



Finke River Mission
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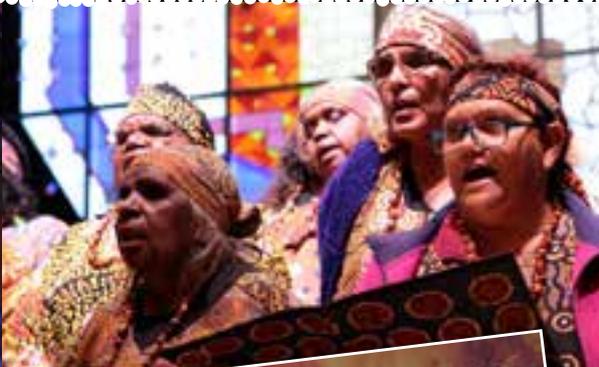


CHRIST IN THE CENTRE

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

NEWS FROM FINKE RIVER MISSION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

WINTER 2018



CHOIR TOURS *Melbourne, Sydney & USA*

The Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir (CAAWC) has been invited to perform at the Serenade! International Choral Festival to be held in Washington DC USA from June 28 - 2 July 2018.

Choirs from a number of countries will perform at Serenade; CAAWC will contribute their own performances a number of times during the festival and will share in multi-choir performances and a grand finale choral concert to be staged at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In issuing this invitation, Classical Movements (the premier concert tour company for the world's great orchestras and choirs) has said: "In researching truth and reconciliation across different nations and cultures, I found your choir. I know that the Aboriginal Australian people have experienced a very different aspect of these values in their struggles, which I feel should be powerfully represented in our 2018 celebration of President Mandela. We would love it if you and your choir could come to the US for Serenade, because we think so highly of you all and the traditions you represent."

Classical Movements is also conducting discussions with the Australian Embassy in Washington DC, The Kennedy Center and the film's distributors to explore staging screenings of the recently released documentary about the choir entitled "The Song

Keepers" during the festival.

New choir members from a younger generation are eager to join this experience, and as such are placing themselves under the mentorship of their elders. Going to Washington to an international event will only afford more opportunity to share the gospel through song. People change the world, but God works through music to change people. Singing is one of the best ways to promote healing and harmony in our world today.

Watching the impact the choir's performances and presence has on so many unchurched people throughout Australia and the world is truly amazing. Many in the audience are openly quite critical of the western church and the missionaries they sent to these people in Central Australia long ago, yet oddly they seem to receive God's word through the choir's hymns and songs quite openly and graciously. God truly works in mysterious ways!

Thanks so much to the LLL, LCA Insurance and the FRM for supporting the choir on this incredible tour which also includes performances at Hamer Hall, Southbank, Melbourne on June 19th and at the Sydney Opera House on June 22nd. Don't miss your chance to see them!



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Photographer: Jim Lee for MIFF (Melb. International Film Festival)

New Pastoral Support Worker

Rev Michael Jacobsen has been called to the FRM. He and his wife Hanne come from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria.

What work will you be doing with FRM?

After a period of orientation with fellow FRM staff, getting to know their roles in central Australia, I will be working with the Alyawarr speaking Lutherans in Ampilatwatja, Engawala, Arparra, Irrultja and Rocket Range. I want to build relationships with indigenous Pastors and other church leaders through regular visits to remote areas, and also by learning the local language. I preached my first sermon at Ampilatwatja on 29th May that was translated by Pastor Frank Turner to the local congregation.

When & why did you become a pastor?

I have always wanted to follow the footsteps of my father (my parents were missionaries in Papua New Guinea), reading the scriptures with others, sharing what the bible has to say to us today. It is important for me to grow daily in the faith, sharing it with those who are seeking answers to their questions in life. A big highlight of my ordination at Nuremberg, Germany, on March 12, 1987 was when a PNG pastor laid hands over me and blessed me because I was born at Madang (PNG) and baptised by a local PNG pastor. My godfather was a respected evangelist and parish councillor.

What's the best thing about being a Pastor?

Celebrating the sacraments with the congregation, proclaiming God's word to their many situations and special occasions, and accompanying them on their way through life.

Tell us about your family!

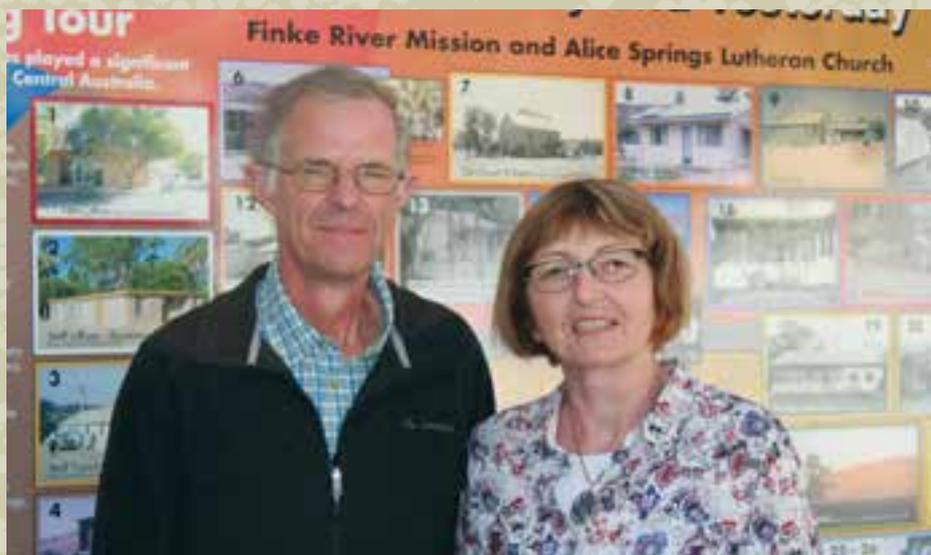
I am married to Hanne, who works part-time in administration at Yirara College. Our son Thomas (28) lives in Germany. When he completes his secondary teaching degree later this year he plans to visit us.

What are your hobbies?

I like learning and studying languages and watching exciting soccer games. On my day off I go hiking with my wife. We have already walked some smaller sections of the Larapinta Trail.

Favourite bible verse?

Isaiah 43:1 was given to me at my confirmation. It is my favourite because it comforts and encourages me when I'm afraid or at a loss: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine."



COME & SEE
God's Work
IN THE CENTRE

Lutheran Church of Australia Central Australia Tour September 6 - 17, 2018

Leaving from Alice Springs, experience a unique tour of Central Australia where you will visit iconic Aboriginal congregations, meet their pastors/leaders and worship with them, and also view prominent tourist sites of Uluru, Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), Kings Canyon, Ormiston Gorge, Simpsons Gap, Haasts

Bluff and others. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the present-day ministries of Finke River Mission, Yirara College, Alice Springs Lutheran Church and Lutheran Community Care as they work alongside 5,000 Aboriginal Lutherans living in Central Australia. Listen to and speak with the people to discover their stories and the role of the church over the past 140 years.

Tour leaders Irwin & Margaret Traeger



Parish Worker Installed at Mutitjulu

On January 14 2018, Kunpry Peipei was installed as a parish worker by Pastors Hezekiel Jingoona and Mark Reid at Mutitjulu Lutheran Church where she regularly leads Sunday services, and assists with Holy Communion.

Kunpry is passionate about sharing her faith with her family and her community, located in the shadow of Uluru. This passion can be seen most clearly in her work translating more than 100 hymns from Arrarnta into Pitjantjatjara, so her community can sing praises to God in their first language. But nothing pleases the 69 year old great grandmother of four more than sitting down surrounded by her grandchildren and great grandchildren teaching them to read bible stories. 'They come to sit with me and talk about Jesus,' she says. Kunpry also shares this love with her wider community. 'Every Wednesday I have been teaching the local women singing and reading,' she says. 'I know all of the songs. When I'm singing, I am thinking about God's meaning. That's

why I'm teaching them. That's why I'm telling stories and teaching them to do the right thing.'

Kunpry has lived in Australia's red heart for her entire life. She grew up in Areyonga, a community 200 km west of Alice Springs, where Christian songs and bible stories were a major part of the school curriculum. When she was baptised and confirmed at the age of 13 by Pastor Kalleske, all church services were led in Arrarnta language, which was the common language used by the Finke River Mission at the time, rather than the Areyonga people's first language, Pitjantjatjara.

Later, God spoke to Kunpry in a dream at the Areyonga church, telling her to help Pastor Kalleske feed her people God's word, which she did for some time, even flying south with Pastor Kalleske and Daphne Puntjina hundreds of kilometres from Areyonga to Tempe Downs, down to Uluru, and then across to Docker River near the Western Australian border to lead worship

services. Travelling vast distances was not new to Kunpry. Growing up she had started her schooling in Areyonga before going to school in Hermannsburg, then moving south with her family to Uluru. She still travelled back occasionally to Areyonga for confirmation lessons, riding on a camel half way to Tempe Downs, and then on horseback to Areyonga with Pastor Kalleske, whom they'd meet half way at Tempe Downs.

Her favourite story is the Parable of the Sower, because it reminds her of her calling. In the parable, some seed falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some on soil with thorns, but some falls on good soil that grows, yielding in abundance. Kunpry's tireless work and prayers for her community are aimed at building up that good red soil of faith in those around her.

(Helen Beringen / Rob Borgas)

Photos: Kunpry Peipei (above left), Kunpry outside of the Mutitjulu church with Pastors Hezekiel and Mark and other members of the congregation (above right)

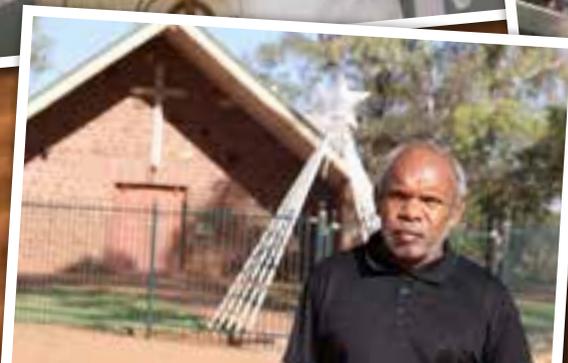
are very experienced, having led numerous tours into Central Australia and they know many of the Aboriginal people and the work of the church. The tour is not strenuous and travel is in an airconditioned coach with comfortable hotel accommodation, most meals and entry to all attractions included.

Cost of the Tour is \$3,250 per person twin share ex Alice Springs.

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Pastor Rodney Malbunka at Hermannsburg

Daphne Puntjina at Areyonga



Margaret Poulson (centre) and Noeline Kunia (far right) worshipping with younger members of the Areyonga congregation



FRM Bush Course AT MT LIEBIG

*Back row (left to right) Pastors Neville Otto & Graham Poulson, Tricia Davis
Front row (left to right) Pastor Trevor Raggett, evangelist Stanley Roberts, Eli Kantawarra*

The first FRM bush course for 2018 was actually held outside Mt Liebig community at Warren Creek outstation, 10 kms further west, the home of our host Pastor Roderick Kantamarra. About 30 attended, including FRM staff and volunteers.

We set up camp in an open area, near one of the vacant houses, but inside the community fence. The dingoes were hanging around, howling loudly at night, too close for comfort! The flies were also bad so there was a run on fly nets at the local store!

During the day Dr Peter Lockwood (retired OT lecturer from Australian Lutheran College) taught on 1 Samuel and Paul Traeger (FRM) interpreted into Luritja and David Strickland (from AuSIL) into Anmatyerr language. At night Pastor Rob Borgas showed a movie about Kings Saul and David to a packed church at Mt Liebig and Pastor Simon Dixon led community sing-alongs. Many of the church leaders are musicians, and often have to wait for their turn to play or sing, so the sing-alongs can go on till late at night. The children performed a medley of impressive action songs with great gusto.

Pastor Roderick led a communion service to close the course. We thank Dr Peter Lockwood (last course as lecturer) and Pastor Rob Borgas (last course as pastoral support worker) for their long standing service to FRM.

By David Strickland/Rob Borgas

George and Rodney discuss tea brands



Nightly singing at Mt Liebig





FRM WOMEN'S Bible Study Camp 2018

Sunny days, crisp nights, and not a drop of rain – the April weather was perfect for our Bible Study camp this year!

More than 40 ladies joined us at the Simpson's Gap campground, sharing devotions and cooking over the open fire. Traveling from Docker River, Mutitjulu, Ti Tree, Hermannsburg, Utju, Wallace Rockhole and Alice Springs, there were a number of young first-time attendees, which made us really happy.

We spoke and worshipped in Anmatyerre, Arrarnta, Pitjantjatjara and English. We studied the gospel readings for the next few Sundays, discovering what God does for us and how this changes our lives. Then we prayed – praising God for who he is, telling him about who we are, thanking him for his saving acts, and bringing him our needs. We made lots of joyful noise – singing,

laughing and telling stories – and ladies from Alice and Utju shared songs which were new to some of us. On Saturday evening we presented the posters we had made sharing what we had learnt and our faith.

'We enjoyed our camp. The ladies from Docker River said it was good to be with the ladies from other communities.' (Rosalind Yibardi, Docker River)

'Camping is fun! Camping with the ladies was good fellowship. The second night I fell asleep in my swag listening to everyone singing and it was really nice.' (Hope Rust, YAGM volunteer, USA)

'I liked being with ladies from all the communities and singing together at night. I also enjoyed talking to other ladies about the gospel and learning together about loving other people. We are one family together as God's

children.' (Joy Kunia, Areyonga)

'Going to the camp was really good. Lots of ladies were there, and we all learned together like one community. I liked showing the ladies how we do drawing while we are listening to a Bible passage, so that they can try that idea too.' (Nunga Marjorie Williams, Alice Springs)

'I enjoyed being around the senior women and learning with the older ladies. Learning more about the Bible was really good. It was great to go to the camp!' (Sonya Braybon, Hermannsburg)

Thanks to all those who helped with the camp and to the ladies for working together so willingly. Thanks too, to the Lutheran Women of Australia who support us with their kind donations ... and most of all to God for our wonderful weekend! Suanne Tikoft

Marion Swift, Heather Doecke, Rosalind Yibardi, Yurpiya Long and Barbara DeRose sitting around the camp-fire

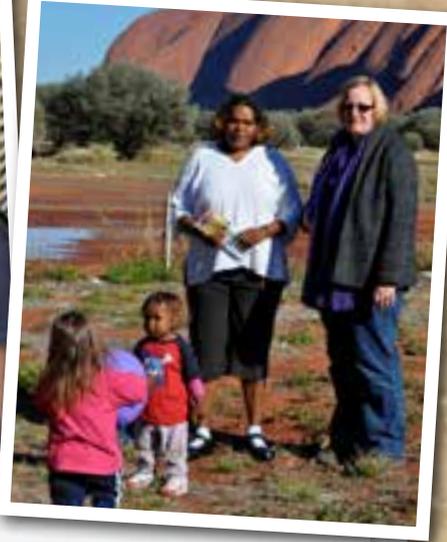


Nunga (Marjorie) Williams, Kitty and Lena Driffen working hard



Seraphina Haines was very proud of her drawing

Rita Okai Graduation



"My name is Rita Okai. I come from the Mutitjulu Community and I speak Pitjantjatjara. I have studied the Bible since I was a teenager at Yirara College, and have been working in the Lutheran church leading activities like singing, teaching Sunday school, confirmation and baptism classes with young people and old. I have also helped the pastors lead worship in the past, but have decided to take a break for the last few years to study at Nungalinga College and raise my daughter, Georgia."

"Studying theology has helped me grow in my faith and I have learnt so much about the deeper meaning of bible verses. Studying pastoral care has helped me to help others who are struggling in their lives. I want to spread the Word of God so that they can have a better life. May God bless us all!"



When Rita Okai graduated from her certificate 3 course in Christian Ministry and Theology in 2017 she was quite possibly the first Indigenous Lutheran in central Australia to have ever graduated with a tertiary theological qualification in the 140 year history of the FRM. God willing, another 3 women and 1 man will also graduate in the same 3- year course at the end of 2018.

A total of 58 Lutheran men and women from central Australia have enrolled in courses at Nungalinga in Darwin this year. However spaces are limited, so only about 50% of these people will actually be able to attend. All travel, accommodation and course costs are covered by the Federal government and Nungalinga College, which is jointly managed and funded by the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Church of Australia.

Pictures Top Left: Rita with her daughter, Georgia.

Top Right: Rita outside the Lutheran church at Mutitjulu with LCC Executive Director Helen Lockwood in 2011.

Middle: Rita being installed as a parish worker at Mutitjulu in July 2011

Bottom: Rita with her graduating class at Nungalinga College



MEET MICHAEL TJAPIARD

Where are your congregations? Wilora (Stirling Station); Barrow Creek and Tara (Neutral Junction Station). These communities are about 256km north of Alice Springs.

Tell us about your family. I have two sons. Both of them are in their 20's.

What is your favourite AFL team? Carlton.

Where were you born? Alice Springs hospital. But I lived at Barrow Creek.

What languages do you speak? Anmatyerr, Warlpiri, Kaytetye, Alyawarr, Arrarnta and English.

Where did you go to school? Neutral Junction, about 12km from my community at Barrow Creek. My family used to drive me to school and picked me up after school every day.

When did you become a Pastor? 1 Oct 2000 at Ti Tree

Who taught you? Gary Stoll and Paul Albrecht would come to Ti Tree and Wilora to do teaching. Sometimes they would hold mini-courses where they would come to teach a group of us.

Why did you want to become a Pastor? People from my community kept asking me to become a Pastor. I also believed that God was calling me, so I become a pastor.

What's the best thing about being a Pastor? Teaching and reading God's word to my people and watching their faith grow (and mine too).

What are some jobs you've done in the past? Can't remember when I started but I used to be a 'stockman' at Neutral Junction Station. I spent a lot of time riding horses around the station moving stock from one area to another. When I wasn't riding horses I used to fix fences and do other jobs around the station.

When I became a pastor I moved to Wilora and have lived here ever since.

What is your favourite bible verse? John 14:1-6

What do you pray about? I pray for my family, my community and myself that people would hear the Word of God and believe in his name.

Have you done anything recently? I have lived all my life in the Northern Territory until I went to the SA/NT Pastor's Conference and Synod in the Riverland in 2017. I was a little nervous about driving all that way and leaving NT, but as soon as I saw new areas and new country I wasn't nervous anymore. I enjoyed myself and had so much fun and took lots of photos. Everything was good.

Now I've been asked to go to the 2018 LCA National Synod in Sydney. I have never been on a plane before so I'm a little nervous about flying. But I'm sure I will be fine and will enjoy visiting Sydney.



Pictures Top: Michael (2nd from left) with pastors David Kuss, Christopher Tjanima, Dr Allen Jorgenson (ELCCanada) and Robert Borgas at the last Bush Course held on their country at Wilora, Stirling Station, NT in 2011

Bottom: Michael (centre) with pastors Darryl Mattner and Christopher Tjanima at the opening of the new Lutheran church at Tara (Neutral Junction Station) in 2015

Renovation

REFORMATION AT HERMANNSBURG

50 years ago, Lutheran teacher Bob Arnold created a 4m diameter Luther's Rose in the church garden at Hermannsburg.

Overgrown with couch grass, nobody took much notice of it until the locals began celebrating 500 years since Luther stirred up the church in Wittenberg and Europe and the idea arose that it was time to have a 'reformation' of the garden rocks by digging up the ground, removing the couch grass and slowly exposing the old rock pattern.

On Sunday 29th October, 2017, the congregation gathered around the revitalised rock formation to hear the gospel of God's love that it represented. Pastor Rodney Malbunka echoed what most people probably thought, "I never knew what that meant!"

Uncovering the couch laden rocks are rather symbolic of Luther removing the 'wild, rank' teachings of the Roman Catholic church at the time in order to unearth the evangelical truths he had rediscovered while studying the Bible in its original languages.

After the Reformation thanksgiving service, everyone gathered to celebrate with a piece of Luther's Rose cake so beautifully decorated by the pastor's Frau, Heather.

(Pastor Neville Doecke / Rob Borgas)



WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

WINTER 2018

Our Indigenous leaders in central Australia desire the skills, resources, support and opportunities to serve their growing congregations.

They are asking for more Christian teaching and training, resources in their own language, equipment to run singalongs, and personal support than we have the capacity to give. We need your help!

Tax deductible donations of \$2 or above can be made as follows:

Online: finkerivermission.lca.org.au

Mail Cheque Credit Card details: Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____ Expiry ____ / ____ CCV _____

Name _____ Name on card _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Signed _____ Amount \$ _____

Send your donations to: FRM, PO Box 2129 Alice Springs, NT, 0871. For regular donations please phone FRM on 08-8952-4666 (Alice Springs) or send an e-mail to frmoffice@bigpond.com

All information is kept strictly confidential in accordance with the LCA Privacy Policy and is used only to inform you of the work of Finke River Mission.

PLEASE NOTE:
Your donation cannot be processed without these numbers

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

That students at Nungalinga College will grow confident in their faith

Safe travel for the choir as they tour Eastern Australia and the USA

A new Pastoral Support Worker to replace Pastor Rob Borgas in the Pitjantjatjara area

Those who are sick, sad, lonely, homeless or grieving

The work of the FRM Store and Historical Precinct at Hermannsburg

Pastor Simon Dixon and all those who support his music ministry

Those tempted by alcohol and drugs



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