



WARNING: This publication may contain photographs of Indigenous people who are deceased.

# CHRIST IN THE CENTRE



NEWS FROM **FINKE RIVER MISSION** OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

**JUNE 2013**

*Above: left to right: Pastor Ken Schultz, Pastor Ray Morris, Evangelist Rodney Malbunka, Pastor David Kuss, SA/NT District President Pastor David Altus, Pastor Davey Inkamala and Pastor Rob Borgas.*



## Installation at Hermannsburg

What's inside:



### Meet Pastor David Kuss the newest pastor to join the ranks of FRM.

Pastor David is the first fulltime "fly in fly out" Pastor that FRM has ever had. He was installed on Sunday 24 March 2013 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermannsburg. The service was officiated by the SA/NT District President, Pastor David Altus. Assisting with the service was Pastor

Davey Inkamala, Pastor Rob Borgas, Pastor Ray Morris, Pastor Ken Schultz and Evangelist Rodney Malbunka.

Pastor Dave's calling to FRM fulfils a lifelong ambition he has held to live and work in the Australian bush and to be active in Aboriginal ministry. Dave has years of bush living experience having started life on Patsy Springs sheep station in the far northern Flinders Ranges of South Australia. When it was time for school the Kuss family moved to Verdun and then Mt Barker (which was a small country town then) where Pastor Dave went to school.

Dave spent most of his working life on the land as a farmer and livestock carrier. He finally decided to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and great grandfather by training to become a pastor at Luther Seminary in 1996 and was ordained in 2001. His first assignment was to Geraldton in Western Australia, where he claims he was prepared for remote ministry by the wonderful people of the Midwest Lutheran Parish.

Pastor Dave's passion for Aboriginal ministry is also driven by the opportunity of interacting with deeply spiritual people 'who see God's work through very different eyes, yet the spiritual perspective is the same as ours.' He has worked with aboriginal people in Geraldton, Murray Bridge, and Alice Springs. Pastor Dave is now called to serve in the Arranta area from Kulpitjarra in the west to Harts Range in the east – an area about the size of Germany or France.



*Pastor David Kuss is married to Ilona; they have 3 children, Samuel, Annemieke and Sarah. He is also the proud owner of a Harley Davidson and an Arab gelding.*

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# From the Executive Officer

*Hello to you all.*

I am writing this edition's column while working as the camp cook on our first Pastoral Bush Course for the year. These five day pastoral and theological training camps are conducted three times a year with instruction led by a senior teacher from Australian Lutheran College, supported by our own FRM pastoral staff. The settings for bush courses are usually near one of the many Aboriginal Lutheran communities spread across Central Australia, with attendances ranging from 20 – 35 men. Whilst FRM supply all meals and a tank of fuel to help the men travel home, these men come in their own time and at their own cost. Often they will travel over 1000-kilometres to reach a course location. Ingartas (Pastors) often bring young men from their community who are interested in furthering their Christian knowledge and understanding.

Instruction is given in English and then translated into various local languages to ensure understanding for all. It is often fascinating to hear the different examples used to explain biblical texts and listen to the questions asked of those giving instruction. The knowledge, insight, passion and understanding the men have of God's Word is a humbling experience for me. Today we have some Ingartas who are second generation pastors, following in their father's footsteps of ministering to their own people. I find it very encouraging when Aboriginal people today say, that their Lutheran Christian faith is now part of their culture. It is yet another reminder to us all of how God will guide and use us if only we are willing.

As it is nearing the end of the financial year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and remind you that any donation or gift to FRM is tax deductible. Today less than 20% of our annual budget comes through regular funding from the LCA. Therefore we rely very strongly upon your personal, generous support for Finkel River Mission to continue. This support enables another chapter to be written in the development and growth of the Lutheran Church in Central Australia.

Yours in Christ,

**Brenton Schild**

**Easter balloons at**

# Yirara



**With the beautiful clear blue sky as a background, 40 white balloons rose into the air over Yirara College. It was the end of the final Sunday worship service for term one.**

After a week of hearing the stories and messages about Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, this Sunday was a celebration of the joyous resurrection. Pastor Simon Dixon led the service and in his message, highlighted the 'empty cross and the empty tomb'. He told the story of how the witchetty grubs are trapped in the wood of the witchetty grub bush. (Unless someone digs up the root and eats them!) But usually not forever, because the grubs turn into a large moth which escapes and flies out and up into the air. It is free!

Students and staff gathered outside the chapel holding the 40 white helium-

filled balloons each with a purple heart attached carrying two messages; John 3:16 on one side, and the students own colourful Easter message, 'Christ has Risen' or 'Jesus is Alive' on the other. Together the staff and students loudly announced, "Jesus has Risen" then released the balloons. All watched as they quickly rose, eventually rising out of sight



carrying the Easter message, "We are free from our sins!" "towards Haasts Bluff" someone said!

Chaplain

*Neville Doecke*

# Show me the way to... Imanpa!



Hi all,

Please find directions to bush camp at Imanpa.

- Turn right at Imanpa turnoff on Lasseter Hwy. (10 – 15 km west of Mt. Ebenezer roadhouse - which is permanently closed)
- Travel 5 – 10 km to the Imanpa community junction (which lies just at the start of the bitumen). Watch out for major road works on this access road.
- Turn right towards school and store.
- Turn right just before you get to the CDU demountable and the workshop (on a narrow dirt road)
- Travel past the old dump (3-400m on left)
- Travel another 100m and veer right towards campsite. 200m later turn left onto campsite, which is a large cleanly graded area - as it was graded months ago there is not a lot of dust - yet. You will notice two reasonably large ironwood shade trees.
- Please reserve the two big shade trees for the tucker trailer and the lecture theatre. Other less significant trees are 20 - 50 metres away for camping under. Toilets and showers are a 5 – 600 m walk over the sand dune next to the footy oval - take a screwdriver to open the doors.
- If you get lost just ask someone for directions. People are very friendly at Imanpa.
- If you arrive during the dark we might be at church in the women's centre opposite the community office. Come and ask for a personal guide.
- If you travel more than 1km from the corner with the CDU demountable and the workshop, then go back to the community and ask for help. You are lost.
- We need to bring toilet paper and cleaning stuff for the toilets (or else just use the nearest Salt bush or Senna bush)
- Bring fly nets and/or fly repellent and sunscreen (the shade trees are not overly big). The flies weren't too bad today as the wind was blowing.
- Kangaroos and emus abound in the adjacent pastoral lease areas - they are either too scared to come onto Imanpa land or they are stupid and they won't last long.
- Please don't travel down the sacred site road or climb any of the hills behind the community (to the north) unless you get explicit permission from Tjuki (Chooky) Pumpjack and double check with me as well. He may take us on a tour sometime next week.
- We will have to fuel up course participants at Erdunda, Alice Springs, or give cash to those travelling west after the course is finished.
- Brenton will be cookiee.
- I can tow the water truck and Brenton will tow the tucker trailer.

Regards Pastor Rob

## The Men's Bush Course

was held at the small community of Imanpa from Monday 6 - Thursday 11 April. Imanpa is 3 hours drive south west of Alice Springs. The course was led by Pastor Andrew Jaensch with assistance from FRM Support Pastors. Bush courses are held for Aboriginal Ingartas and Evangelists to further their theological knowledge and understanding, discuss broader church issues and enjoy fellowship with Ingartas from across Central Australia.

Sometimes it is difficult to find the location of bush courses. This one was held in the Pitjantjatjara language area which is Pastor Rob Borgas' support area. On the right is a copy of the instructions I sent to other FRM staff on how to find the camp area.



# Ikuntji Easter Celebration

A celebration Easter camp was held at the memorial site near Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff).

Western Desert families young and old began arriving at the site on the Wednesday prior to Easter to reflect on the Easter story through the study of God's word, worship and song, fellowship and fun. They came from Kintore, Mt Liebig, Papunya and Haasts Bluff.

Each day began with devotion. Afternoon sessions were organised focussing on the teaching of the Easter story to the children. Services were held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in the outdoor setting surrounded by the rugged mountain ranges contrasting against the beautiful Central Australian sky. Pastors Simon Dixon, Roderick Kantamara and Trevor Raggett officiated at the services. A community barbeque and sing-alongs were enjoyed by all in attendance.

Easter Sunday service was a significant time of celebration incorporating several baptisms and the confirmation of 12 young people after a time of biblical study with Pastor Simon Dixon. The Easter celebration week concluded with an afternoon of games and activities for both children and adults.

*The memorial site is in memory of the early mission pioneers. The plaque at the site states:*

**In memory of the early mission pioneers.**

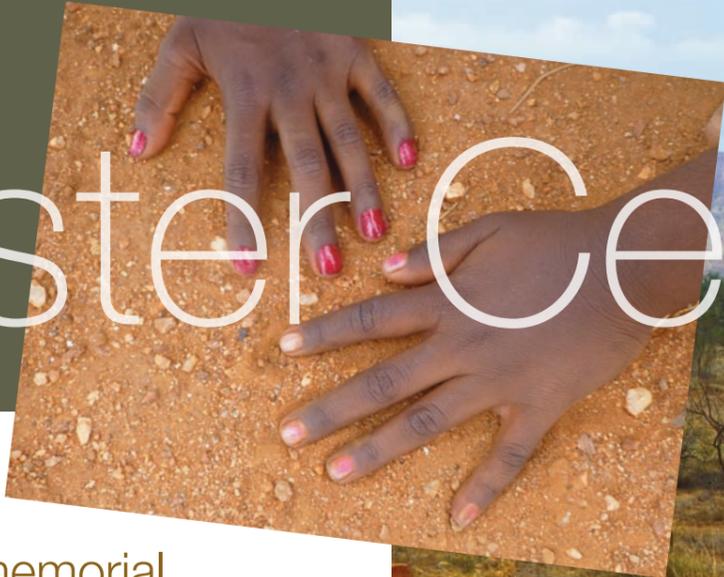
August Landara, Epaphras Entamintama and Robert Paljingka who made the first mission reconnaissance trip some 200 miles west and north-west of Hermannsburg 2.7.23 – 22.8.23.

Pastor F W Albrecht MBE, Titus Rengkaraka and Martin, who travelled the same area and camped here in October 1930.

And the men who later spent years as evangelists among the western desert people.

Titus Rengkaraka  
Epaphras Entamintama  
Julius Njintanaka  
Alexander Mamaluka

*John 1:29*



# SUPPORT PASTORS AND THEIR AREA OF **ministry**

**Finke River Mission** employs four support pastors to teach, equip, guide and train Aboriginal leaders in ministering to their own people. They work in the five main language areas – **Luritja, Anmatyerr, Alyawarr, Arrarnta** and **Pitjantjatjara** – and travel within a 700-kilometre radius of Alice Springs to support Indigenous pastors and their communities to conduct church services, sing-alongs and biblical instruction.

All Aboriginal pastors serve as volunteers of their congregations, with no regular income. Finke River Mission provides some financial and material support for their pastoral work, as well as guidance to assist Aboriginal people to develop their own leadership and independent congregations.



**Pastor Ray Morris**  
Northern Alyawarr and Anmatyerr language area.

The Aboriginal Lutheran leaders are:  
Rev Frank Turner – *Irrwelty / Amperlatwaty*  
Rev Ronnie McNamara – *Napperby*  
Rev Michael Tjapiard and  
Rev Christopher Tjanima – *Wilora*  
Rev Jimmy Haines, Rev Paul Haines  
and Rev Don Presley – *Ti Tree*



**Pastor Paul Traeger**  
Luritja language area.

The Aboriginal Lutheran leaders are:  
Rev Trevor Raggett – *Haasts Bluff*  
Rev Jim Brown – *Kiwirrkura*  
Rev Joe Young and Rev Lindsay Corby – *Kintore*  
Rev Roderick Kantamara – *Mt Liebig*  
Rev Graham Poulson – *Papunya*  
Rev Simon Dixon – *Haasts Bluff / Yrara College*



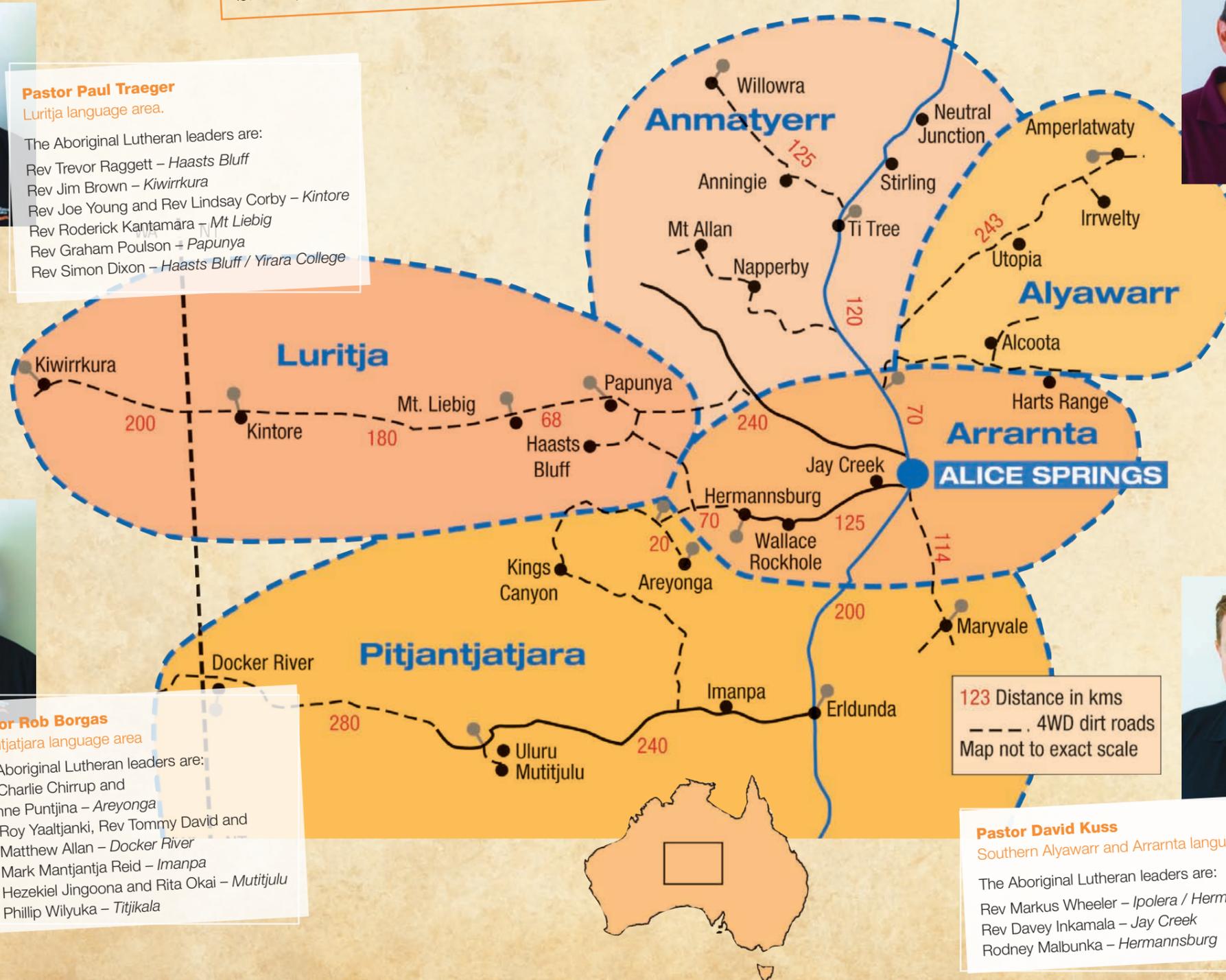
**Pastor Rob Borgas**  
Pitjantjatjara language area

The Aboriginal Lutheran leaders are:  
Rev Charlie Chirrup and  
Daphne Puntjina – *Areyonga*  
Rev Roy Yaaltjanki, Rev Tommy David and  
Rev Matthew Allan – *Docker River*  
Rev Mark Mantjantja Reid – *Imanpa*  
Rev Hezekiel Jingoona and Rita Okai – *Mutitjulu*  
Rev Phillip Wilyuka – *Titjikala*



**Pastor David Kuss**  
Southern Alyawarr and Arrarnta language area.

The Aboriginal Lutheran leaders are:  
Rev Markus Wheeler – *Ipolera / Hermannsburg*  
Rev Davey Inkamala – *Jay Creek*  
Rodney Malbunka – *Hermannsburg*



## 10 things to pray for...



1. Aboriginal Lutherans wanting to build churches in their communities
2. Ongoing financial support of FRM from congregations and individuals within the LCA
3. Men's Bush Courses to be held in June and September
4. The volunteer group from the Barossa Valley working at Papunya in July
5. That more Aboriginal leaders are called to join the ministry
6. The strength of faith and leadership of Aboriginal Ingkartas
7. Safe travel for Support Pastors as they minister to community members
8. The faith of the 7000 Aboriginal Lutherans in Central Australia
9. Parents raising children on communities under difficult circumstances
10. The increasing interest from Central Australian ladies to attend Women's Bush Courses



*Christ in the Centre*

Finke River Mission and the 7000 Aboriginal Lutherans of Central Australia

**ASK FOR YOUR HELP**

We have 14 Aboriginal pastors currently in training and 8 communities wanting to build churches

**PLEASE DONATE**

To help FRM support and equip Aboriginal people to strengthen their communities through their Lutheran faith



Finke River Mission employs support pastors to teach, equip, guide and train Aboriginal leaders in ministering to their own people. Support pastors actively cover an area within a 700-kilometre radius of Alice Springs working within the five main language areas: Luritja, Anmatyerr, Alyawarr, Arrarnta and Pitjantjatjara. There are 26 ordained Aboriginal pastors serving in remote communities across Central Australia. All pastors serve as volunteers of their congregations, with no regular income.

Yes, I want to donate to support **FRM**

Name .....

Address ..... PC .....

Phone ..... Email .....

I want to give a gift of \$.....

By **direct deposit** to: **Westpac Alice Springs BSB 035 303 Acc 370 092**

**Online:** [www.lca.org.au/finke-river-mission](http://www.lca.org.au/finke-river-mission)

By posting a **cheque** to: **PO Box 2129 Alice Springs NT 0871**

Please charge my  **MasterCard**  **Visa** \$ .....

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card ..... Signature .....

I want to commit to a weekly gift by direct deposit of:  \$5  \$10  \$20

Please make arrangements for your gift to be deposited to: **Westpac Alice Springs BSB 035 303 Acc 370 092**

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. All information is kept confidential in accordance with LCA Policy and is used only to inform you of the work of Finke River Mission.

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