

NOVEMBER 2017

FrontierNews

A woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a light-colored shirt is laughing heartily. In the background, there are several yellow pieces of heavy machinery, including what looks like a tractor or a loader, parked on a dirt area. The scene is outdoors under a clear blue sky.

Vital support in the bush

In this issue

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An enduring legacy

Rev Karama Iopo

2017 Christmas and Gift Cards



Frontier Services
serving remote Australia

From the Director the year in review

It's been over six months since I took over the helm as the National Director of Frontier Services and I am immensely proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation.

These first few months has been about discovery, how are we supporting the people who need us? How can we do things better? How can we ensure we are supporting people in the bush now and for generations to come? We have done some deep thinking, prayed for guidance, spoken to our people on the ground and now we are consulting with our communities to make sure we can make a real impact for people and in places that need it most both now and in the future.

It is a shocking but true fact that those in the bush are more likely to die younger, whether that is health related or mental health issues, and at the same time the

government continues to reduce vital services. Frontier Services plays an essential role with our Ministry to ensure isolated doesn't mean forgotten. We know that our "Mantle of Safety" is needed now more than ever.

To respond to this increased need, we need to adapt. We are taking steps to provide the support where we are being called.

The most exciting update is that we have secured funding for two new Ministries. The first is one in Far North Queensland – the Kennedy Patrol, we introduce you to Rev Iaopo and his family on page 10; the other, soon to be announced. We are making other changes some are a little subtler. In the next few months you may also see some changes to ensure we are relevant, with how we communicate, upgrading our communication with

increased use of social media channels. Follow our social journey at **facebook.com/frontierservices**

Again, I am inspired by the incredible work of Frontier Services, to remembering the wonderful past work of women like Anita Clayton one of our first bush nurses, or introducing our new patrol minister, Rev Iaopo.

A special thanks must also be made to all of the communities who have sparked a little bit of Aussie spirit and had their own Great Outback BBQ to raise money to support the bush. You can still help us by taking part and now the weather is heating up and the summer season is fast upon us, it is a great time to gather round and light the BBQ for a good cause. All you need is to register at **greatoutbackbbq.com.au** or call us on **1300 787 247** and we will guide you through what to do. It is so fun and easy

to take part and a great way to help those in rural and remote Australia.

This is the last newsletter of the year and I think it is important with the lead-up to Christmas to remember the true spirit of why we celebrate. As we gather with our family and friends in joy and laughter we know for some, and particularly those isolated by distance, Christmas can be a lonely time so our Ministers are busy supporting those so that they are not alone. I want to ensure that we will be there to answer the call when we're needed the most.

If you would like to support our volunteers, Bush Chaplains or want to be involved please let us know as we would love to hear from you. Call us on 1300 787 247.

Jannine Jackson
National Director

A special thanks must also be made to all of the communities who have sparked a little bit of Aussie spirit and had their own Great Outback BBQ to raise money to support the bush.

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CIRCULATION **36,000**
FRONT COVER **Judy Sedwick, Spoilbank**

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Frontier Services
serving remote Australia

ABOUT FRONTIER SERVICES

Frontier Services is a national agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, established to continue the unified work of the Australian Inland Mission, the Methodist Inland Mission, and the inland mission of the Congregational Union, and works with people across 85% of the continent, including Aboriginal communities and isolated properties.

Locals celebrate!

With a permanent population of six (and one dog), the prospect of hosting interstate visitors for the National Bronco Branding Championships was a daunting one, especially when the Gymkhana grounds were worn from use and in need of some repair.

A challenge like this is one we get excited for at Frontier Services, a perfect opportunity for our Outback Links program. It's our chance to get our hands dirty, work together with this close community, build strong relationships with those living in isolated conditions, as well as bring them hope.

Leading the way, our Bush Chaplain, Paul Glazbrook, identified the highest priority jobs and set on sourcing the

team of volunteers, which is no easy job. It's essential to find people with the skills needed, find team players who are prepared to take (in this case) nine days off their lives, who will be living, sleeping, and working in close quarters together; this is truly a special group of people.

Our objective, is the township of William Creek. It is located halfway on the Oodnadatta Track, ten kilometres north of Marree and 166 kilometres east of Coober Pedy in South Australia. William Creek is the entry point from Coober Pedy to Lake Eyre in the Tirari Desert.

William Creek has the only petrol station between Marree, Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta on the Oodnadatta Track, it has a campground, two motels and one of the world's most remote pubs.



In addition, sourcing and bringing with us all the materials we need on site can be a logistic nightmare, it takes a four-day round trip so slipping into a hardware store is not an option.

Sparky our electrician were in demand from local stations (farms) who had been waiting for professional tradesmen for months. We were so lucky to be able to help others in need.

We leave Adelaide at lunchtime ready for a two-day track – we are on a mission of hope – ready to lend a helping hand to a remote and regional community. We're also here for something else; to help the community and it is not just about a lick of paint or repairing a fence. In Paul's words, "It's what can come from a knock on a door of someone who rarely sees a smiling face".

Our first job, seems simple the Bronco/ Gymkhana Grounds were tired and in need of some significant repair and in a township with a population this small with the rest of the population scattered, the upcoming Championships provide a much needed economic and moral boost for the town and its surrounds.

Our team got to work and each hour of each day, shed after shed and rail after rail the Bronco Grounds slowly yielded to a new lease on life. It's amazing what can happen when people say 'Here am I, use me'.

It wasn't just the Show Grounds that needed our help. Pinky our plumber and

Over the five days we were able to transform the grounds, ready to receive eager visitors for the upcoming Championships. We were lucky enough on our last night to be invited to Anna Creek Station for a celebratory meal. In many ways, all of the work party and the community felt it was a Thanks Giving Feast. The volunteers thankful for the privilege of serving others while the community thankful for the work done.

As the one of Australia's most remote Stations, Anna Creek is more aware than most of the need of services that we provide. Topping off an incredible evening, the Station Manager hushed the crowd gathered and presented Frontier Services with a most generous donation. It was the last thing we expected but was thankfully received helping us continue our service to those in the bush.

The next day we headed off on our two-day track home, a little sore, tired but filled with satisfaction of a job well done for the people of William Creek. Another success for the Outback Links program.



Frontier Services member



Keeping farmers on their property



Our Bush Chaplains are our ears and eyes on the ground, highlighting those in need just like John and Judy Sedgwick.

Located 120 kilometres west of Longreach, QLD, the Spoilbank station (farm) has been in the Sedgwick Family since 1922. John Sedgwick, the station owner has been on the property for 81 years. John, later joined by his wife, Judy, have built a wonderful life together at Spoilbank, their forever home.

Over the decades, John and Judy have been through so many things together on the farm but now they are really struggling. Having delayed their retirement because of the 2014 drought, this loving couple are finding the work on their property sometimes tough going, especially this year with 70 per cent of Queensland in drought.

This drought has been harsh and long and their health is fading. Like many people in rural and remote locations, the Sedgwick's are incredibly resilient however, John and Judy really need help

especially as all those essential day to day jobs are mounting up and getting harder and harder to do.

Following the success of a recent Outback Links Trip to Spoilbank, we were able to help the Sedgwick's with those jobs mounting up to keep them in their home. The trip was made up by some generous volunteers from RACQ that undertook general maintenance and serviced vehicles, a small team from Qantas Engineering who used their knowledge to service the Windmill and the other fantastic volunteers who participated in general repair works, painting and Dam maintenance that caused much mirth and mud with the team.

National Director of Frontier Services, Jannine Jackson says often the volunteers come back with a real sense of purpose, "It's a great experience for volunteers, not only a chance to bridge the city and country gap but a life changing experience they can bring back to the city and share".

Judy says, "We are very grateful for Frontier Services support as they play an important role in helping us to stay on



John and Judy Sedgwick

the farm", "It's becoming an increasing necessity for assistance as time goes on. It is immensely satisfying getting jobs done that go on the back burner. They fall down the priority list for getting completed because sometimes with our age and health it means that they can't get done".

While trades and resources are available at Longreach it can be difficult to get them to commit to head to Spoilbank Station, and it can be very expensive as you pay for time and travel which is over two hours and when times are tough, money is tight.

"We live 120 kilometres west of Longreach and we use to go in once a

week but nowadays if there aren't any medical appointments it can be up to six weeks between visits. It can be incredibly isolating and lonely so there is such joy when we do have companions like the wonderful volunteers from Frontier Services who come and stay", says Judy.

It is not just all work says Judy from Spoilbank, "Depending on what type of volunteers we have we usually try to show them some of the scenery, like driving along many of the runs (which can be up to 1.5 hours), as well as showing them the wildlife. We like to make their trip interesting as well as accepting their helpful support because we are incredibly grateful for the help, it's allowed us to not only build friendships but also great companions."

"We would like others Farmers and Station managers to know that they too can get help from Frontier Services through the Outback Links program; it has been a life changing experience for us", says Judy.

If you would like to support people like John and Judy, and other people in remote and rural Australia doing it tough, then a gift to Frontier Services will ensure we can further support those living in isolation.



An enduring legacy

The Australian Presbyterian Mission was founded by the Presbyterian Church of Australia to reach those “beyond the farthest fence” with God’s Word. It is better known as the Australian Inland Mission (AIM). Rev John Flynn was the first superintendent possessing a vision and dedication to see that “hospital and nursing facilities are provided within a hundred miles of every spot in Australia where women and children reside”. From 1912 the Australian Inland Mission established 15 nursing homes/bush hospitals in remote Australian locations.

Following the establishment of the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977, the work of the AIM continued in the Presbyterian Church as the Presbyterian Inland Mission and in the Uniting Church as Frontier Services.

There are many people who have played an important role in Frontier Services history, Anita Clayton is one of those special people. We wanted to thank her for her long dedicated service to the people of the outback, particularly the critical role she played in improving the health of the indigenous people of WA.

Anita grew up in the post WW2 era in Southern England. A volunteer in her teens, she started nursing training in 1965 at the University College Hospital. In 1973, she joined the Princess Mary’s Royal Airforce as a nurse where she travelled to Germany and then returning to England she sought further adventure. In 1977, after completing a Medical Certificate of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine she relocated to Perth to join the Australian



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

ANITA CLAYTON CENTRE

WA Tuberculosis Control Program

Humanitarian Entrant Health Service



Inland Mission (AIM) where she received local training in x-rays, venomous bites, camp fire burns, etc.

Then, after meeting the wonderful Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) and hospital staff at Wyndham, she reached Halls Creek as Sister in Charge. There were no doctors, the road was not sealed and my staff consisted of two nurses, a cook and handyman.

Within the year, Anita met her husband, Jim – just as AIM moved her to Fitzroy Crossing. She left the Kimberley in 1979, married in England and settled in Perth. For 28 years she worked at Perth Chest Clinic, with Tuberculosis Control and then the refugee health program. She completed

Anita Clayton pictured at the ‘Anita Clayton Centre’.



BSc in Nursing at ECU and, when the two clinics amalgamated, became the Senior Nurse.

She retired in 2007 prior to the clinics moving to new premises and, in 2010, was amazed and delighted to witness the opening renamed, the ‘Anita Clayton Centre.’

Nothing stops her even now, Anita still volunteers to a number of charities and also plans to bequest a donation to Frontier Services in her Will.

Anita, we salute you.

If you would also like advice on how to structure a gift to Frontier Services in your Will, please contact Martin Shields on 02 8270 1346. A gift to Frontier Services will not only bring help to those living in remote and rural Australia today, but also bring hope to the future people of the bush.

Welcome Rev Karama Ioapo

Rev Karama Ioapo was officially admitted as a Uniting Church Minister of the Word in March 2017. He has been a probational minister since 2004 and was then ordained in the Samoan Methodist Church in 2008. Previously, he had served as a Youth Coordinator in Queensland, and then in parish ministry in New Zealand. In 2014, he completed a Masters of Arts in Theology and Transformative Practice in Birmingham, UK. For the past 18 months he has been serving as a Supply Minister at Trinity North Uniting Church, Perth.

Moving from Perth to Northern Queensland is a big move but for Rev Karama Ioapo and his family but it was a true calling encompassing all of his skill set and years of experience.

This year, Frontier Services and in conjunction with the North Queensland Presbytery of Uniting Church has established a new ministry – the Kennedy Patrol. The area takes in the former Frontier Services' Cape York Patrol and the northern half of the former Flinders Patrol.

The Kennedy Patrol seeks to cover the areas encompassing the Cape York Peninsula, the eastern Gulf Savannah and the Northern Goldfield regions and has a total area of around 290,000 Km². Its southern borders connect with the North-eastern boundaries of the McKay Patrol with some areas of overlap given the complexity of family and business owned properties in the southern gulf area.

Rev Karama has already relocated to Atherton and officially starts his remote patrol at



the end of October when his vehicle arrives.

In the meantime, his lovely wife Yvette and his five beautiful children (four girls, one boy) with aged between thirteen and six years old are still residing in Perth. The children will be finishing up the school year before they all move up in December.

Like many remote families, their eldest daughter is attending school in Brisbane with their second eldest joining next year as well. Their remaining daughters and son will be living and attending school in Atherton.

Rev Karama has not been letting the grass grow under his feet. Since he arrived in Atherton not only is he preparing for his family's arrival but meeting and connecting with services that will he will be calling on to support his ministry.

His days include offering assistance and guidance

to the RAFS (Remote Area Family Services) in Mareeba who deal with early learning programs for parents and their children who are unable to access mainstream childcare or the SOTA (School of the Air) in Cairns. Also, tactical and on-the-ground support working in collaboration with services and charities such as the Lifeline Opportunity Shop in Atherton who often identify where someone is in the greatest of need.

Rev Ioapo says of his new adventure, "I must say it is the most beautiful place in Australia that I have been. And when you take in all the wonderful scenic views as you're driving up into the rainforest of the Tablelands mountains, breathing the fresh air and hearing the sounds of wildlife birds singing... you wouldn't find this in a city environment. The people in Atherton are lovely, approachable and friendly people once you get them talking. And so, with the Lords guidance, I am very much looking forward to what's lies ahead for both my family and this ministry journey".

Christmas Message

"Merry Christmas"

"We have asked our newest member of our Patrol Ministry, Rev Karama Ioapo for his Christmas Reflection. This year Christmas will be one to remember for Rev Karama and his family as they unite for the first time for many months and begin their Queensland Kennedy Patrol journey.

Speaking of living in Christ's Light, the Gospel of St Johns Gospel continues to emphasize the important work of Christ the Light in verse nine: "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world".

God enlightens everyone and I think there are boundless ways in which he enlightens us.

There are obvious ways through prayer and the community of the faithful, through his word and the sacraments. However, God also enlightens us through our challenges, changes of life and the people we encounter.

Most of all, he enlightens us in and through those human beings. Those who are poor, suffering, the young and old, widows, widowers and orphans, refugees and those who often are marginalized in society.

Those in need are Jesus' present to us and they often bring us enlightenment. Many are the most vulnerable, kind, loving, generous and resilient people we meet because Jesus shines through them.

So, this Christmas, may the Light of Jesus the Messiah enlighten you and shine through you to share his love and grace with everyone."



YES, I/we would like to purchase 2017 Christmas Cards* and/or make a donation to Frontier Services

Mixed pack of 10 Christmas cards (2 of each design)*
= \$12 including postage & handling

	NUMBER OF PACKS	PRICE PER PACK	TOTAL
MY ORDER (1-9 PACKS)		\$12 (including postage)	\$
BULK ORDERS (10 PACKS OR MORE) Contact us for bulk orders E fsfundraising@frontierservices.org or T 1300 787 247			
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to include a donation to help the people of remote Australia. (Note: donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)			\$
TOTAL \$			\$

PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE YOUR ADDRESS DETAILS

Supporter Number (if known) _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/ Dr/Rev PLEASE PRINT _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Date / /

I/WE WISH TO PAY BY

Cheque/Money Order (payable to Frontier Services)

Credit card – please fill in details below

Credit card – please debit Visa Mastercard Amex

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Expiry Date /

Card number _____

NOV17



Please note: Ezidebit Australia will appear on your bank or credit card statement for all donations made via credit card.

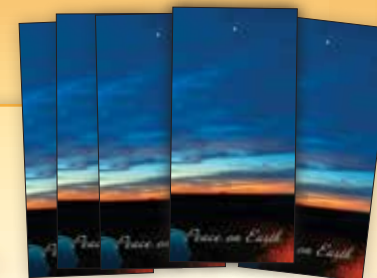
Running Out Fast!

2017 Christmas Cards*

Thank you for your feedback. Our Christmas Cards are highly sought after this year and now is your last chance to order. We have included a hand-picked variety of designs to send to your friends and loved ones.

Five stunning designs of the Australian bush (2 of each design).

Mixed pack of 10 Christmas cards \$12 including postage & handling



***Bonus while stocks last**
You will receive a bonus free pack of five cards from 2016 (while stocks last)

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS ORDER FORM AND MAIL TO:
Frontier Services
GPO Box 2527, Sydney, NSW 2001
T 1300 787 247
E fsfundraising@frontierservices.org



Frontier Services
serving remote Australia

the gift of hope
this Christmas




The Gift that Gives Twice


Each year Frontier Services Bush Chaplains and volunteers travel vast distances visiting hundreds of families living in the most remote places in Australia, providing both pastoral care and practical assistance which is so valued when times get tough.

This Christmas, we ask you to think about giving your loved ones a Frontier Services tax deductible donation gift card so that we can continue to send our Bush Chaplains and volunteers to be with those living in isolation.



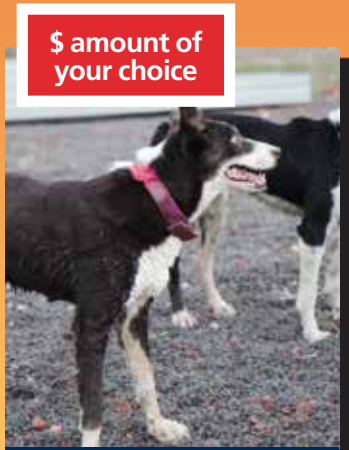
\$25
A cuppa and a chat




\$50
Mend a fence




\$100
Fill a tank

\$ amount of your choice
The gift of mateship


YES, I/we would like to purchase Gift Cards and/or make a donation to Frontier Services

YOUR GIFT	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
A cuppa and a chat (\$25): Your gift will help a Patrol Minister call on a person living in isolation.		\$25	\$
Mend a Fence (\$50): Your gift can go towards the purchase of materials utilized by our volunteers to complete repairs to farm infrastructure.		\$50	\$
Fill a tank (\$100): Getting there is one of our biggest expenses. Your gift can help fill the tank of a Patrol Minister on the road allowing them to travel hundreds of kilometres at a time.		\$100	\$
The gift of mateship (minimum \$10): A gift of the amount of your choosing will ensure that the people of remote Australia know that they are not alone this Christmas.		\$ Minimum \$10	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to include a donation to help the people of remote Australia. (Note: donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)			\$
TOTAL \$			\$

PLEASE NOTE that to ensure that all Gift Cards reach you prior to Christmas, forms must be returned to Frontier Services no later than Friday 8 December 2017.

Your gift card(s) will be sent to you to personalise before sending to your family and friends.

Please complete this order form and mail to:
Frontier Services
GPO Box 2527, Sydney, NSW 2001
T 1300 787 247
E fsfundraising@frontierservices.org



PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE YOUR ADDRESS DETAILS

Supporter Number (if known) _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/ Dr/Rev PLEASE PRINT _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Date | |

I/WE WISH TO PAY BY

Cheque/Money Order (payable to Frontier Services)

Credit card – please fill in details below

Credit card – please debit Visa Mastercard Amex


Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Expiry Date |

Card number

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