

Outback Australia

The People Group

Indigenous Australians represent 3% of our country's population. There are a large number of tribal and language groups, therefore a wide variety of diversity exists within their cultural practices. People in these remote communities continue to face challenges relating to health, education and employment.

Global Interaction serves alongside the Gurindji and Warlpiri people in communities across the Northern Territory, offering training and Bible teaching to encourage church leaders to lead their congregations as they follow Jesus in their own distinctive ways. Our team supports the Christian community as they listen to the Holy Spirit and discern how to live as disciples of Jesus in a world that straddles Indigenous and Western cultures.

The Ministry

Since 1946, Global Interaction has had a presence among the Gurindji and Warlpiri people in Outback Australia. The team is committed to walking alongside people, sharing faith, discipling believers and empowering leaders.

Respect, time and the demonstration of genuine care are the foundation for authentic relationships where faith and life can be shared.

The team spends time meeting with local people, chatting over a coffee and investing in everyday moments of friendship.

Team member Shannon writes, "We are witnesses to God's faithfulness to His people in Outback Australia. He continues calling us to reach out with the light of the Gospel. **We are building relationships and learning all we can about life here. Pray for wisdom, strength and growth for the church and our little team.** Thank you for praying and giving to partner with this work."

Team Members

Mat and Shannon
Vivian* (Team Leader)
Beth and Danny* (candidates)

**Based in NSW or Victoria*

Prayer Needs

- » **For local faith community leaders to be strengthened and equipped to lead their own people**
- » That the believers will demonstrate Jesus' love within their communities through their actions and words
- » For the intercultural team to disciple and journey with believers well
- » **That local believers will reach out to their communities, investing in authentic relationships and sharing the message of Jesus**
- » For meaningful steps of reconciliation, dialogue and healing across this country
- » For more workers to join the ministry of humbly journeying alongside First Nations believers and leaders

Stories of Hope from Outback Australia

Telling Important Stories

Our vision is to see vibrant faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways. But what does this actually look like? Shannon and Mat give us an insight into what this means for the First Nations believers they are journeying with.

“One of the ways we are witnessing people following Jesus in their own distinctive ways is through the retelling of Bible stories. Over Easter, the church community told the story of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection through a corroboree or purlapa.

This was made up of dancing, music and traditional songs. This year, the children acted out the story. It was special to see them participate in the retelling of the story in a way that will help them understand it.

This presentation of the Easter story was very understandable and comfortable for a Warlpiri person. The song lines were very Warlpiri, the rhythms were very Warlpiri, and the dancing and body paint was very Warlpiri.

This is how they tell important stories. And so it was beautiful to see them tell this most important story in this culturally significant way.”

More Stories from Outback Australia

- » **Episode 18 of Missioning** with Shannon: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning
- » **Short news articles:** www.globalinteraction.org.au/News

The First Step

Mat and Shannon write, “April and Easter are by far the busiest time of our year. The Yapa (person or aboriginal persons) churches have been meeting together to celebrate Easter for many years. The communities take it in turns to host the others and this year the gathering was here at Yuendumu.

This means taking a lot of time thinking about how the church wants to celebrate and what they may need, but this year we were given an insight we hadn’t had before. At one meeting Mat was frustrated that preparations weren’t happening quickly enough. At the next meeting, he saw people making up with one another and ensuring everyone felt ok. There were some apologies and forgiveness. Some encouragements and lots of conversations.

As Mat sat in the circle, he suddenly realised that preparations were in fact being done! In this relational context, people were doing the work of making sure relationships were ready for the work that needed to be done, and the tasks that lay ahead. This was the first step. Relationships are more important than tasks.

It was an important observation and a good lesson for us to look a bit closer when it feels like nothing is being done.