

We were a bit ambitious for this trip of more than 2000km in 5 days. We had hoped to visit 40 schools but did not manage as many. Reception at the schools was very mixed. Some were gracious and even thankful we had visited, and others would not receive the booklets. But we agreed in prayer with 63 people in 38 communities, against mice plagues and for God's blessing in that community, and His wisdom for the principals of the schools who would receive the Children's Booklets and the Teen Tracts. Some thought that they could use them for discussion, even in the Parents and Citizens meetings. It is wonderful when the booklets help the Principals of the schools to be creative about the gospel message in the secular environment.

On our first day we travelled to Scone, Blandford, Murrurundi, Willow Tree, Quirindi and Curlewis Schools and also gave out copies of Psalm 91 as this plague goes on and on. That night we stayed in Boggabri where we prayed for A at her lovely accommodation. Next day we drove to Maules Creek, Fairfax School, then Narrabri, Narrabri West and Wee Waa. At our morning stop we prayed for B and A from the Sunshine Coast and T and her 3 children, who received 4 of our



children's booklets. After getting our petrol we began our drive to Rowena, striking our first challenge for that day – a sign saying only locals could use the road. The alternative was at least 3 times as long but God was good and a local drove past us and we were able to ask him about the road. He warned us it was full of large potholes and it was, but we eventually arrived safely in Rowena to an appreciative Principal. The road from there to Collarenebri was no better, and this slowed our schedule, but we prayed with 7 First Nation people as well as at the school. We drove to Bullarah but were too late to reach the school before it closed for the day, but S and K in the shop were so lovely and we had our very late lunch and a coffee, and were able to leave the booklets with them for the school. We then drove into Moree for the night. The host there is from Macedonia so we shared our prayer with him in Macedonian.

The next day was the most difficult day we have ever had since starting the booklet trips. At Moree East School C was so pleasant, but at Moree School they refused books, prayer, and curtly sent us on our way. We stopped for fuel and were treated curtly there too when we asked if we might pray. A terrible oppression came on us and we drove 40 km on the wrong road and



had to return to Moree and begin again. When we arrived in Garah, although the door was unlocked and the lights on no one appeared so we just left the booklets on the teacher's desk and prayed for that community outside the school. We drove to Mungindi where they accepted the booklets but after the long drive to Boomi they refused the books. The oppression had not lifted and we began to wonder if we were wasting our time – if God was saying that this phase of our ministry was over. At Boomi shop there is a keen Christian, R, so we offered the booklets there but only C was there. She did accept the booklets on R's behalf so by faith we trust that Boomi receives the blessings that we wanted to leave there. We drove to Yetman where we were received, and to Toomelah where L was most gracious so the day finished well, though we had not stopped for food since breakfast and it was now 4.30pm. We stayed the night in Boggabilla, praying with R and C who are Christians.



Starting the next day with prayer we asked God to confirm whether yesterday was the end or not and we had a very positive day. We went to Boggabilla and North Star Schools, then Croppa Creek, Pallamallawa and Gravesend Schools and Bingara and Barraba Schools. At Barraba Central School J, the Principal, sat down to open the packets and discuss the material. The booklets were along the lines of her own thinking and she was so positive that we were mightily encouraged. It was she who suggested that they could be used not so much for teaching but as an opportunity for introducing the gospel into a secular environment without causing offence to those who are not for God. We drove into Tamworth for the night with lighter hearts.



Our first call next day was Bullimbil School, where we met C who decided to give the booklets to the Chaplain, S. We met F who is the wife of the Uniting Church Moderator and teaches in this school, then as we were leaving S called out to us and we had a prayer together. We went on to Timbumburi and Wallabadah Schools, went down memory lane in Gowrie and drove to Belltrees and Ellerston Schools where we were received most graciously, finishing our working day at Aberdeen School before driving home Thank you Lord for all those who encouraged us and received the



blessings that we wanted to take into the communities. We also thank You that You showed us perhaps a new strategy to use to distribute Your Word.