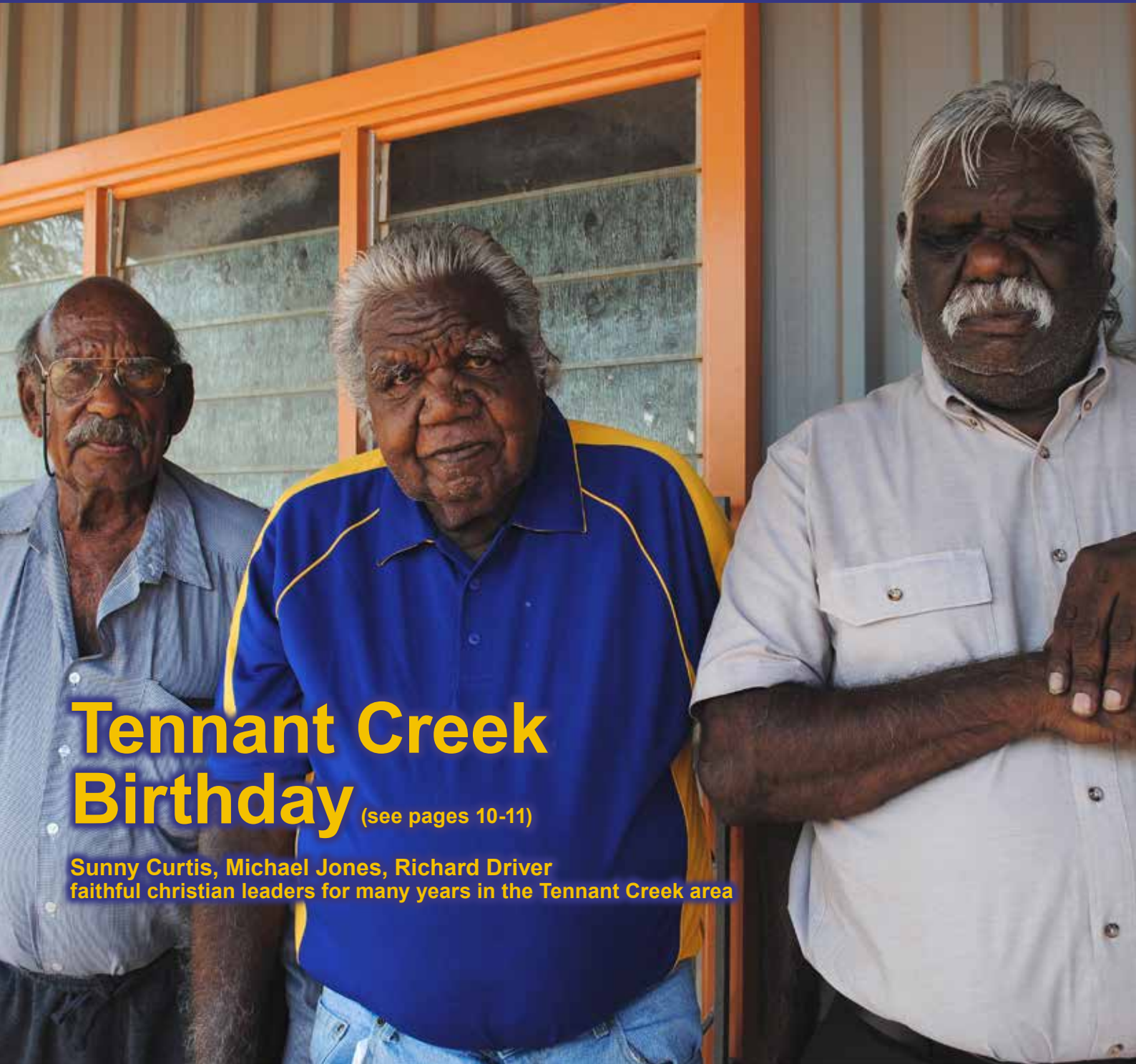


# The Aim

[www.aimpa.com](http://www.aimpa.com)

November 2013 — January 2014



## Tennant Creek Birthday

(see pages 10-11)

Sunny Curtis, Michael Jones, Richard Driver  
faithful christian leaders for many years in the Tennant Creek area



**Australian Indigenous Ministries**



# Helping Hands in Rockhampton

by Jandalyn Mitchell

In March we had a dedication of children at a Sunday service at the Rockhampton Aim Church. That was a very special time for us — and from that God brought a wonderful provision and blessing to our church.

*Kadeem Tully and Dale Cope* were among the visitors who came for that special service. They noticed that rain had begun to seep through in the front porch. On closer inspection they found that some of the slats had moved on the roof and it really needed to be repaired soon.

They came and asked us about getting it fixed up. Actually, they offered to fix it up *for us*! All we had to do was supply the materials — the labour would be done in love!

We were more than happy with such an offer! So they kindly looked into all that needed to be done and what materials would be needed for the job. How we thank the Lord that these men not only fixed up the roof, but also put new guttering around the church! When the men were working, another fellow came to inspect the job. It was wonderful because he ended up staying and helping them finish the work off!

**'Thank you Father for these men and the work they have done for you and this church. Lord we pray for these lives. May they come to know you as their Lord and Saviour. Bless them in their respective work, and for the work they did here for us.'**



**Kadeem Tully and EJ Mitchell**



**Kadeem Tully, Jason, Dale Cope**



# School's in!

by Grace Wright



**D**ifficulties with schooling can arise wherever your family lives. In a lot of places, there are other choices, other schools. In Camooweal, far northwest Queensland, the choices are limited. So when things were not going well at the local primary school for our eldest boy we decided to do School of the Air with him at home.



Manoah, Elijah, and Tjanara

It was out with the dining table and in with a school desk. So far, the advantages have outweighed any disadvantages and Elijah is much happier which we thank God for. After a few teething problems for Mum (algebra in Year 3?!!), Elijah and I are getting used to being student and teacher.

**Please pray for them, for the added patience and energy they both need as it requires Grace to be teaching five or so hours a day. At this stage, Tjanara is staying at the local school and they plan to send Manoah there for Prep next year too. Please remember all our missionary children in prayer.**

## Men's MEETINGS

**T**he second Men's Meeting was held at Rockhampton AIM Church on 6th-7th September. The opening meeting was on Friday evening and others were held on Saturday. Three men came from Palm Island and the rest were from the Rockhampton Church. The attendance went up to 11. Unfortunately the group who had planned to come from Cherbourg were not able to due to a local funeral.



The theme was taken from Genesis 3:9 about God's call to men to come out of their hiding. Everyone enjoyed the sharing from *Brother Bill Power, David Chambers and Emmanuel Fave*.

**Next year we hope the Cherbourg men will host the event around the 1st weekend of September.**



# Millie Mick — Thompson

by Richard Davies

**M**illie was born close to Wauchope south of Tennant Creek in 1946. She was educated at Ali Curung (Warrabri) and in Adelaide.



While living in Ali Curung during the time Rev. Laurie Reece served as missionary, she heard the Good News message about Jesus and gave her life to Him while a teenager.

In the early 1960's her family moved to Avon Downs where she met Raymond Mick, a bore runner and later Police Tracker. They married and had 5 children.

The Police moved the family to Tennant Creek and Raymond realised that they needed a safer place to raise the children. He resigned from the Police and started working for the local resource centre for outstations. In 1984, Raymond, Millie, Janet and all the family moved to Canteen Creek (Owairtilla) where his father (Mick Butcher) went for bush holidays.

I first met Millie in 1985 in the AIM Tennant Creek church yard. We had recently arrived from Sydney to help the Tennant Creek church.

She walked up to me and said in a strong, straight-forward way, 'Hello my name is Millie Mick and I am a Christian!' During the 28 years that we knew Millie, she was always strong-minded and a straight-talker. You knew exactly where you stood. I met her husband Raymond at

Epenarra a few months later. After I introduced myself, he said, 'I want you to come to Canteen creek and tell my people about Jesus.' And so began our association with Canteen Creek.

From 1985 to 1986 Canteen Creek and Epenarra enjoyed a Christian Revival with both communities having the bulk of the people accepting Christ as their personal Saviour. In 1986 Millie and 7 others from Canteen Creek were baptised in a waterhole by Sunny Curtis, one of the senior leaders in the Tennant Creek church.

For many years, Millie ran Sunday school from inside her corrugated iron humpy, before there were any houses built. Later she was able to use the school for the large group. She also trained as a Health Worker and spent many years working in the Canteen Creek Health Clinic.

She spent some time studying at Darwin Bible College. Esther Mackintosh and Rhonda Coats who were on staff then recall how Millie had been very impressed with the spiritual maturity of Queenie Simon from Borrooloola. When Millie went back to Canteen Creek she encouraged the others to join her on a visit to see Queenie and have fellowship and outreach there. She later commented, 'We didn't know how far away Borrooloola was! But we loaded into a few Toyotas and went — we kept going because that is what God wanted us to do.' And several people in Borrooloola came to the Lord during that visit!

## Millie's Family Shared:

*Even though she went through hard times, she never gave up on Jesus and kept trusting God even when she got really sick. She passed away still talking about the Lord. While in Tennant Creek Hospital as she got weaker, she would put her hands together and look up at the ceiling and we would hear her mumbling 'Jesus'.*

*The comforting time was when we were all around her bed and she went very peacefully and we felt a happiness knowing that she was going to be with her Lord. This happiness overcame our sadness and even anger at losing her.*

**Her Christian witness, leadership and strong presence will be missed greatly by us all.**



4 Millie (top right) with Sunday School kids



# VISITING Borrooloola

by John Keane — AIM Chairman

**‘E**verybody ought to know, everybody ought to know, everybody ought to know who Jesus is!’ This song, which concluded the first Sunday service in the church at Borrooloola after we arrived, was quickly adopted as the team theme song — and how fitting it was.

This is the second year a group from Caringbah Baptist Church has visited the AIM Church at Borrooloola, and I had taken the opportunity to join them for part of their visit. They have committed to a long-term relationship with the people of the Borrooloola Community Church *‘that will grow and bear fruit in the Lord’s ways and in the Lord’s time’*. In Romans 1:12 NLT we read *‘When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.’* Mutual encouragement was in evidence on the trip, as they shared with one another the experience of Christ and ministry together to some who have yet to begin their walk with Jesus.

The team had no sooner alighted from the bus when an excited group of children gathered around and led the team members away for a game of street football. It was a time for re-establishing friendships which had begun the year before.

It was such an encouraging experience to attend church services, Bible studies, meetings out on community and sharing times with the local people. The team was invited to travel out to a beautiful and special water hole where they saw birdlife and water lilies. The next day we were taken to an even bigger water hole with small waterfalls flowing into it. Everybody enjoyed swimming and playing together, while establishing good relationships between the two groups in this beautiful setting.

**It was a real joy for me to spend part of the time with the CBC group at Borrooloola and to witness their love for and commitment to the Lord and to the Indigenous people there.**



John Keane and Caringbah team





# Neutral Bay visits

## Canteen Creek and Takes Something Back

Vicki with the children

by Vicki Wilkins

It was my first trip to outback Australia. In the past I had preferred to visit every other place in the world before exploring my own backyard. I was even a little shocked myself that I was so keen to visit a little community and church in the 'Red Centre' when the opportunity arose. And how thankful I am that I was blessed to meet the saints at Canteen Creek, and see how the Gospel of the freedom of Christ is working in lives.

Our church at Neutral Bay has supported *Richard and Sue Davies* for many years so in August four of us spent a week visiting them at Canteen Creek. We spent the time helping to teach Scripture in the school, running some events in the church yard, attempting to learn the local language, playing hours of sport with the kids, and also had some close encounters with wild donkeys!

Visiting the Canteen Creek Church really solidified for me how much the message of Jesus can liberate *all* people, no matter what their culture and life situation. While I always knew this to be true, seeing the joy in the faces of the kids we met and the living church there, drove this into my heart.

We had our church meeting around the fireplace — a tradition I thoroughly think should be adopted by all! I shared a little bit of my testimony during this time. I shared about how in the past I tried to find things in this world to fill the place in my heart where God should be — things like the freedom

of travel, material things, and the experiences of a partying culture.

After we left Canteen Creek, two of us went on a tour of Uluru where we were confronted with perfect examples of people living for these idols. Usually I would be happy to join in discussions about how fantastic these things were, however for the first time, the thought of living for these things alone made me grieve at their pointlessness. Nothing they were talking and bragging about came close to the goodness and salvation we have in Jesus. We were able to share the message of hope that Jesus brings with at least two people on this trip.

Now we are back in Sydney and settled into our city lives again. God has already provided a number of opportunities to share Christ just by mentioning where we had visited and why. The faith of the church in the bush and their witness to me has had a great impact beyond their community — even to the people of Neutral Bay.

**I have also been encouraging all my Christian friends, and reminding myself, that we are all God's missionaries wherever we are in life. God has given each of us our work and social networks. I am encouraging them to take the opportunity to be God's light wherever they are, just as the Christians in Canteen Creek are.**



# the Drovers Call

by Grace Wright

**W**hen people drive through Camooweal they often ask, 'Why on earth is this little town here?' The simple answer is that it was a droving stop in the old days due to the relatively permanent waterhole here. Every year that droving heritage is remembered with the Drovers Festival in August.

This year *Jono* was asked to take the church service which is usually part of the Festival. We saw this as a great opportunity because 'grey nomads' (retirees with their caravans) and old drovers flood into town for that weekend.

Christians from the Lake Nash church and from Epenarra community also came for the Festival to provide a band and to take part in musical items for the service. The band ended up playing twice on the Saturday as well and their Christian country gospel music was very enthusiastically received by the crowd. It was great to see tourists seeing a different side of the Aboriginal community than they are usually exposed to.

Jono spoke on Abraham, the 'old drover' who trusted God. At the end of the church service, the Lake Nash man who was leading the service called up all the Christians for a final song. Expecting just the local Christians, he was stunned when tourists joined us up the front to sing 'He is Lord'. Quite an experience for everyone there!



# New Mission Appointments

Chairman *John Keane* shares the following new appointments made by AIM Council:

## Mission Mobiliser

Unfortunately due to ongoing health concerns, *Cliff and Sue Letcher* have not been able to travel to the NT as they had been doing in his role as **Field Director**. This led to Cliff resigning from this position at the August Council Meeting. Because of his 20 years of experience and knowledge, the AIM Council was desirous for him to continue his involvement as a Council member which he will do.

At our September meeting he was appointed as a **Mission Mobiliser** for the Sydney area. His prime focus will be visiting Bible/Theological colleges in the Sydney area and taking opportunities for speaking in churches as Sue's health permits.

## Field Director

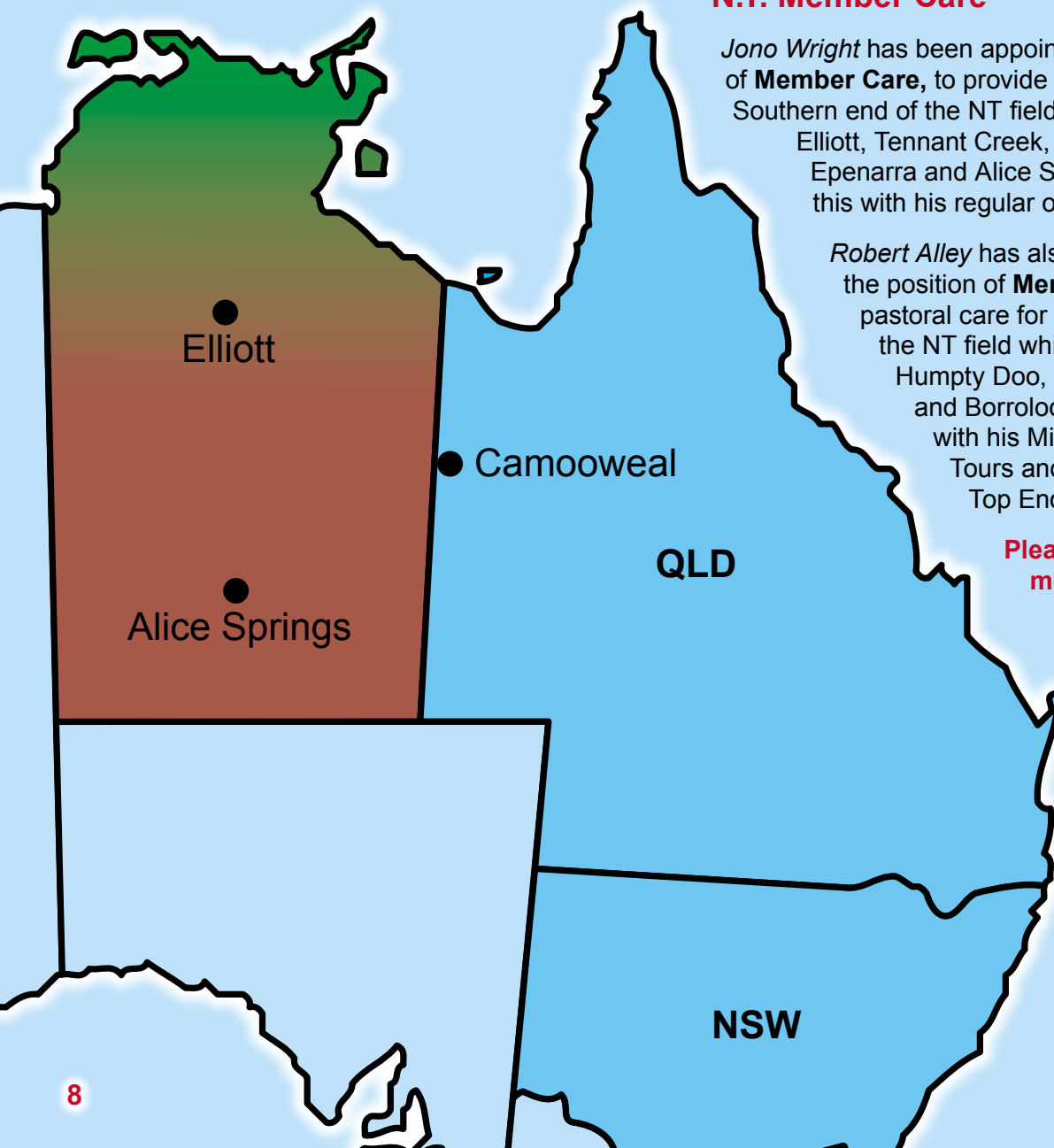
For some time *Stephen Bignall* has been serving as **Acting Field Director** as well as the position of **Member Care** for NSW. Stephen has been appointed **Field Director** with responsibilities as follows: He will provide pastoral care and oversight to AIM field personnel, particularly in NSW and Queensland, liaise with the AIM Church Council, and receive regular reports from the pastoral care personnel for the NT. He will make a full field visit once a year.

## N.T. Member Care

*Jono Wright* has been appointed to the position of **Member Care**, to provide pastoral care for the Southern end of the NT field which will involve Elliott, Tennant Creek, Canteen Creek, Epenarra and Alice Springs, incorporating this with his regular outreach trips.

*Robert Alley* has also been appointed to the position of **Member Care**, to provide pastoral care for the Northern end of the NT field which will involve Darwin, Humpty Doo, Katherine, Barunga and Borroloola, incorporating this with his Mission Awareness Tours and an annual trip to the Top End.

**Please pray for these men and their families as they undertake these essential roles.**





# Thank You *Cliff*

**W**ith Cliff Letcher being appointed as a Mission Mobiliser, it is as Sue has commented — *'It is like we have come full circle as this is similar to the work that he did when we first joined the Mission.'* It was back in 1994 that Cliff began as the Promotions Officer of AIM. He immediately began familiarising himself with the field work and workers. This all helped to prepare him when he undertook the role of President in 1997.

Restructuring of roles and responsibilities saw Cliff become the Field Director in 2004. By then Sue was free from home responsibilities and together they regularly visited the field, eventually focussing on the Northern Territory. The appreciation of the support and care given by Cliff and Sue has been expressed through the deep concern and rich prayer support shown them from all the centres throughout the long and difficult health problems Sue has been enduring.

Cliff endeavoured to include a means of learning and stretching of minds and understanding at conferences. He often invited folk from other organisations working among Indigenous people to share with us. The 'Storying' workshops he organised not only stretched workers but were also a wonderful means of creating a fresh sense of teamwork among the missionaries involved.

Cliff has brought many strengths to the roles he has filled in AIM. Among those have been his faithfulness to personal spiritual growth, willingness to listen and also to learn from others, honesty, integrity, and confidentiality. We are grateful for the service he and Sue have already given to AIM, and are thankful that he will continue to serve on the Council and in the role of Mission Mobiliser.



## Visitors *at* FESTIVAL

*The following interesting story was brought to our attention just before going to print.*

A past connection as a truckie in the cattle industry prompted a couple from the Top End to go to the Drovers Festival in Camooweal (see page 7). There was some apprehension due to all the bad news stories they have heard of outback communities and the people. But the fellow has returned having *thoroughly* enjoyed the atmosphere and thinking it was all really wonderful. He couldn't get over that there were no fights, no grog, and that an Aboriginal band had come in and *all* they sang were Christian songs. His wife thought that all of it was so good she plans to return and take the grandchildren next year!



# Tennant Creek Birthday

by Rhonda Coats

**‘W**e are here for the birthday weekend. But we are not really here to celebrate that building. We are gathering to celebrate Kampajju (Father God). He is the One who changed us.’ These wise words were shared by the long time church leader Michael Jones. He was one of the many members of the true church in Tennant Creek before the current AIM church building was erected 29 years ago.

A large number of the local Christians helped to make this birthday weekend of September 27-29 a great time of fellowship and sharing for all who gathered. Several women met early Saturday morning to prepare the food for the lunchtime barbeque. Others set up and managed the book shop which had an amazing amount of sales that day. They cooked, served and cleaned up, did the bus runs, led and shared in the meetings and happily chatted away with the various visitors throughout the weekend.

After *Deb McKerrell’s* long and complicated recovery from knee surgery, she and Bob were at last able to travel and conducted the ministry among the children. They were grateful to have the help of Rob and Jean Lyons. It was good to have the kids so well catered for while the adults attended their meetings.

As *Trevor Leggott* (General Director) was the speaker for the weekend, he encouraged the NT workers to attend for a ‘get together’ of staff. Most were able to attend and enjoyed lunch together at the home of *Eugen and Ruth Freudigmann* on Sunday. Council Chairman *John Keane* was also there and shared a devotional message and prayer with us before most began heading back to their centres.

**It was a delight to have shared again with the Christian family in Tennant Creek and to see God’s power continuing to change and keep lives for His glory.**









# A Testimony from Vivienne Knox

Vivienne has a long connection with AIM. Her parents were workers in Boggabilla. Her widowed mother then served in Woorabinda, Karuah and Retta Dixon Home. Vivienne attended Singleton Bible Institute and worked at Phillip Creek, Fingal, RDH, Karuah and Brisbane.



**G**od has a purpose in everything concerning your life and mine. There are several things which have happened to me in recent times which I would like to share.

## 1. Stroke In An Airplane

I was feeling somewhat alone with some problems to sort out. I got on the plane with these burdens overpowering me. About halfway into the trip I had a stroke. This did not affect me outwardly, but on my arrival at the airport I became so confused that I just sat there — not knowing what else to do or where to go.

At long last my daughter found me and realised that I was in a state of confusion. Two weeks later my doctor ordered x-rays and told me that I had suffered a stroke. She said *'You are one lucky lady. I have never heard of or seen this before. The stroke came up on the side of your head but stopped and did not touch your brain.'* I immediately said that it was NOT luck but my GOD and Heavenly Father who was watching over me.

## 2. Noises In My Head

Some time later I started to get noises in the left side of my head. It was the most horrible, stressful two months of my life and was very hard to take. It was told that stress, worries, troubles and torment happens on the left side of your head.

One night I was in terrible desperation. I cried to God *'Please help me — I need your help —*

*please help me.'* Two days later my Heavenly Father stopped those noises and completely delivered me.

There are quite a number of people who commit suicide because the noise in their head becomes too much to bear. I have known of several people who have ended their life because of such things.

## 3. Tumour In The Brain

Two weeks later the doctor ordered another x-ray. This showed clearly that I had a tumour on the brain. Another two weeks after that another x-ray showed that it was all clear. Once again this proved that *'He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.'*

## 4. Spiritual Growth And Blessings

I have grown to love God's holy Word. His Word has become so meaningful and an absolute blessing everyday. So often He gives me His message just for that day. Whether it is in times of disappointment, sadness or whether it is praise or lifting up my heart to Him, He knows exactly where I am at everyday. His Word has become so precious to me because I know the Living Word!

Many of you will be familiar with the poem 'Footprints' by Margaret Fishback Powers. That has been so true in my life — especially the ending line which says — *'The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.'*

## Homecall



**A**nother link within the AIM family has been severed with the homecall of Miss Grace Bartrop. Her father had signed the original constitution of AIM and served for many years as treasurer. Grace was always active in

prayer groups and auxiliaries for AIM and Mission Publications. She also spent her long service leave helping at the Retta Dixon Home. No doubt she has justly received the Lord's welcome of *'well done, good and faithful servant.'*





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