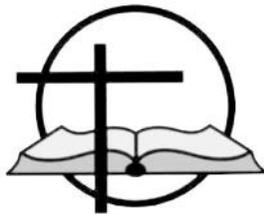


November 2021



BELONGING PEOPLE



The Assembly Board of the Baptist Union of the NT



SCRIPTURE UNION
NORTHERN TERRITORY



Invites all SU volunteers, supporters and staff to the

2021 Thanksgiving Service

SU would like to say thank you to you for your efforts in serving and supporting Scripture Union during this past year.

It doesn't matter what program you have been a part of — by physical participation, prayer, or supporting SU in some other way — we are wanting as many people as possible from all of our programs to attend.

We have decided to change the date to November 27th for 2 reasons - locally (in Darwin) there are 2 other significant events with other Christian organisations on the 13th of September, and also, on this new date, we will be joining others from around Australia who have also been involved with SU ministry nationally. There will be hubs of people coming together from all around the country.

PLEASE NOTE: change of date

Saturday, November 27th

Starts @ **4.30pm** sharp

Casuarina Baptist Church

44 Dripstone Road, Casuarina

To help us abide by the NT Govt Covid-19 guidelines, it would be appreciated if you could please bring a clearly labelled water bottle for your own use. No food will be served at this event.

Please RSVP to ox.roberts@su.org.au by Thursday, November 25th.

For further information, please contact Ox Roberts - ox.roberts@su.org.au or 0408 603 098.



President's Message



Does anyone have a snorkel?

There is an ancient story that tells the account of the tribes of Israel, as they gathered along the shoreline of the Red Sea. Having fled Egypt, the leaders met by the water's edge arguing with one another about who would go into the water first. There was no decision made and the level of anxiety and fear grew. Eventually Nashon, son of Amminidab, stood up and began to walk into the water.

He walked into the water up to his knees, but the water did not part; then up to his waist, but the water did not part. Up to his shoulders, then up to his chin, but the water did not part. Finally, he took the step that would have seen his nose go under the water, and it was then, that the water parted.

Nashon simply remembered why they were there, along with the promise that had brought them to this point.

The writer, Gil Rendle, tells this story because he believes that this is where the church is placed at this particular time in history.

Significant changes have taken place and 'there is no going back because the "back" that is remembered doesn't exist anymore'. And what lays before us is an uncharted wilderness. But the people of God have been in the wilderness before. Gil states that 'the wilderness changes people for God's purpose.... but the wilderness is a curious place for leaders to lead. By definition, one must lead without being sure where one is going.' What is called for, is a people belonging to God who are open to 'discernment, discovery, and surprise', and what is called for in a leader is 'quiet courage'.

May we all remember why we are here, along with the promise that has brought us to this point. Then, with a quiet courage, trust our LORD and Saviour as he leads us in the wilderness, by his Spirit.

Blessings,

***Mal Good
President***

BUNT Assembly 2021

Darwin Baptist Church



Darwin Baptist Church was the venue for this year's Assembly held on Friday evening 17th September and Saturday 18th September.

Guest Speakers were Rev. Mark Wilson and Rev, Dr Melinda Cousins while Karen Wilson was also a welcome guest. The Assembly kicked off with a BBQ Dinner on Friday evening and a time of worship. Assembly Speakers and guests were introduced.

The Saturday program was full and fast moving. Mark Wilson spoke on Humility and later led a Conversation Forum with Melinda Cousins, Mike Mills and Karen Wilson.

In the afternoon, at the Baptist Care NT AGM, delegates heard from Acting CEO, Peter Chandler about the important work of Foodbank and the service they are providing around the NT.



Then followed the BUNT AGM with an introduction from President Mal Good in which he noted that both BCSA and BUNT have appointed taskforces to work together on amalgamation discussions.

Talks with Nungalingya College are ongoing in regard to the training of Baptist indigenous Christian Leaders and Ben van Gelderen, Principal of the College, spoke to the Assembly about the possibility of a formal partnership with BUNT.

Reports were received and the Outcome of the BUNT Elections was announced and the BUNT Board members introduced. Later the Board members were invited to the front and Melinda Cousins prayed for them.

The current BUNT Board is:

Mal Good - President

Neil Wright - Vice President

Rosa Malpartida - Treasurer

**Mal Sercombe - Immediate Past
President**

Mike Mills - Director of Ministries

Lincoln Agnew

Toni Rehrmann



Great Fellowship around the table

Grateful thanks to the hardworking DBC team, who provided a wonderful Friday BBQ, Saturday morning tea and lunch and helped with the catered dinner on Saturday Evening. To all those 'Behind the Scenes' workers. You are so appreciated too.

It was indeed a memorable and blessed 2021 Assembly.



Andrea Adams



*See more photos
on page 27*

Lajamanu Bush Camp

The Church at Lajamanu has been going through a bit of a low time. There have been many funerals and Sorry times. Added to this, the isolation caused by Covid has limited the opportunities for regular visitors to the community and church to give encouragement.

The Church Leaders felt that it was time for a Bush Camp where the ladies could get away and spend time with Wapirra without the daily distractions and demands they face.

So one weekend in September, a group of them went bush. They camped a little way out from the Community and came together to pray and talk about where each one was standing with Wapirra and with their church.

Lynette Tasman, a Church and community leader, reports that the ladies came away 'really lifted up and back on track'. Praise God for the faithfulness of these ladies in seeking Him and waiting on Him.

Lynette Tasman

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Pray for the Lajamanu teenagers and young people with the many issues and challenges they face.

Pray for Christian Families at Lajamanu as they seek to be a witness to the community

Pray for the Lajamanu Church Leaders

Praise God for the recent Bush Camp and the ladies who experienced the presence of the Lord there.

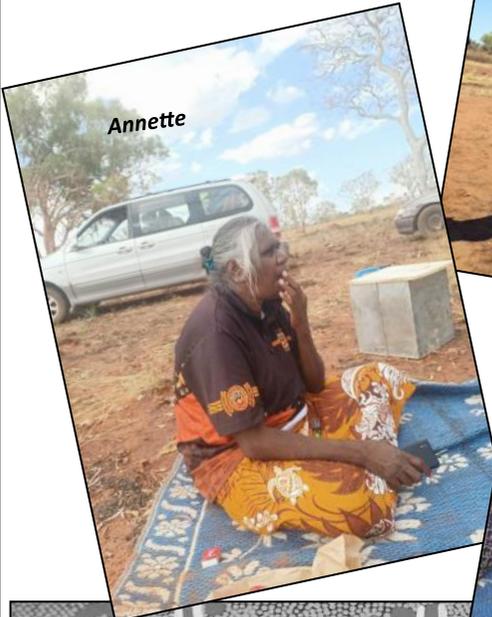




Bible Study Camp continues back at Church out of the rain



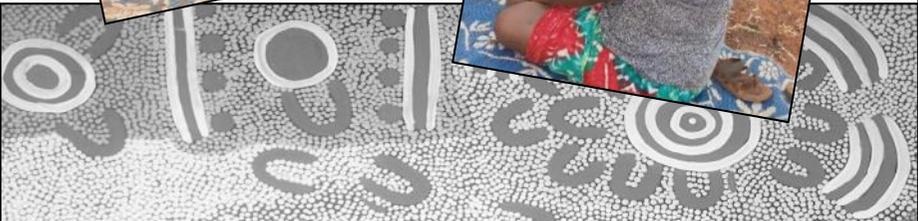
Nikita with nephew Tykeen



Annette



Lorraine





What's Just Prayer all about?

Just Prayer is a weekend of prayer for people around the world to meet a Jesus who speaks their language. You can pray by yourself or with your church or small group, for as much or as little of the weekend as you are able. Global Interaction has developed resources to inspire and inform your prayers for the world and for our intercultural teams.

We believe that all people should have the opportunity to hear the

message of Jesus in a way that makes sense to them.

In their culture and language. However, there are still millions around the world who have never had that opportunity. When 99% of the world's Christian resources and workers remain within communities who already have access to the Gospel, we have to ask the question... *Is this just?*

During Just Prayer, we invite you to join with believers across Australia in praying for world and for Global Interaction's teams.

Just Prayer continued:

How can you get involved?

There are so many ways to engage with Just Prayer as church, small group or individual! Here are some ideas*:

- Include Prayer for the world in your regular service prayer
- Share *Just Prayer* resources with your congregation or small group and set time aside to pray
- Invite creative prayer responses as part of a prayer event or in place of a sermon
- Pray through intercultural workers' newsletters
- Invite an intercultural worker or candidate to share at your service
- Identify a common activity and pray a quick prayer each time you do that activity across the weekend



*This is far from a complete list!
Head to the *Just Prayer* resources page to explore

www.globalinteraction.org.au/JPresources

If you have questions about resources or how you and your faith community can get involved, then contact us via

info@globalinteraction.org.au or 18 00 329 165.

Let's pray expecting God to move!



Click on the QR code to go straight to the **Just Prayer** Homepage

On the Road Again with the Anderson Family



During a month long road trip from Yuendumu to in September, the Anderson family, not only had a much needed holiday but also visited a number of the remote churches along the way, Ali Curung, Kalkarindji and Lajamanu, meeting up with people and enjoying the fellowship. In Darwin, Mat attended the NT Baptist Assembly and also a Trauma Course, while Shannon and the children, Beth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel, had fun sightseeing and swimming in the pool at the caravan park. A week at peaceful Lake Bennett with time to relax, swim and play was also enjoyed by all the family.

On the way home, the family, joined by Melissa, their helper, stayed several days in Kalkarindji. Shannon writes,

“We enjoyed a Wednesday night sing-along on our last night. It was another encouraging night, so lovely to hear the songs and testimonies of God’s people. The ways He is calling them to serve, providing for them and healing them. We serve a wonderful God and it was so great to be able to share in that time together. So after nearly a month travelling, we very happily made it back to Yuendumu. We travelled just over 4500 kms and met up with so many wonderful people and saw some great parts of God’s creation. We feel really blessed.”

PLEASE PRAY

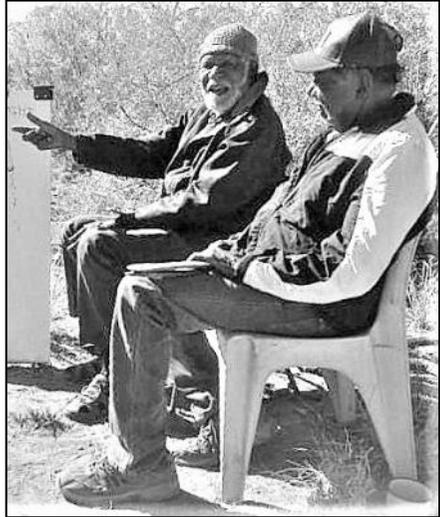
For the Outback Churches

Ali Curung, Willowra, Yuendumu, Kalkarindji and Lajamanu

- **Pray** for the fruit of the Holy Spirit to grow strong and true
- **Pray** for the leaders as they hold out the light of Christ in often challenging situations
- **Pray** for more Support Workers, like the Andersons, who can walk alongside these churches, ministering by their presence.
- **Pray** for the leaders at Yuendumu to have wisdom through challenging times

For the Anderson Family

- **Thank God** for safety in travel
- **Pray** for a good settling back into Yuendumu
-
- **Pray** for the family to have energy and good sleep
- **Praise** God for his work in deepening the roots of faith even in places unseen



Darwin Baptist Farewells

Graham Drake

GRAHAM JOHN DRAKE

16.11.1949 - 16.07.2021

Committed servant of the Lord, precious husband of Di, adored father of Peta, Kelsey and Adam and grandfather of eight precious and loved grandchildren.

“My body is not doing too well, but it is well with my soul”



It was with great sadness that Darwin Baptist Church said bye to our brother and dear friend, Graham (Gra) Drake, in July. Gra was much loved and well known for his strong Christian faith and heart for the poor and vulnerable. We are so thankful for his gospel witness and the fellowship we shared with him.

Gra grew up in Melbourne, Victoria. He attended Haileybury school, where Rev. Frank Elmore

encouraged Gra to know, live and worship God and do good to others, a teaching that stayed with Gra all his life. He came to faith in his teen years, encouraged by this grandparents' example.

Gra met Di through ballroom dancing when he was 20 years old. They became engaged after six weeks, married after six months and spent more than 50 years together.

As well as blessing the couple with three wonderful children, God gave them a deep love for the poor and marginalised. They spent many of their early married years opening their home to children who were wards of the state, living on the street or had been released from juvenile detention.

Gra and Di even opened a coffee shop for street children – a ministry that soon expanded from serving coffee, to bible studies and prayer meetings – while Gra sold the family car and bought an old transit van to collect children for fellowship and study nights. Eventually he and Di become the operators of Montrose House, a crisis care facility in Victoria.

After they moved to the NT, Di and Gra – a teacher and social worker by trade – became involved in outreach at various organisations including Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation and Baptist Care NT’s Food for Life.

“Dad taught us how to live,” said Adam, Gra’s son. “He taught us that it’s our job to be out in the community loving others. We are Christians through our actions, not just through our words.

“Dad put on my heart to go out and get busy, so I reckon he would want you to do the same. Whatever your backyard is, go and get your hands dirty and live for Christ, just as Dad did.”

Kate Woods

BELONGING PEOPLE

This issue of Belonging People, as well as past issues, can be found on the BUNT website. www.ntbaptist.org.au/belonging-people/

The Paddock is Ready to Harvest in Katherine!

Katherine Baptist Church is now without a pastor since Ernie 'crossed the border' and we are keen to recruit someone into that role. In the meantime, we are enjoying the help from local people with capacity to preach or do Bible talks. Being without a pastor provides opportunities for our congregation to use their giftings, 'have a go' and work together. Katherine is blessed in that local churches work together too: 3 are now without pastors.

Feel free to spread the message that Katherine has a strong sense of Christian community, has good collaboration between local churches and is small enough that a pastor can get to know people well. Katherine has an 'outback' rural feel while still having many services. Perhaps you know someone who would be willing to take a 'Godly adventure'.

But mainly, we believe that wherever God places us, and no matter how long for, then that is the place and time for us to pursue walking with God and serve Him in whatever ways we can.

The paddock here is looking ready to harvest, and in such an affluent country as Australia, we wonder where the workers are who are ready and willing to work in the paddock. We hope that people are not trapped in consumerism, affluence or 'the good life'. A full life is on offer if we follow Jesus.

Cynthia Prime



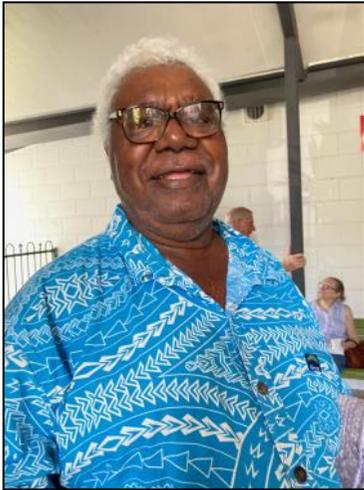
KBC Musicians playing outdoors during the recent lockdown

Baptist Union of the Northern Territory New Email Addresses

BUNT President, Rev. Mal Good, president@ntbaptist.org.au

BUNT Administrator, Priscilla Howard, admin@ntbaptist.org.au

Perry Johnson of Yuendumu



Perry Johnson is a leader in the Yuendumu Church. During October he was attending Nungalinya College in Darwin for a Bible Course. The editor had the privilege of talking with Perry one Sunday recently about his role in the church at Yuendumu. He clearly loves the Lord and is an encourager to the people in his community.

Perry feels led by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus and says it gives him a real joy to do this. He also has contact with the Christians at Willowra and Murray Downs and at times visits with them to pray and study the Bible.

Perry has an amazing photo on his phone. It was taken recently by a young man while Perry was reading the Bible in Church. A bright shaft of light can be seen clearly falling on Perry from above. It did not come from an electric light in the church. Perry and others believe it was the Holy Spirit shining into the lives of the believers in the Church.

Perry also hastened to say that his account of what he does was certainly not meant to praise himself but to glorify the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for this humble servant of the Lord and for the people he serves in Yuendumu and surrounding communities





Introducing Danny and Beth

Danny and Beth Hunt are Global Interaction candidates preparing to join the team in Outback Australia to partner with Indigenous believers.

They have always enjoyed interacting with other cultures, and their relationships with those serving in many different countries. Living for a time in country NSW, involved them in an Indigenous training college community, and connected them to life in the Northern Territory.

Danny and Beth met while studying at the Bible College of Victoria. Originally a secondary school teacher, Danny has served for over thirty years in pastoral leadership.

They are excited to be a part of the Outback Australia team and supporting Indigenous leaders. They are keen to learn from and walk alongside others in encouraging national reconciliation, and are committed to share the hope Jesus brings.

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for Danny and Beth's willingness to serve God and walk alongside Indigenous believers and faith leaders.
- Give thanks for the encouragement they will be to Mat and Shannon Anderson.
- Pray for deep cultural understanding and humility as Danny and Beth listen, learn and uplift Indigenous people.

Behind The Scenes at Cornerstone

Behind The Scenes is the title of Cornerstone's new quarterly newsletter which reveals that much is going on at the Cornerstone Christian Church in Darwin's rural area.

Pastor Neil Wright encourages the Church family, "We would like to pull back the curtain and give you a peek at what you are involved in supporting in our church and the local community. It is only the continued support of each member that allows this work to happen."

Kids and Youth

The Youth Group, known as FeDS (Fellowship, Devotion and Service), lived out their service by organizing and running the **Cornerstone Kids**

Carnival. Parents were invited to stay and chat while the kids enjoyed themselves.

Nikki and the team from Youth and Judith from Cornerstone Kids were thanked for holding such an amazing event.

The Cornerstone Kids are about to embark on a learning journey about the Fruits of the Spirit on Sunday mornings and the Youth have started a series on the parables as part of their Friday night youth gathering.

Connect Groups

The Connect groups meet throughout the year to offer support and growth in relationship. This year participants have been using the S.O.A.P principle to focus on the Word of God.

Don't know what S.O.A.P stands for?

S Scripture
O Observation
A Application
P Prayer



Café and LifeHouse

The café has been going from strength to strength and is now in a position to trial funding a ministry position for LifeHouse, which will be developed over the next few years. LifeHouse will train and mentor people, mainly youth, to gain life skills. A steering committee is being put together now to move this forward.

The café itself is becoming a 'local' for many people and was recently cited in a real estate ad as a selling point, being within walking distance of a local property.

The café serves delicious breakfasts, lunches and coffees and is open from Wednesday to Saturday. Corner Cafe is also providing a safe and non-threatening space to which 'churchies' can invite their friends.



*The busy
Corner Cafe*

*Cornerstone
Kids Carnival*



Hear Us, See Us with our Karen Community

On Saturday, 19 June, a Refugee Week event was held at the **Casuarina Baptist Church**, raising awareness of the issues affecting our Karen refugees (from Burma / Myanmar) and to help the broader community understand what it is like to be a refugee.

This was especially meaningful, as it followed closely after the military coup in Myanmar on 1 February 2021, which ousted the lawfully elected government and brought in a military junta, bringing terror and trauma to all of Myanmar's people.



The Covid pandemic is also running rife in Myanmar with many deaths due to the scarcity and expense of vaccines. Most Karen families here have lost loved ones back home to the Covid virus.

On this special afternoon the Karen folk shared cultural performances, music and wonderful food with the audience. A carefully scripted presentation, by several Karen people, revealed different aspects of their former life –

The Karen village before fleeing to life in the Jungles for hiding and refuge from the attacks of the Burmese Army. Then life, often for decades, in the Refugee Camps on the Thai/Burma border and finally the challenges of navigating resettlement in Australia.

The Karen are indigenous people whose traditional homeland partly borders Thailand. For generations, they have been persecuted because of their ethnicity and religion. Most Karen are Christians.

The Karen people resettled in Australia, have come as refugees under the UN Humanitarian Refugee program. About 15 Karen families live in Darwin now, consisting of about 50 people. They are a close knit community, holding onto their culture while growing into the Australian way of life. Some of their young adults are studying at a tertiary level and others serve in the Australian Defence Force. Horticulture, health care, education, commercial cleaning and the primary industry sector are other work environments.

Casuarina Baptist Church is the spiritual home for many Karen. They participate in the regular Sunday worship service and other church ministries. Their own service in the Karen language is at 12:30pm on Sunday. Casuarina Church is truly blessed to have the Karen as friends and fellow worshippers.

The NT Karen Community is grateful to the CBC leadership and the church family, for its strong and generous support and encouragement across 14 years of pastoral care, friendships and through the ministries of Casuarina Baptist Church.

Di Gronow
Andrea Adams





First 'Live at Lunch' Concert With Foodbank Fellowship



With great excitement, Foodbank launched their first 'Live at Lunch' mini concert on Thursday, 30th September at Casuarina Baptist Church at the regular Food For Life

By all accounts, it was a fantastic morning with over 100 guests served a delicious BBQ lunch provided by Lauren Moss, Member for Casuarina and Luke Gosling MP.

Many guests ate their BBQ lunch inside the cool of the church seated at tables and enjoyed the live music concert.

This was provided by two talented Foodbank musicians, Rod Alivia, (Food For Life Co-ordinator), and Paul Wyatt, (Community and Corporate Relations Manager).

A huge thank you goes to the champions from the Darwin Men's Shed who cooked the BBQ under the direction of super volunteer Joyce, to Lauren Moss MLA and Luke Gosling MP, and also thank you to the Casuarina Church Food For Life volunteers and clients for making this event a success.

Look out for the next one!

WE SERVE, WE CARE.



Rod Alivia and Paul Wyatt from Foodbank entertain the crowd.



Food for Life clients at the Foodbank Barbecue



Baptist World Aid's 2021 Ethical Fashion Report

Baptist World Aid's 2021 Ethical Fashion Report finds lingering gaps in wages and sustainability.

Fashion companies are investing more than ever in ethical sourcing, but their efforts still aren't reaching garment workers, according to the 2021 Ethical Fashion Report launched by Baptist World Aid Australia this month. The Christian development organisation has released its latest fashion scorecard for close to 100 Australian fashion companies representing 428 brands, including its first new A+ to F grades in over two years.

Twenty companies received an A+ or A, 55 received a B or C and 23 received a D or F this year.

"Consumers have influenced hugely positive progress in encouraging the fashion industry to become more ethical and sustainable," said **Peter Keegan, Baptist World Aid's Director of Advocacy**. "But these scores show us we're not there yet."

Forty percent of companies improved their score in 2021 compared to 2019, with positive shifts in supply chain tracing and transparency and use of more sustainable fabrics.



Because Baptist World Aid is committed to caring for the world's most vulnerable, this year's report is troubling due to the industry's lack of progress in initiatives to empower garment workers. The average company scored a D for their actions on wage improvement, worker unions and complaints processes.

The number of companies paying some workers in their supply chain a living wage dropped from 20 percent in 2019 to 15 per cent in 2021, a decline attributed to the economic impacts of the COVID crisis. Consequently, garment workers in countries where Baptist World Aid works like Bangladesh lost more than US\$16 billion dollars in wages.



In addition to the pandemic, the report reflects the industry's need to reduce its impact on climate change. Though the number of companies with a commitment to reduce emissions has risen by 10 percent since 2019, the total with a climate strategy is still less than half of those assessed in 2021.

Also new this year is an explanation of how a company's score out of 100 aligns to the familiar A+ to F grades, with the average company scoring 33.6. Keegan says this shows that although the industry is moving in the right direction, it still has a long way to go.

'We want to encourage people to continue to choose more ethical brands to buy from,' he said. 'And to keep encouraging their favourite brands to do better for garment workers.'

Chantelle Mayo

Chantelle Mayo is a communication specialist at Baptist World Aid.

For more information on the Ethical Fashion Report visit baptistworldaid.org.au



Baptist Financial Services

Old fashioned generosity in a new cashless age

Do you remember Mum or Dad passing you some coins to put in the plate? If you pass the basket around the congregation these days, you may well find it's a little light. It's not that people are less generous, but they are less likely to carry cash and maybe that's a good thing for the church.

As Solomon said, there is nothing new under the sun. Christians have always been called to generously provide financially for the ministry, mission and mercies of the Church.

Remember this:

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

This isn't really new; people have been giving online for a while now. With everything from home loan payments to Pay TV subscriptions coming out of our accounts regularly, it's the new normal.

Whereas people might have once been in the habit of deciding on Sunday morning what they should give, online giving requires a more thoughtful approach – and perhaps a more generous one as a result.

However, it can be confronting for churches to know how to handle this revolution in giving. Short of publicising account details, how do you encourage faithfulness in giving? Or clarify the difference between regular giving and special fundraising drives?

Baptist Financial Services has recently revamped a product called **Giveway** to answer this need. We understand that churches do not want or need to make things more complicated for their congregations. **Giveway** has been designed to make it secure, simple and painless for people to give regularly online, without high fees. There are benefits to the church team too, as there is no need to count or deposit cash, and the risk of cash being stolen is eliminated. Reporting is built into normal Campaigns to make life easy for the Treasurer.

Giveway can even produce Tax Receipts for deductible campaigns, ready for when July rolls around.

Yes, it's different to pulling out the wallet on Sunday and peeling off a few notes, but the new generations can pull out their phone and click on a QR code instead. It's no less generous, and is still drawn from a heart that loves Jesus. And just maybe it's actually better. See more at www.giveway.org.au

Glen Thornley
BFS State
Relationship
Manager SA & NT
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gkent@bfs.org.au



**2021 BUNT
ASSEMBLY**

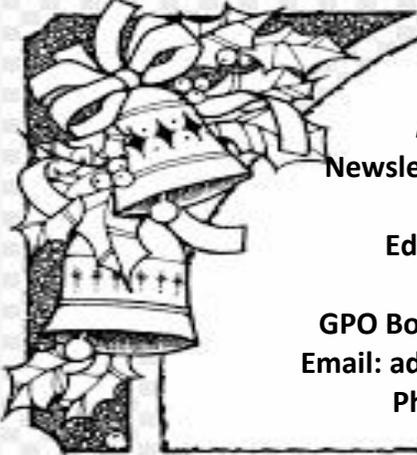
*Blokes relaxing at
BUNT Assembly*



*Melinda Cousins prays for
the BUNT Board*



An enthusiastic performance at the Karen Community event held at Casuarina Baptist Church in June. See pages 20 & 21



Belonging People
**Newsletter of the Baptist Union
of the NT**
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