

Dear friends,

Thank you for your continuing interest and support of the Gaius Trust. In this letter we have news of our recent online conference along with brief reports from Stephen Bignall and David Cox in New South Wales

Spring Online Conference: Saturday May 21st 2022

We were delighted to hold our first online conference which brought together friends from the UK, Australia and Argentina! The conference took place at a time of some change for the Gaius Trust. Our chief desire remains to support men in ministry to Aboriginal people, but we are also now looking to support the preparation and training of men for such ministry. With that in view, we are building a connection with Dubbo Christian Family Church whose pastor, David Cox, is one of our Trustees.

The conference drew together workers and supporters to consider the situation, needs and prospects as we prayerfully seek the Lord's blessing on our hopes to develop the work and as we plan the next steps. There were three main sessions. In the first, our Trustee Stephen Bignall gave an overview of Gospel outreach to Aboriginal people going back 200 years to the time of the first fleet bringing settlers to New South Wales. In the second session, David Cox spoke with Mark Naden and Jerakye Goolagong regarding the present needs and prospects for this ministry. The conference closed with David Cox giving an inspiring message from Isaiah 60.

Recordings of these addresses can be listened to on the Australia page of our website. We have included the introduction from Martin Leech, in which he gave a brief outline of the history of the Gaius Trust, and the two question and answer sessions led by Robert Strivens. The written version of Stephen Bignall's informative talk is also available on the Australia page for download.

From Stephen Bignall in Wee Waa

Stephen and Fiona continue with the church in Wee Waa, Steve has been preaching through 1st Thessalonians – “Learning from a Real Church” and planning a series from Zechariah next. Fiona continues to meet with the Ladies Bible Study mid-week, and they have just finished “Gentle and Lowly” by Dane Ortlund. Several unchurched contacts have emerged in Wee Waa, opportunities for us both to form relationships and gently witness over time, as well as gathering informally on many Friday evenings in the church hall.

RE continues with the Gulargambone Central school and breakfast club at Wee Waa Public School each week. It was a privilege to participate in the Gaius Trust online UK conference, and Stephen is preparing 2 messages for the Day in the Word in Dubbo in September DV. It is so encouraging to fellowship with the Cox's and their church family. We are now “empty nesters”, all our kids are “married with children” - for which we thank God and rejoice in our 4 grandchildren. On the health front Stephen recently had a cataract removed from his left eye and is due to have the right eye done at the end of June, necessary if he is to keep driving.

A major partner for Isaac Gordon has emerged from coastal deputation visits some years ago by Henry and Stephen – Green Point Christian College a large school founded by a

conservative, coastal Baptist Church (now numbering close to 1000 students K-12) has purchased a property near Brewarrina and partnered with Isaac and a number of local converts to Christ to build a Christian School and working farm; it was once a Seventh Day Adventist boarding school that eventually closed but now repurposed and renovated to serve a mainly aboriginal student body to be drawn from the region where the Gordons minister. Yr9 Students from the coastal school have been visiting and camping in this outback region for over 8 years now – both to inform their faith and form relationships within the large aboriginal community around Brewarrina. We praise God for this and request continuing prayer.

From David Cox in Dubbo

This past quarter I have been encouraged to see more involvement from members of the congregation in Dubbo. People have been seeing needs and stepping forward as part of the solution and there is a sense of people owning the ministry of the Church. I am hopeful that this will fuel a hunger to better know and administer the word among us.

Rose has been kept busy with grandchildren and the care of her ageing mother. The care of her mother is getting more difficult due to Rose's own health suffering recently. Rose has pulled back from some activities in the church which seem to be going just fine without her!

An opportunity has arisen for Mark Naden and myself to visit a small Indigenous fellowship about 2 hours drive from here. We plan to go and preach the Word at their Sunday morning meetings. Perhaps this will turn into an opportunity for further teaching among the people. Mark and I will alternate our visits and attempt to minister there once a month.

Dubbo is discussing ways we can reach out to our community. This has become a focus of Church member's meetings. Pray for opportunities for us and for good success in this endeavour.

I will be attending a preaching conference at Stanmore Baptist Church in Sydney, a 1689 congregation. I am looking forward to this as a time of learning, fellowship and refreshment. I also hope it will help foster stronger links between Stanmore and Dubbo.

Another event we will be resuming is our Day in the Word (this September). This is an intensive time of fellowship and teaching, four 40 minute sermons with breaks in between and ending with lunch. These have worked well in the past and have been well attended, however our last Day in the Word was 2019, that was a while ago and we'll have to wait and see who attends. Our topic will be Holiness, considering what it means that God is holy and how this produces a salvation that truly transforms people.

So, thank you to those who have taken a prayerful interest in the ministry here. At times it feels that things are moving very slowly, the week-to-week plod seems to pass with little response or result. However, we try to maintain faithfulness and are encouraged by the news of other like-minded brethren in the U.K. labouring alongside us. Thank you again.

We are most grateful for your continuing prayerful support.

The Trustees

The Gaius Trust is a Registered Charity (no. 1152819) registered in England and Wales. We aim to support training and ministry among aboriginal people. If you would like to contribute to our work, you can do so through [give.net](https://www.gaiustrust.org) accessible via our website, or by **cheque** to Gaius Trust, sent to 15 St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1DA.