



September 2023

Broken Hill Flying Patrol

A ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW & ACT

POLICE CHAPLAIN TRAINING

As part of the role as a Police Chaplain, attendance at the annual Conference is required and a trip to Dubbo was undertaken.

During the conference chaplains were trained in Mental Health First Aid and how to assist and chat to Police who may be feeling overwhelmed with work and family pressures. Whilst at the conference I was presented with a 5 year pin for service. As Police Chaplain to the Broken Hill Local Area Command I regularly visit the various stations in the far west and was recently involved in the Annual Police Awards ceremony in Broken Hill.



CHRISTIAN WOMEN COMMUNICATING INTERNATIONAL (CWCI) SAFARI

During the month of July, after a number of months preparation, I met with a speaker and leader for Christian Women Communicating International to undertake a 10 day Safari Ministry. We visited churches and fellowship groups in the far west of NSW including stopovers in White Cliffs, Bourke, Wilcannia, Walgett, Brewarrina, Hillston and Coonamble. Flying weather was terrific for the journey with a delay on only one day due to heavy fog which cleared by mid-morning



UNITING CHURCH ADULT FELLOWSHIP “RALLY “MORRISSET”

Over the year there are a number of invitations to speak at various events. One recent event was a Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Rally, in the Hunter Valley NSW. On a chilly winter day 200 people joined for fellowship, lunch and to hear me speak about the work of the Patrol in the Far West of NSW.

Meeting folk over a cuppa before I spoke, I met a lady who lived up the road from where I grew up in Belmont Vic, and so there was a connection straightaway as we spoke of the past.



During the meeting I described how flying is all about Attitude, the attitude of the plane to the horizon and that if the correct attitude is not maintained then the plane will either climb or descend when the pilot doesn't want it too. Very much the same in life, life is about our attitude to each other and our attitude to God.

I took 3 passengers on a flight, conducting a simulation and speaking of the similarities of a small plane to a larger plane and the briefing prior to flying. Life jacket, sick bags and toilet (search Travel john). This created a level of hilarity.

I asked if there were any in the audience that knew previous padres and I was surprised to receive and email a few days later with some photos from many years ago.

Photos courtesy of Uniting Church Adult Fellowship.

THE MAKING OF DONUTS



A regular feature at many events in the far west is the Flying Padre with his Donut making skills, and there are not many events in the district that haven't been attended by this donut maker! From Local Gymkhanas to Picnic races, School of the Air events including Mini Schools and Orientation day, to Field Days.

I am very happy to attend and catch up with the locals and visitors alike at these events.



BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS

One of the joys that a Padre has is conducting Weddings and Baptisms. Over the past months I have had the joy of conducting both.



Baptisms it would seem are best conducted to coincide with the child's first birthday and become a large family gathering with parents, grandparents and great grandparents often in attendance to celebrate the occasion.

These celebrations have taken place on family properties in the far west, at parks beside the Darling River. Always with a table furnished with a Cross, Christ Candle, the Baptismal gifts of a Certificate, Candle and age-appropriate Bible for the child.

I like to include the older children when I can and have them assist were appropriate in the service.



Weddings are a more formal occasion, and it is a delight to witness the coming together of two people as they commit to each other and celebrate this commitment.



SCHOOL OF THE AIR MINI SCHOOL AND CANBERRA EXCURSION

Twice a year SOTA (School of the Air) have a 'Mini School' - a week of school at the property of one of the families. In July the Mini School was held at Caradoc Station outside of White Cliffs. Around 200 students, family members, teachers and the Padre gathered for a week of fun activities which included, bicycle education, various crafts, disco night, campfire, bush walk and many meals together. It was a great week of catching up with families, teachers and students in a relaxed atmosphere.

As part of the catering, I was asked to cook donuts for one of the afternoon teas where approximately 60 dozen donuts were cooked and consumed.



Thank you, David
Pastor David Shrimpton



To support David's ministry, deposit your donation to:

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Broken Hill Flying Patrol

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