism is a major industry in Kununurra. We hope to start a tourist bible

study group for people who are only here for a week or two. The aim is to provide a space for them to come and be fed and feel part of a group. Backpackers are another group which have been put on our hearts to reach. We would like to start biblical English classes for the many Korean backpackers that come to Kununurra.

In terms of evangelism, there are a number of opportunities which we will be exploring and initiating in the coming year. We will be holding a revamped "church in the park" service which is evangelistic and seeker friendly. We also hope to have a stall at our local markets which are run during tourist season. We will also be running the



Gary & Nikki Alexander

course Christianity Explained this year for those who wish to delve deeper into what it means to be a Christian.

We are working hard to reach people for the gospel, but we need workers and prayers! Please keep praying for us and if you're coming through Kununurra we would love to welcome you!

Gary & Nikki Alexander Kununurra

With the impending retirement of long serving National Director, Rev Canon Brian Roberts, BCA is seeking a new dynamic team leader to oversee the Society's mission of "Australia for Christ."

Applicants must share the Society's passion for rural and remote Australia. The position is based in the Society's Head Office in York Street, Sydney but involves substantial domestic travel.

Applications (by 18 March) and enquiries should be addressed to the Chairman, Mr Fred Chilton, at the Society, Level 7, 37 York Street, Sydney or 0404-084-871



Parting Reflections

2010 has been an amazing year as we have learnt to trust God to reveal His plans for us, and wait for His direction.

We are sad to be leaving all our wonderful people here as we ourselves become part of the transient population. We really feel our people here are a foretaste of Heaven in their multicultural, multi-church experience mix and, for this, we really give thanks.

The Pilbara is an extraordinary mix of cultures and languages with workers coming from around the globe. In Ephesians 3 we read that God's "plan" is that in Christ all nations will be reconciled, making peace with each other because they have come to have peace themselves and with their God. This is that plan in action! African, Asian, Australian, Islander, European, Chinese, Pentecostal, Anglican, Catholic, Baptist all worshipping together and encouraging each other in our service of Jesus.

The work rosters make it very difficult for the men to attend consistently so



Carol and John Jenner

running a series on anything can be frustrating as they may only hear half of it. The long working hours means that Bible Study can't go beyond 9pm or half the room will be dozing! A combined church Men's Fellowship group has been running in Tom Price and that has provided a great opportunity for the guys to get together for study and socialising.

On the other hand our young Christian mums struggle to find fellowship and like-minded company, often missing the social life and stimulation of Perth. There is an expectation that the mums will get a job as soon as possible and there is a lot of mutual child-minding to that end. It's not an easy place to be if you are a young person and



Paraburdoo, WA

a Christian as the need for company must be tempered against the dominant party/drinking culture.

Mums Time has continued to be a valuable outreach of the Paraburdoo church with 15-20 mums coming on a fortnightly basis to enjoy some cool, childfree downtime while our diminishing band of minders care for their children. I think our record was 31 children! John baptised four children from one of our Mums Time lady's families, which was like the icing on the cake after nearly four years of caring contact with them! We had a great service, the children joined me for Sunday School and the whole family stayed for our regular Sunday lunch. John also baptised one of our own folk who has decided she would like to make a public declaration of her faith – another golden moment for which we thank God!

Our next chapter is a step into the unknown for us and the Temora congregation. We have not met them but

believe that this is where our Lord leads. We have been encouraged in our conversation with them at how their vision to develop strong and supportive Christian community is so similar to ours and the things that we have tried to achieve here.

Through all of this time we have treasured working with each other and our great God! While we have missed seeing the girls and their boys it has been a wonderful time of drawing closer to each other in service of our Lord and His family here, and one we will never forget. God has been so gracious providing us with all we need and more, and your prayerful support has been tangible and very appreciated!

We are thrilled that Bob and Denise Rothwell are coming in February as locums for 12 months for the parish while our Bishop and BCA look for a permanent replacement for us. Please pray that many of the new families coming in 2011 will join our wonderful diminishing church family! •

John and Carol Jenner

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@bushchurchaid.com.au**

Seeking Small Holes in the Pilbara



Karratha Anglican Church

If you have spent any time around missionary organisations and missionary conferences then you will be very familiar with Jesus' words in Matthew 9:37-38 "Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Farming metaphors are abundant in Scripture, preparing the ground, ploughing, sowing, watering and reaping the harvest, all well known and familiar pictures in the lives of those Jesus lived amongst. And indeed this is the world of the gospel minister in the lives of those whom God has sent him to bless. But, as any farmer

will tell you, some of these things are easier to do in some places than in others.

Land that has deep rich topsoil, an abundance of nutrients and plentiful rainfall, quickly and easily returns a crop of similar abundance. But land that is hard and rocky, lacking any depth of soil and deficient in the nutrients and rainfall needed for plant growth is passed over by the farmer and used for other things. Perhaps that is why there is not much (any) crop farming in the Pilbara and lots of what is known as 'hard rock' mining.

I read a quote recently that was attributed to a Christian minister elsewhere in Australia. He described gospel ministry in his area as "like ploughing concrete". I had not thought of it in those terms before but realised that he was describing perfectly ministry in the Pilbara.

Keeping with the farming/mining metaphor, it takes a special plough to cut that sort of ground. I knew a lady once on a station property who had planted a number



Karratha township, hard soil

of trees around her home. I asked her how she had managed to plant and grow such beautiful big trees. Her answer surprised me, "drill a small hole and drop in a stick of dynamite!" No spade, no machine, was powerful enough to dig a hole in the hard ground but dynamite did the trick.

What do we need to break the hard soil of people's hearts in the Pilbara so that we can sow the seeds of the gospel? We need dynamite. The apostle Paul says in Romans chapter one that he is not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Rom 1:16). Now if we could just find something

to drill that little hole.

This is ministry in the Pilbara. We've got the dynamite. We just need that small opening in people's hard shell to drop it in and watch it do its transforming work.

Praise God that over many years in Karratha and Dampier we have seen God's Gospel explode in people's lives, transforming them into new creations. Our numbers are small, the ground is hard, but God is faithful. Please continue to pray that God will show us those little holes. •

Les Gaulton

BCA Field Staff, Karratha

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).

In the meantime, Fantastic Aussie Tours has bought out Christian Fellowship Tours (CFT) and we have teamed up with them offering two of their tours to our supporters this year. Please note that these are CFT tours travelling through BCA centres. It is planned in 2012 to offer a specific BCA tour and details of this will be made available in the second half of this year. BCA tours provide significant support to Field Staff and increased supporter awareness of the Society's field work.

Outback Queensland & Central Australia

21ST MAY – 12TH JUNE 23 DAYS

Travelling through - Narrabri, [Lightning Ridge](#), [Roma](#), [Emerald](#), [Longreach](#), [Winton](#), [Boulia](#), [Mt Isa](#), [Barkly Tableland](#), [Tennant Creek](#), [Devils Marbles](#), [Alice Springs](#), [Yulara](#), [Coober Pedy](#), [Roxby Downs](#), [Leigh Creek](#), [Arkaroola](#), [Broken Hill](#), [Menindee](#), [Nyngan](#), [Blue Mountains](#)

Romance of the NSW Outback

28TH JUNE – 6TH JULY 9 DAYS

Travelling through – [Tamworth](#), [Coonabarabran](#), [Warrumbungles](#), [Narrabri](#), [Moree](#), [Lightning Ridge](#), [Bourke](#), [Cobar](#), [Mudgee](#)

(THOSE IN BLUE INDICATE OVERNIGHT STOPS)

For further information or to request a brochure, contact your Regional Office or email BCATours@bushchurchaid.com.au

April Bottom Scholarship Award For 2012

Applications are being invited for the 2012 April Bottom Scholarship, worth \$8,500.

The April Bottom Fund is administered by BCA and assists one child each year from the Anglican Parish of the West Darling to undertake secondary or tertiary education outside the parish. Scholarship funds can be used towards tuition fees, text books, boarding fees, or associated expenses.

April was a unique person - full of fun, life and vision with a Christian commitment. She was 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. April served on the Allison House Managing Committee until the time of her death.

She was a regular member of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Menindee, NSW, which is now incorporated into the Anglican Parish of West Darling. April had a deep respect for the work of The Bush Church Aid Society and particularly its commitment to provide Anglican Ministry to people in remote parts of Australia.

April and her husband David, ran Wirryilka Station for many years and experienced first-hand the difficulties of having their children educated.



Matthew Schmidt, awarded the 2011 April Bottom Scholarship

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS ARE INVITED TO REAPPLY

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.

The 2011 recipient, Matthew Schmidt from Eldee Station, some 56km north west of Broken Hill in far north western NSW is about to embark on his University career. Matt completed his HSC in 2010 and has received his offer for a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Adelaide - his first preference. The Scholarship will pay for Matt's accommodation while he boards away from home.

Applications for the 2012 April Bottom Scholarship close on 26th August 2011. The Award recipient will be advised in October and announced in the Real Australian Summer edition.

If you know someone who would benefit from this Scholarship or you are interested in obtaining further information please email robyn@bushchurchaid.com.au or telephone 02 9262 5017.

Applications can be downloaded from our website: www.bushchurchaid.com.au

BCA Outback Tour Report

In September 2010, the BCA Tour once again wound its way throughout inland Australia. Tour participants finished the tour with both a wider experience of life in rural and remote Australia along with a clearer understanding of BCA and the need for the Society's ministry.

South Australia's Regional Officer, Vivien Bleby, was blessed to attend the tour. She reflects on the encouragement that the trip was to many.

"Twenty three people from NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and WA joined the BCA Outback tour for what turned out to be an informative and happily relational tour. After initial gearbox trouble before departure time, a substitute bus was found to get the tour to Roxby Downs on schedule.

There were opportunities for me to talk about each of the towns we visited and talk about the involvement of BCA along with some of the joys and challenges (even difficulties!) present in these places.

Cooper Pedy with the Palmers was much anticipated and met expectations, troglodyte and all. Worship at the Catacomb Church on Sunday morning followed by lunch in Daniel's Den gave the tour a taste of outback hospitality.

The chef and kitchen hand at the Desert Cave Motel joined us for a late night conversation during their 'smoko'.

We talked under the stars about Christian faith and life's problems and it has lead to an ongoing contact with Peter. One never knows when these conversations might happen!

Down the Oodnadatta Track, seeing water in South Lake Eyre and on to Leigh Creek had a sense of travelling through the 'real' outback. We were able to catch up with the Tanners as they prepare to leave and hear how the town is facing the reality that it will not be a mining town in 10 years time.

The final stop was at the Willochran Diocesan Office at Gladstone where Michael Hillier

spoke about the Diocese and how it ministers in the isolated areas that make up much of the Diocese, a very different experience for many on the tour who came from well resourced city parishes."

Vivien Bleby SA Regional Officer



To experience outback Australia, come along on the 2011 tours.

There are two tour options, for more information see the advertisement on page 19

Post & Rails

WELCOME

Isabel Robyn Watson is the newest member of the BCA family. The fourth child of Jim and Natalie Watson, Co-Workers in Kununurra, Isabel was born on December 30th - both mother and baby are healthy.

Peter and Lee Casperonn are our newest BCA Co-Workers. Peter and Lee will move



to Hay in the Diocese of Riverina at the end of March where they will become involved in the life of the community.

At the request of the Bishop, they will explore Special Religious Education in State schools, undertake Bible studies and explore ministry opportunities in Booligal and Carrathool. The appointment is for an initial 12 month period.

Tracey Wolsley (ex BCA Eaglehawk) has been appointed Flood Recovery Ministry Coordinator for the Diocese of Bendigo and



in northern Victoria. After working the last 2 years in fire recovery her role now is to liaise between official recovery teams and the community,

with the clergy and pastor those affected by the floods. 80% of the population has been affected in a region that has already faced 13 years of drought, and was greatly affected by the Black Saturday Bushfires. BCA will support Tracey in this role.

FAREWELL

Tom Slockee

Last November, the Bishop of the Diocese of the Northern Territory sadly announced the resignation of Revd Tom Slockee from the position of Canon Missioner. Tom cited personal reasons for his decision to leave.

The Rt Revd Greg Thompson

commented that "in the brief time that they have been with us there has been great signs of God's work among us, with much encouragement. They have made many friends and will be sorely missed. I recall with thankfulness Tom's ability to communicate the gospel so clearly to the Arnhem churches when he travelled with me".

BCA supported Tom's ministry since 2003, firstly in Mogo and in 2010 in the Northern Territory. Pray for Tom and Muriel as they settle back into Batemans Bay.

John and Carol Jenner have moved from Paraburdoo/Tom Price to the parish of Temora in the Diocese of Canberra and

Goulburn. Their term at Paraburdoo completed in early December when John and Carol took some annual leave

before commencing in Temora. At the end of 2010, **Jim Leftwich** retired from the position of Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of North Queensland. Please pray



for Jim and Lala as they adjust to the changes that this will bring.

Faye Fraser has completed her term in Batemans Bay at the end of last year and has taken up a position as stipendiary staff in the parish of Wagga Wagga, NSW. Pray as she forms new relationships and adjusts to the different environment.



Norfolk Island

Bishop Forsyth has advised us that the Diocese and the Church of England on Norfolk Island are unable to supply that which is needed for a full time chaplaincy placement. Their intention is to continue the current locum placements using retired clergy. BCA has indicated that if the situation changes they would be willing to consider forming a new partnership.

ON THE MOVE

Arthur & Jane Tanner have now made the move from Leigh Creek to Flinders Island.



Arthur was inducted on 16th December last.

CONGRATULATIONS

Past BCA Field Staff were recognised in the Australia Day honours – both **Bill and Jocelyn Ross** were awarded the Order of



Australia (OAM) – Jocelyn for service to the community, and to education as a teacher of young people with a hearing

impairment; and Bill for his service to the Anglican Church of Australia, and to the community of Port Hedland.

VALE

Revd. Charles James Winter

'Jim' as he was known, trained at Moore College and was ordained in the Diocese of Melbourne. After service as Assistant Curate in the Parish of St Thomas' Essendon (now Moonee Ponds) he served with BCA 1959-61 at the Orroroo Mission in South Australia and 1961-63 at Leigh Creek. From 1963 to 1996 he served as Chaplain at Mentone Boys' Grammar School, a magnificent thirty three years. He was for a time an Army Reserve Chaplain from 1964. In more recent years he has been an unofficial Chaplain to Melbourne Girls' Grammar School. Although a very private person, Jim enjoyed the company and companionship of friends, especially in the school community. He was a person of strong evangelical conviction. We give thanks for Jim and his ministry.

Continued over

VALE

Revd. David Griffin

David was BCA's Missioner in charge of the Mid-West Mission based at Port Augusta from 1983 to 1987. He regularly covered his patrol area along the Trans Australia Railway line to Cook, as well as the townships of Roxby Downs and Andamooka. During this time, David obtained an unrestricted pilot's licence which proved an invaluable asset in getting around his patrol area quickly. During his term at Port Augusta, David left

the Anglican Church and was appointed to the Presbyterian Church in Sunshine, Victoria following his service with BCA. He and his wife Margaret felt strongly that they were being led out of the Anglican Church into the Presbyterian fold – a conviction that had grown over a number of years.

David was married to Margaret and they had two children, Suzanne and Andrew. He will be sadly missed and we thank God for his ministry. •

A Bishop's Thanks

From the Bishop of North West Australia

As Canon Brian Roberts prepares to conclude his long and effective ministry with BCA, I write to express the appreciation of our Diocese and myself for his supportive and generous ministry as the National Director.

We would also like to thank Brian's wife Denyse for the huge slab of time that she's done without Brian while his ministry has taken him all over Australia, including visiting our Diocese at least once each year. Only last October Brian preached at our Centenary Synod Service and gave a BCA presentation during our Synod Missionary hour. We shall miss his visits.

As readers of *The Real Australian* will know, BCA has partnered with our Diocese



for 56 years in supplying Gospel Ministers to our more remote parts. Brian has been part of this ministry for 24 years, firstly as the NSW Regional Officer and for the last 19 years as the National Director.

To give you some idea as to the high regard in which Brian and BCA are held in the North West, in 2001, my predecessor, Bishop Tony Nichols and our Diocese honoured Brian and BCA by making him an honorary Canon of the Diocese.

We wish Brian and Denyse well as they step down from this role and slow down a little. We pray that God will provide a worthy replacement for Brian in due course. •

Sincerely,
David Mulready

Councillors Column

My first contact with Bush Church Aid was in the late 90's as the guest at a BCA annual dinner.

In 2005 I became actively involved after a BCA Nomad trip to North West Australia.

The difference between common or garden-variety grey nomads and BCA Nomads is that this entailed using part of our holiday time visiting BCA parishes and being available to assist at their request.

On our return, after a presentation on our trip, we were asked to join the Regional Committee.

Regional committee has been an interesting journey. Let's face it, committee meetings are committee meetings, and there are housekeeping matters that always have to be dealt with. However the main purpose is to place the Field Staff and support them in their ministry of spreading the gospel.

There is a saying that I have always loved that says "bloom where you are planted". Often people think of missionaries as those who go overseas to Africa or third world countries. Our BCA Field Staff are also missionaries, right here in Australia. There are so many remote and lonely places right in our own back yard where there are people who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

We could almost interpret Acts 1:8 to say, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in the deserts, the ranges and



the islands of our land and to the ends of the earth"

I would encourage anyone who is interested in becoming more involved to do so. You could be a BCA Nomad, encourage your church to become a link parish,

nominate for the Regional committee, receive our prayer notes or dare I say it, support us financially.

Jeannie Woollard

Jeannie serves on the BCA Council. She has been married to John for 45 years and has lived in Sunbury for 42 of those years. A retired teacher, Jeannie was ordained in 2007 after training at Ridley College. She is currently Priest in Charge at St Luke's Sydenham.

STRAINING TO READ YOUR PRAYER NOTES OR REAL AUSTRALIAN?

Take the trouble out of reading what is happening around Australia. Large print *Prayer Notes* and *The Real Australian* are available on request.

If you would like to receive the large print version, contact your Regional Office by phone or email info@bushchurchoaid.com.au

Notice of Annual General Meeting



THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

for the purpose of adopting the audited accounts of the Society for the financial year ended 31st December, 2010 and to elect Councillors

MONDAY 16TH MAY AT 9.30AM

ANDERLEDY LODGE, 80 WILLIAM ST, NORTH SYDNEY

Queensland and Northern NSW

Saturday 12 March, 2011, 9.30am

St John's Wishart, Cnr Mt Gravatt Capalaba Rd and Greenwood St, Wishart

Followed by the Bush and Bible Day

Registration 10am, first session at 10.30 to conclude by 3pm

Hear from Rich Lanham about his ministry at Gilgandra

Revd Andrew Ford from Moore College will give the Bible talks.

\$10 including lunch, morning and afternoon tea

RSVP by 9th March 2011 3349 9081 or marj@bushchurcaid.com.au

South Australia and Northern Territory

Saturday 2nd April 2011, 12 noon

Christ Church, Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide

Hear from Peter and Joy Palmer along with Grant and Kimberly Hay

\$15 to cover the costs of the provided lunch

RSVP by 23 March 2011 to SA/NT Ministry Centre 08 8351 5950

Victoria and Tasmania

Friday 6th May 2011, 6.30pm

St John's Anglican Church, 1 Burgundy Road, Heidelberg 3084

Hear from Rich Lanham with an update from Revd Steve Weickhardt.

\$25.00 per head to cover a 'Farmhouse Buffet' for dinner

RSVP by Friday 29th April victoria@bushchurcaid.com.au or 03 9457 7556

New South Wales and Australian

Capital Territory

Thursday 7th April 2011, 12pm – 2pm

BCA Boardroom Level 7, 37 York St Sydney

Hear from Peter and Joy Palmer, BCA Field Staff at Coober Pedy

RSVP by 1st April 2011 to Vika Ta'ofi on 02 9262 5017 or vika@bushchurcaid.com.au

Light lunch provided, a small donation to cover lunch costs would be appreciated

Western Australia

The BCA Rural Mission Forum and AGM 'Jesus In The Bush'

Saturday 7th May 2011

Holy Cross Anglican Church, cnr. Aintree and Glendale Ave, Hamersley

Rural Mission Forum:

8.45 am (for a 9am start) – 12.30pm

Bible Studies:

Revd Peter Smith, Rector of Dalkeith

Speaker: Derek and Amanda McCartney

Lunch will follow at 12.30pm then the BCA AGM at 1.30pm (for any and all BCA Supporters)

Cost: \$35 per head (\$30 concession) for the day; \$15 (\$10 concession) for Lunch and the AGM.

RSVP by 29th April 2011 to 1300 554 025 or wa@bushchurcaid.com.au

From the Archives

This month we think of Leigh Creek, where BCA Ministry commenced in 1961, and in the Real Australian of June 1967, Revd Ernie Carnaby tells of the town and the early days of BCA Ministry there.

"You may well ask why a town exists there at all. Purely and simply to mine by the open-cut method, very valuable coal seams, some of it only 50 or 60 feet beneath the surface.

Leigh Creek township has a population of about 1,200. The town is completely seweraged and all roads within are bituminised. One is amazed to find 10,000 trees and shrubs, which

have been established along the streets and in reserves. Dust storms are frequent, and summer shade temperatures of 110° - 115°F are quite usual.

Into this situation BCA has been called to minister the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Society supplies the town and its 'outlying' centres with a clergyman. The parish or 'mission district' covers two-thirds geographically of South Australia, touching the borders of WA, Northern Territory and Queensland (250,000 square miles).



One quarter a 'patrol' is undertaken through Marree, Oodnadatta, Earnabella, Musgrave Ranges and Coober Pedy. Twice a year finds the clergyman tackling the Birdsville Track up to Birdsville and then returning on lesser known Strezlecki Track through Betoota, Arrabury, Cordilla Downs and Innamincka.

Besides the arduous travelling, he is expected to maintain regular services in Leigh Creek and to be a pastor to God's people there. Why does he choose this work? He is caught up in the motto of BCA - 'Australia For Christ' and feels constrained to take the

precious good news to those in sparsely populated areas of our great inland. Every personal contact he makes is for the sake of Jesus Christ, whether the person be railway worker, station owner or manager, stockman or school teacher."

With the significant decline in population in Leigh Creek the Diocese has appointed a retired minister and re-arranged the patrol responsibilities to other clergy.

Clem Kirkby
Hon. Archivist

Gift Catalogue

Surprise the children in your life this
Easter with Billy the Bilby!



BCA 018 Bilby \$15.00

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

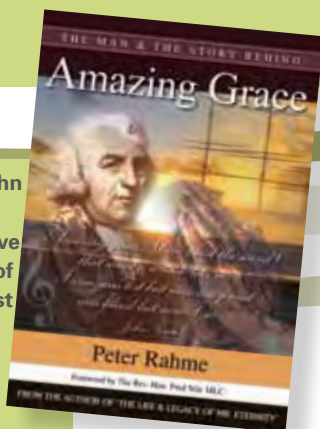
Music that teaches the truth of God's word to kids!



BCA 210 10,9,8 God is Great \$24.95

BCA 221 Jesus Rocks the World \$24.95

The story of John Newton: from captain of a slave ship to author of the world's most recognised hymn 'Amazing Grace'



BCA 128 Amazing Grace Peter Rahme \$7.95

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

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



Billers 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

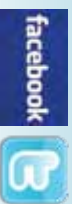
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