



Allora Uniting Church
44 Warwick Street, Allora

23rd – 25th February 2024

Cunnamulla, Burke & Wills Remote Area

Please pray for...

- Guidance as I plan for 2024
- That my presence at community events is noted and positive
- That I maintain the strength and wisdom to reach whoever the Lord sends my way
- Safety while travelling

Report

Another eventful three months has past, and this report contains some of what I have been up to in The Cunnamulla, Burke & Wills Remote Area.

November began with me being commissioned in St Stephens Church Toowoomba. This was quite significant as St Stephens was the church where John Fylnn fellowshiped while in Toowoomba and we all know how I feel about him. This then was followed with my first presbytery meetings where I learnt a lot and met more members of the Downs team.

Upon returning to Charleville, I prepared to go to Birdsville to do some research as to what we need to do this year to open up the AIM Hospital Museum. It was a very successful mission though extremely hot (45 degrees). I spent 5 days photographing and documenting hospital items with Sam Watkins, one of Jenna Brooks employees. Sam has previously done this kind of work and is really enthusiastic in getting the hospital open. Before leaving Birdsville, I managed to catch up with Nelle & David Brookes for two hours, again establishing connections with Frontier Services.

After leaving Birdsville I connected with Christmas for the Bush Bash team, from Care Outreach in Windorah. For 13 years they have been holding a series of free concerts with sausage sizzles. I travelled with them, helping where I could with the set up and catering. I also brought along my popcorn machine and gave out free popcorn each night. Towns we attended over the ten days were, Windorah, Quilpie, Cooladdi, Tambo, Augathella, Charleville and Wyandra. These connections and exposure gave me many entry points into people in each town and I will look to be part of the Bush Bash team this coming Christmas.

One such opportunity that did arise from these visits was with a farming family near Morven that needed a farm sitter as their regular had to pull out. By me being available to do this allowed this family to attend well overdue medical appointments and have pre Christmas with their family together. If I wasn't there only one of the adults could go. This is vital work!

During that visit I had a call from ABC radio requesting a phone interview for Drive Time. Though the interview was short and awkward, I am praying that God used it some way to further His work. (it was fully approved by Frontier Services).

Another little win for me was being asked to be part of the Lutheran Ministers Induction service in Charleville. This again is a great example of the ecumenical work that takes place in our community.

A trip to Cunnamulla saw me supporting the Christian Childcare Service, other Christians, both first & second nations people as well as attending interagency meetings and rubbing shoulders with councillors.

Collaborations with Uniting Care's RAF girls, a morning tea at Blue Care provided by FS to strengthen connections and lots of Christmas cards and fruit cake distributed to

relevant community members. Then the year ended, not before sharing at Church in Gympie and Bli Bli Uniting Church about the work I am doing and Frontier Services!

2024, it's been a time of planning but attending lots of funerals (training), supporting the Blue Light Driver Training kids, being part of a working team for Remote Australia Matters. A weekend in Roma practising baptisms & burials as well as organise my first communion service in Roma with Dona (training). Lots of home visits and tea, walking, swimming and boxing to work off the tea. Some planning workshops for community events in Charleville and then a trip to Longreach.

19th January saw me attending the induction service for Donna Muston in Longreach and meeting her community. Did not think that I would be hanging out with the Moderator, and I would get him to follow my FB page. Through these meetings, I met Warrick & Rosemary Champion, elders at the church. Rosemary then became a valuable source of information for me regarding the Birdsville Hospital Project. A similar project had been done in the Muttaborra Hospital and because of Rosemary's connections, (Rosemary was born there). I managed a trip to Muttaborra to walk through the hospital. This in turn led to meeting a retired ER nurse who labelled all the medical items from Birdsville that I had no idea about as well as provide a source to some more items for the hospital. All in all, a very valuable trip as I also connected with leaders of churches in Blackall, Tambo and the butcher in Augathella!

January ended with being part of the opening of Acacia Country Practice, Charleville's first private medical centre. Doing the bible readings in the Catholic Church for the combined church service and spending two days supporting the school chaplain in Quilpie sort out his outreach second hand store.

The trainings I completed in this period were:

- Mental Health First Aid

- Sacraments Course
- Marriage Course
- JP (Qualified) Course

Recommendations

1. That this report be received.

Report Submitted by:

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If you have questions, please email before the meeting.