

# Dusty boots bring outback joy

Local kids responded with great joy when the Dusty Boots Mission team arrived in Wickham recently.

The team of volunteers from Youthworks College and Norwest Anglican Church in Sydney have partnered with Wickham Community Church to run a two-week mission each year in the Aboriginal community.

Wickham lay leader Naomi Warth said: "One highlight is seeing the utter joy on the faces of the children when the team rolls in.

"The local kids love the Bible and community activities and they really appreciate the love and unconditional acceptance they receive from team members."

Up to 200 residents, including more than 40 kids, heard about the love of Jesus through activities including breakfast club, afternoon kids' club in the park, Sunday church and community dinner around the campfire with singing and a Bible talk.

Wickham Chaplain Matt Warth said the community meals enabled one lady to reconnect with church.

"The Dusty Boots team had such a genuine interest in her and her family that she wanted to hang out with us. This reignited her interest in church and she began to come along on Sundays. We are praying that the grace of God will draw her to Jesus and that she becomes a regular member of our fellowship."



The relationships of trust that are built during mission mean that children reach out to Wickham church members during the year, long after the team has gone home.



**Support Matt and Naomi Warth to minister in Wickham. Go to: [www.anglicandnw.org/donate](http://www.anglicandnw.org/donate)**

## The Joy of Fellowship



Gary Nelson  
Bishop of the  
North West

Looking out the window presents a very different view from North West Australia. I see the fall colours of North and South Carolina, along with their cooler temperatures. Currently, I am visiting supporters in these states, speaking at churches, meeting key Christian leaders and sharing the work of our diocese with mission-minded individuals and groups. I am very thankful to God for the opportunity to fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ whose vision reaches even the North West.

'Making disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28.19) is our key focus as we seek to proclaim the gospel faithfully, anchoring all we undertake in the trustworthy Word of God.

The privilege I feel in visiting churches, groups and individuals has given me a new appreciation for the list of Paul's greetings that we find at the conclusion of his letters. The sense of gospel mission, and hence fellowship Paul shares with these people, is very encouraging. We see bonds stretching across the Mediterranean, centred in knowing Christ and making him known.

# Showing God's love to seafarers



Dampier Chaplain to Seafarers Jake De Salis (R) prepares to visit on board ship

**Dampier Chaplain to Seafarers Jake De Salis had just 30 minutes with a seriously ill seafarer named Bert before he was medevacked to Perth. In that time Jake told the mariner about salvation through Christ and they prayed together for Bert to come to know Jesus.**

Jake says this can happen at Mission to Seafarer Centres in the North West because the seafarers receive a genuine experience of the love of God from centre staff.

The seafarer's life is tough, spending up to nine months away from home as crew aboard giant ore carriers.

Mission to Seafarer centres provide physical, spiritual and emotional care to support them in their loneliness.

Jake had received a call asking him to visit Bert who had been hospitalised with severe gastrointestinal infection.

"I was there as salt and light for the sake of God because, in all honesty, I didn't want to go to the hospital that day," Jake said.

"But in the end, Bert knew that I was displaying something outside of myself for him to see. As a result we prayed that he would come to know Jesus and we prayed also for his family.

"We prayed for his young wife, his mother and his sisters. He talked about going to a church that a friend had asked him to attend but he had always declined."

"All of this was because Bert could 'see... good deeds and know to glorify your Father in heaven, and I praise God for that."

Jake says the Mission to Seafarers is a precious ministry.

"When seafarers visit a port, they find most people are there to earn money (and big money in the Pilbara). People only have a passing and mostly professional interest in seafarers.

"However, it is completely different at the seafarer centres. The chaplain, the drivers, the staff and volunteers all have a focused interest only in the seafarer. The seafarers love this display from us and they relish it."



**Want to serve God as chaplain to seafarers?**

We need two chaplains:

- **Dampier** (Jake is finishing up)
- **Port Hedland**

Go to: [www.anglicandnwa.org/vacancies](http://www.anglicandnwa.org/vacancies)

## The Joy of Fellowship contd

So, he writes in Colossians 4 of folk such as *Tychicus*, who 'is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord' (v.7) while he asks the Colossians to pass on greetings to the Christians 'at Laodicea', along with 'Nympha and the church in her house' (v.15). But Paul is also concerned that the church at Colossae is aware of the fellowship they share with his fellow workers. He writes (v.10ff), 'Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas ... and Jesus who is

called Justus. [They are] among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God'.

Friends, it is such a joy to fellowship in the gospel with you as you pray and support the work of the diocese. We continue to have incredible opportunities to bring the good news of Jesus to the

nations passing through our region, whether as iron ore miners, tourists, agricultural workers or seafarers. Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up more workers for his harvest here in the North West, especially for a minister in Exmouth, as well as, chaplains for our missions to seafarers in Dampier and Port Hedland.

Please accept our greetings and heartfelt thanks, whether you are in Australia or overseas, as we fellowship in *making disciples of all nations*.

# Slim Dusty and Jesus in nursing home

Do you ever get requests for Slim Dusty songs during your church services? As surprising as it was at first, this is now something our Broome team look forward to when they visit the local nursing home.

Earlier this year, the chaplain from Germanus Kent House invited the church to conduct a new service. She was keen for the nursing home residents to have the opportunity to hear the gospel and be encouraged in their faith. So now, a group of women from Broome Anglican Church and men from Broome People's Church come together to share the hope and love of Jesus with some senior members of the Broome community.

Chris Webb gives a short Bible talk and the Aboriginal men help lead the singing and the prayers. The ladies get alongside the residents to chat and pray for each person. The country style hymns are definitely the main drawcard and often lead Margaret to call for Slim and other country hits. Wendy also gets excited when the team sings verses of familiar choruses in her own Walmajarri language.



Elderly residents of Germanus Kent House in Broome love the church service

Dan, a retired Catholic priest, is greatly encouraged by the Bible exhortation and Mary is comforted by prayers for her health concerns. There are usually a few staff who overhear the gospel as well.

Stacey, one of the team from Broome Anglican Church says, "I enjoy visiting because of the joy the singing gives to the residents and staff." Having supported her own mum in a nursing home, Stacey knows firsthand the importance of this ministry.

Chris is excited by the way that members of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal congregations work together to show God's love to the wider Broome community. He says, "These little services are a great way for the men to serve others with the gifts that God has given them."



**Pray for residents of Germanus Kent House to be comforted by God's promises and put their trust in Jesus for eternal life**



**A big thank you from North West ministry worker families to all our mission partners who help make ministry in remote WA possible.**

## Fellow Workers Conference a highlight

A big challenge for gospel workers in the North West is isolation, so meeting together for our biennial Fellow Workers Conference is precious.

The rich fellowship, Bible study and encouragement spurs us on to keep proclaiming Christ and making disciples.



**Special thanks to MU for a grant to cover travel costs.**

# The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Can you serve God in the North West?

## ...in your later years?



Bill and Jocelyn Ross in Shark Bay with Patch

Shark Bay Minister **Bill Ross** has tried to retire twice. However, at 77 years of age he is still serving God in the North West alongside his wife Jocelyn. The couple minister in Shark Bay – a nine hour drive north of Perth. Next year will mark 50 years of their ministry in remote WA.

Asked why he wasn't spending time on the golf course, Bill replied: "There is no retirement in the Bible. We saw that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. God said 'go' and we went! How could we sit around and do nothing when the opportunity is there and the need is there?"

Bill has played an important role in raising up young ministers to lead isolated North West churches as he has discipled and worked alongside them for half a century.

In Shark Bay – a world heritage listed area – he preaches from the Bible each Sunday. During the week the congregation meets for Bible study and prayer. Bill and Jocelyn have joined every community group they know of and are praying that God will turn these contacts into connections for the gospel.

Go to: [www.anglicandnwa.org/vacancies](http://www.anglicandnwa.org/vacancies)

## ...by moving here to live?



David and Jenny Day in Kalbarri

Kalbarri Minister **David Day** would dearly love a ministry-minded couple to move to his picturesque tourist region and join the church.

"People don't realise what a great support it is to have a faithful

## Can you serve God in Exmouth?

We need a gospel-hearted worker  
• Minister-in-Charge, Exmouth  
Go to: [www.anglicandnwa.org/vacancies](http://www.anglicandnwa.org/vacancies)

Christian couple come to church regularly, be willing to serve wherever needed and seek to encourage the Minister and other church members.

"Many people come to the North West for work or travel but don't stay long so it's difficult to sustain new ministries. If you currently attend a healthy church, your church might be able to spare you and you could move here and be really useful for Jesus," he said.



## Pray for more workers for the harvest in the North West

### I'd like to support gospel ministry in the North West

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

I want to be a prayer partner.  
Please send me the North West Network & Prayer Diary

I'd like to give a gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
one off /monthly/quarter/year

Cheque (Please make cheques out to Diocese of North West Australia)

Electronic Funds Transfer

Bank Account Name:  
Diocese of North West Australia  
BSB 706 001 A/C No 3000 3846

Credit card \_Mastercard \_Visa

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please post this form  
(no stamp required) to:

Anglican Diocese of  
North West Australia  
Reply Paid 85267  
GERALDTON PO WA 6531

## Vale



**Tony Nichols**, Bishop of North West Australia 1992-2003  
**Rob Stubbs**, Minister-in-Charge Dongara-Mingenew 2010-2015

We thank God for their faithful and fruitful service to our Lord Jesus Christ in the North West and beyond.

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