



FREE: PLEASE TAKE ONE

The HIGHWAY EVANGELIST

For the Aussie truckie

Transport for Christ Australia Inc. - serving the trucking industry of Australia

B/25

Print Post Approved 100004925



Former Driver Trainer at Refrigerated Roadways and Toll Logistics, Graham 'Offroad' Offord, has lost a brave eight-month battle with brain cancer, aged 75. See pages 2-3.

Celebrating the life of Graham 'Offroad' Offord

By Paul Matthei

19 November 1949 – 29 June 2025

The industry has farewelled another of its champions with the passing of former Driver Trainer at Refrigerated Roadways and Toll Logistics, Graham Offord.

Graham was born in Sydney and grew up in the inner western suburb of Five Dock. He was one of five children born to loving parents Stanley and Phoebe Offord.

He attended Five Dock Primary and Abbotsford High where his talents, being largely of a practical hands-on nature, led him to excel in the Industrial Arts realm. Upon leaving school Graham and his older brother Kevin (who he affectionately dubbed 'Doc' in their youth) worked for their cousin who owned a landscape gardening business at Mortdale.

After several years of landscape gardening work, Graham decided to try something completely different and landed a job with Prospect County Council, where he subsequently worked for quite a few years earthing power poles.



This role involved close contact with heavy trucks and machinery, and it wasn't long before Graham's interest in all things heavy machinery was piqued, starting him on a trajectory that would continue for the span of his working life.

Around this time Graham joined the Army Reserve in the Engineering Division, which further bolstered his

burgeoning interest in heavy trucks.

In the early '90s a tragic truck accident which claimed the life of a cousin lit a fire in Graham's belly and from that point onwards he was determined to use the skills he had learned to help improve the standard of driving skills in the heavy road transport sector.

He was enlisted by Refrigerated Roadways as its Driver Trainer and his likeable personality and happy-go-lucky nature enabled him to reach even the most recalcitrant drivers in a bid to raise the bar in driving skills across the company's substantial driver base. It was here that he was given the nickname 'Offroad', testament to the respect he had earned from the drivers.

I personally had the privilege of working with Graham for several years in the late '90s and early 2000s when I worked as a casual rigid and semi-trailer driver for Refrigerated Roadways and later Toll Logistics. I remember marvelling at his people skills and thinking that there just wouldn't be a better person for the role. His continuous cheerful banter simply won everyone over and then he was able to impart his skills and the drivers happily accepted the tuition because he was 'one of the boys'.





After Graham retired from the Driver Trainer role in 2008, his love of trucks and driving continued on a part-time basis with Truck Moves, delivering all manner of new trucks, buses and fire engines all over Australia.

He revelled in the allure of the open highway and eagerly drove vehicles from Sydney to far-flung places like Perth or Darwin – it was all in a day's work for Graham.

After his wife Trish retired from her teaching role in 2011, the couple moved from western Sydney to Varsity Lakes on the Gold Coast and Graham was introduced to the Tally Valley Golf Club by their new neighbour, George.

He loved the camaraderie of his golfing buddies 'The Dinosaurs', as they are affectionately known, and over the ensuing years they have been a wonderful group of mates for Graham, enjoying a weekly game together.

In 2016 Graham and Trish joined the Varsity Lakes Probus Club where they met and socialised with many like-minded people. Graham was voted in as Club President in 2022, which was a great honour for him.

Graham's other great passion in life was painting, mostly with watercolours. This pastime gave him hours upon hours of enjoyment. Over the years he received numerous accolades and awards for his

efforts. He also sold quite a number of his paintings.

He also loved pushbike riding and moving to the Gold Coast gave him access to a plethora of bike paths throughout the picturesque region.



Several years ago, Graham's two daughters and their partners and children moved from Sydney to the north coast of NSW, enabling Graham and Trish to spend more time with their five grandsons and two great grandchildren.

We give our heartfelt condolences to Graham's family: his loving wife of 45 years, Trish; his two daughters Sandra and Karen and their families; his four siblings Laraine, Kevin, Jan and Wendy and their families.

Graham will be fondly remembered as a larger-than-life character who was full of fun, generosity and empathy among his extended family, friends and workmates.



.....

The good, the blessings, and the challenges of the not-so-good!



The many locations Gordon has delivered trucks to where he leaves Bible tracts.

The above map shows my destinations over the last five years of contract driving, mainly for Inland Trucks and Machinery Tamworth NSW. Nearly every one of those dots has a Bible tract left in it somewhere... There have been many interesting trips over the years, and I thank the Lord every day as He rides with me allowing me to see His wonderful creations in this amazing land that we live in. Here is one of my stories.

One interesting trip that shows God at work, was to deliver an ex-Army Scania 5,000ltr water tanker to Caiguna on the Nullarbor approximately 2,800kms from Tamworth and I had no idea as to how I was going to get to civilization from there. It was suggested that I hitchhike to which I responded, "Highly unlikely having experienced trying that before on the Nullarbor Plain!"

Day one to Broken Hill went well. However, during day two I was asked to fill the tank up with water before getting to the Nullarbor site. Day three in Ceduna; due to the several previous trips across the Nullarbor I had established a good relationship with the owner of the Motel; that kind gentleman, plus God's Grace and hand on me, the Council agreed for me to fill the said tanker, with water from one of their quick fill sites and away I went! On arriving at the WA border they asked, "What is in that tank?" I honestly replied, "Water sir" to which I'm told, "You cannot bring Water into WA, turn around and empty it over there," pointing to a spot in SA!! After all my thoughts of how silly that can be, I had to empty it onto one of the driest parts in Australia. Really? Unbeknown to me the Lord was at work as usual and had complete control which will be seen shortly.

On arriving at Caiguna and meeting the leader of a team (my delivery point) installing fibroptic cable from Norseman to Adelaide, I was expecting him to say you haven't delivered what you were asked to do, especially when he told me he needed the water for drilling under roads etc and there is none available out here. However, when I explained I had collected the water, and it was the WA government authority that had stopped me delivering. He said, "Well you had better take one of my men in the morning and drive to Norseman where he can get water and leave you there." How good is God? First filled the tank so that I had complied with my instructions, then emptied the tank so I got a ride to Norseman.

We arrived in Norseman 15 minutes before the coach left for Kalgoorlie! so I jumped in arriving at Kalgoorlie 2hrs before I caught a scheduled Virgin flight to Perth, where I was able to get a late flight to Melbourne

arriving in Melbourne at 6am only to find they had left my luggage in Perth. After a 6 hour wait in Virgins VIP lounge (complements of Virgin) my Luggage caught up with me!

Then I was able to go and collect a twenty-five-seater Mitsubishi Bus and drive to Bendigo, where I delivered it to the depot in Kangaroo Flat Vic and collected a Mitsubishi Canter Fire truck and drove it to Tamworth..... round trip 6 days.

I humbly Praised God how HE organised it ALL to come together so beautifully, bringing me home safely, without a crash, a breakdown or needing to stay away from home for a prolonged period!!!

Kind Regards,
Gordon Long
Tamworth NSW



One of the many trucks Gordon has delivered all over Australia.

Note from the editor: this letter was sent to a TFC volunteer who liked it, and on request Gordon agreed we could publish it. Coincidentally, the proprietor of Inland Trucks and Machinery Tamworth, graciously helped a TFC volunteer when he was injured in Tamworth a few years ago to get his truck unloaded and left somewhere safe before it could be moved back to its home.

.....



One of our company drivers was westbound through Orange NSW in a cab over Kenworth and 19 metre B Double tankers.

He stopped at the red light at Lords Place. Young people were out partying on Saturday night and when the lights went green there were no more red lights so it didn't take long to get to the fruit shop on the edge of town, when the disco lights of a fast following police car caused him to stop.

The policeman asked, "Did you see me standing next to my car near the fire station?" He said "Yes."

The policeman said, "You don't know why I stopped you, do you?"

He said, "No."

The policeman said, "When you passed me there were three young men standing on the back of your back trailer and they disembarked at the next roundabout."

The driver said, "How are they?" Because he was going well.

The policeman said, "They lost a fair bit of skin. They lost a fair bit of money too when they appeared in court."

Just another day on the highway?

No.

Because four weeks later a young man trying to beat that one was killed in the same place.

— Rod Leigo

What is a Church?

Let's ask google! Wikipedia says, "A church, church building, church house, or chapel is a building used for Christian worship services and Christian activities." Well,

that's ok but I think we could dig a little deeper here by saying a church doesn't have to be a building. A few decades ago, TFC Australia had a chapel semi-trailer, and Australia has also seen mission boats.

So, a church could and should be described as a community of believers in Jesus Christ. Church means "assembly." The Greek word, "ekklesia" meaning assembly or congregation has been used by theologians and Bibles throughout the centuries. The Bible describes the church as being "built" of people: "You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple" (1 Peter 2:5a). Those who believe in Jesus are the church. So you can gather a church together, meaning the believers, without a building at all. In the New Testament (after Jesus lived on earth), the first churches were those held in people's houses from the time of Pentecost onwards. Even today in other countries, underground Christians meet in houses as Christians are persecuted. When they meet, they arrive and depart at homes at staggered hours before and after to avoid prying eyes seeing a gathering. Praise the Lord that we don't endure this in Australia. Let's look at a couple of churches I have recently visited while truckin' around Australia:



The author at Point McLeay Aboriginal Mission Church, built 1869, at Raukkan SA on Lake Alexandrina.

Two Churches

There is a picture of a church in wide circulation that many Australians would have seen for decades – perhaps without realising! It is at Raukkan, SA, built in 1869 and still used today, at the Point McLeay Aboriginal Mission, home to the Ngarrindjeri people on the shores of Lake Alexandrina that the Murray River flows into just before the Murray Mouth in SA. This church is on the Australian \$50 note alongside a picture of an

Aboriginal man, David Unaipon, who grew up and preached here, was an inventor, our first Aboriginal author, and a lay preacher. Among his inventions was our first automatic sheep shearing machine. Often David was refused accommodation in his travels as he was Aboriginal. David and his father would often discuss the relationship between Aboriginal spirituality and Christianity, always looking for a way to explain about Christ within local culture. David preached, " ... in Christ Jesus, colour and racial distinctions disappear ... " Amen to that.



At Pella, near the town of Rainbow in western Victoria, is St Johns Lutheran church, still used, and originally called St Johannes. The Lutheran believers were German who left Prussia after persecution from King Ferdinand from 1838. Lutherans are Bible



St Johns Lutheran Church Pella, Vic. Built 1911

believing and believe in justification by grace. In Australia they mostly came to SA but also to other states in smaller numbers. Some came to Pella, Vic, as the government was selling farming plots there of one mile square (640 acres). They built a small church which was also the school, and is now a museum. When a larger church was built in 1911 it was the second largest Lutheran church in Australia, the largest being in Adelaide. I had the pleasure of a guided tour of the limestone church, rectory, and museum, by Mal who played their beautiful large organ with 428 pipes. There is a marble altar and baptism font. The Germans worked hard and multiplied. One family came with five children and then had another eleven in Australia!

Some Bible references

Back to the task of defining a church so let's look at some applicable Bible scriptures:

A well-known Bible metaphor is that the church is "the body of Christ." Jesus Christ is the "head" of the church, and the congregation making up the "body" of the church. There is a bond and a unity between Christ and the members, and between the members of the congregation, as everyone brings different skills to the functioning

church (1 Corinthians 12:27).

Jesus is the cornerstone of the church. When building, the cornerstone must be set up "true" as the rest of the building is built, measured, and levelled off it. So in many parts of the Bible, we are told that Jesus is the cornerstone of a church, i.e. the church community and our faith. (Ephesians 2:20-22)



Mission Paddle Boats

Finally, another type of church building were mission boats. There were several mission paddle boats used on Australia's longest river the Murray from 1894. The P.S. Etona was used from 1899 to 1912. In those times there were many woodcutters' camps and farming communities but few proper towns. Mission boats provided religious services and could be booked for baptisms and weddings. P.S. Etona did a six-week cycle of locations and had an organ and altar. The crew and clergy lived aboard and there was a guest cabin (perhaps the honeymoon suite?). As towns grew church buildings replaced the boats.

Hebrews 10:25 reminds us: *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ..."*

Blessings, Murray Reedie.

Crossing the Blue Mountains ...



carpenters, road makers, sawyers, a quarryman, blacksmith, shoemaker, and bullock drivers, together with 21 labourers. In six months the road was completed despite days of continuous rain and sickness among the 28 workmen and 6 soldiers. It has been described as one of the most remarkable engineering feats in Australian history.

Compared to the roads and highways of today, it would be described as a goat track; nevertheless it served its purpose. Some parts of the original road can still be seen today.

There were eight attempts by the first Europeans to cross the Blue Mountains west of Sydney Cove. The first successful crossing was accomplished in May 1813 by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, with four servants, pack horses and dogs. Previous expeditions journeyed up river valleys until being blocked by sheer cliffs. The 1813 journey was successful because they travelled along the mountain ridges between rivers.

Governor Macquarie dispatched surveyor Evans to survey the "Blazed Track". The following year in July, William Cox commenced the formidable task of constructing a road from Emu Plains west to an area that became known as Bathurst, a distance of 100 miles (160 kms). The criteria for the road:- 12 foot wide (3.65 metres), cleared either side an extra 3 feet 11 inches (1.2 metres).

The road making team under Cox's supervision consisted of

On the roadway of life, everyone experiences times of sadness and loneliness, as well as times of happiness and peace. Solomon wrote of 28 times of life in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 commencing with "*a time to be born*" and concluding with "*a time of war and a time of peace*".



The Blue Mountain pioneers, lithograph by M. Emile Ulm, Sydney Mail, 1880, SLNSW SPF/1396 - from: <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/crossing-blue-mountains/finding-way-west>

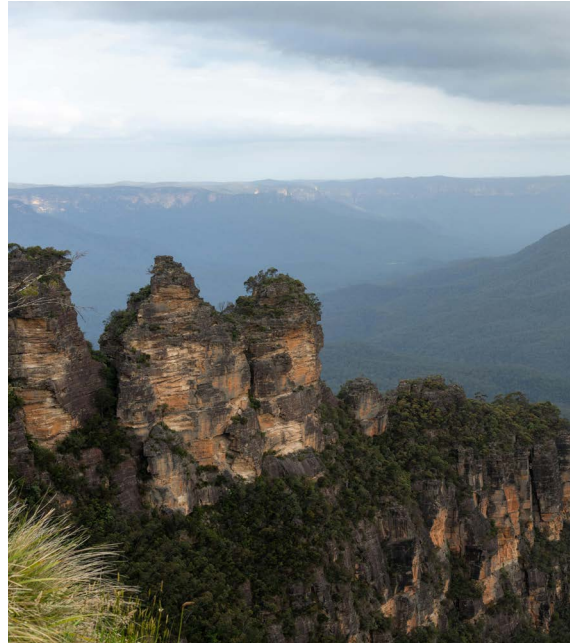
The Lord Jesus said, *"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid."*
John 14:27.

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

When the road is rough and steep
Fix your eyes upon Jesus.
He alone has power to keep,
Fix your eyes upon Him.

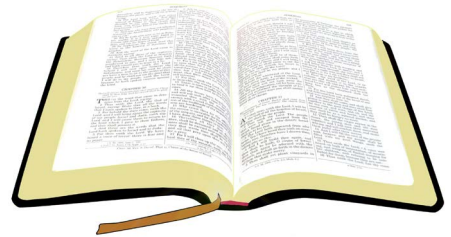
Jesus is a faithful friend
One on whom you can depend,
He is faithful to the end,
Fix your eyes upon Him.

— Neil Hawke.



Make peace with God today!

Come to Jesus Christ today and trust in Him alone for your salvation.



You can pray this prayer: *"Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross and shed Your blood to pay the penalty for my sins. Please forgive me and come into my life as my Saviour and Lord."*



- ☐ I now put my trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, or
- ☐ I now re-dedicate my life to Christ, or
- ☐ I have previously trusted Christ and would like a Bible study

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Post to: Transport for Christ, PO Box 30, Mittagong NSW 2575

B/25

Shrewd as snakes, innocent as doves

By Paul Matthei



In the gospel of Matthew chapter 10, verse 16 (New International Version) of the Bible, Jesus tells his Twelve Apostles: *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."*

This verse in the Bible has intrigued me for the longest time, not least due to its seemingly contradictory message. Sure, being sent out as sheep among wolves makes sense in terms of the situations in the world that can be potentially dangerous for us; but to be shrewd as snakes and at the same time innocent as doves? It takes a bit to get your head around and therefore, I believe, begs to be unpacked.

In a nutshell, I believe Jesus was pulling no punches with these instructions to his disciples. He knew what they were going to be subjected to as followers of Him, and He wanted them to know all about it, to get it straight from the horse's mouth, if you like.

In many ways it is no different for followers of Christ today. We can face much opposition from this world in which we live as we do our best to earn our livings,

raise our families and try to squeeze in a bit of fun along the way.

I think Matthew 10:16 is very poignant, because Jesus instructs us to behave in a way that some non-believers would not expect. Of course, they expect us to be innocent as doves, that should be a given for any genuine Christian. But to be shrewd as snakes? That may throw a curve ball into the equation.

Yet I believe that Jesus, in saying these words, was charging His followers to engage a depth of understanding that would enable their ministry to be most effective, and to use their intelligence to deliver the message in a kind and gentle way – a way that non-Christians might be most likely to listen to – hence the dove analogy. And also to wisely discern when it's necessary to keep pressing the point and when it's time to shake the dust off our feet and walk away.

Another reference to shrewdness can be found in the gospel of Luke, chapter 16 – The Parable of the Shrewd Manager. In this parable Jesus talks to his disciples about the importance of using resources wisely and not hoarding wealth. He describes a situation where a rich man was about to sack his finance manager for wasting his possessions. The finance manager was shrewd enough to call in the people who owed his boss money and reduce their debts so that they would look favourably on him after he lost his job.

In verse 8 Jesus says, *"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light."*

What I believe this means is that we as Christians need to engage with the

wider world and not simply deal with other Christians because this is a more comfortable proposition. When, as Christians, we engage with others who don't share our faith it gives us the opportunity to display our morals and values, thus showing them that there is another way to live; in other words, we can be a witness for Christ in our workplace, on the sports field and even at the pub.

Wolves in sheep's clothing

Jesus paints another wolf analogy in Matthew 7:15 when he tells his followers: *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."*



People fitting this description are undoubtedly the most dangerous of all due to the deceptive and dishonest way in which they hide their true colours. Perhaps a good way to link together the two verses of Matthew 10:16 and 7:15 is to say that we need to be as shrewd as snakes in order to not be hoodwinked by false prophets, but also innocent as doves so that we do not fall into sin in the process of identifying them and calling them out.

Speaking further about these false prophets, Jesus goes on to say in Matthew 7:16: *"By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"*

In other words, he is saying that we need to be astute and perceptive when dealing with people and in this way we will be able to discern whether they are fair dinkum, or just pretending to be, by the 'fruit' they are producing.

In the final wrap up, after delving into these verses in Matthew, I would now say that the act of being as shrewd as a snake and innocent as a dove is complementary, rather than contradictory as I previously thought.

Jesus wants his followers to be aware of potential dangers and to make shrewd decisions based on that awareness, while at the same time doing our best to maintain a blameless life, free from malice and deceit and treating others with kindness and respect.

The verse is a directive to followers of Christ in a challenging and corrupted world that they need to act with a mix of wisdom and grace in order to successfully navigate difficult situations without compromising their God-given principles.

.....

*Two fish are in a tank.
One says to the other,
"How do you drive this thing?"*

.....

*A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into
a blood bank. The rabbit says,
"I believe that I am a type o."*

.....

*A termite walks into a bar and asks,
"Is the bar tender here?"*

.....

*What has four wheels and flies?
A garbage truck.*



Fantastic Aussie Tours and CMS Summer School

There is a bus and coach company at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney that chalked up an impressive 50 years of operation at the end of 2024. In 1974 John and Lorraine Cronshaw (above) started Golden West Tours after dabbling with school buses since 1968. In 1989 it was rebranded as Fantastic Aussie Tours (FAT). Son Jason is now the Managing Director, and a partner, Darrell Booth, is operations and fleet manager of the vehicles.

2025 CMS Summer School - Katoomba NSW

In January 2025 along with 2,800 adults and 1,200 children I attended my first annual Church Missionary Society (CMS) Summer School at Katoomba with members of my church. I had friends, a husband-and-wife with child, heading off to a new life in the Lord's service in Asia on mission with CMS and my church also supports others serving.

CMS is a fellowship of Christian people committed to cross-cultural mission. Their mission is to reach gospel-poor peoples for Christ, equip Christians as leaders in the church and the world, and engage churches in cross-cultural mission. They work with

churches to set apart godly people as long-term cross-cultural gospel workers. They support more than 200 workers serving under local leaders in almost 50 countries, as they seek to see "A world that knows Jesus."

The guest speaker was minister and author Alistair Begg, born in Scotland, but living in Cleveland Ohio USA since 1983, preaching on 1 Peter. What a knowledgeable and humorous preacher.



In 1799 a group of evangelists founded CMS with the goal of sending missionaries across the globe to share the gospel of Jesus. From its early beginnings, CMS has sent missionaries to serve long-term under local Christians in gospel-poor areas, helping establish faithful churches that sing, pray, and read the Bible in local languages. In 1825, a CMS-UK outpost was set up in Sydney and in 1916, the Australian CMS associations came together to form the Church Missionary Society of Australia. Since that time more than 1,500 missionaries have been supported by the CMS fellowship.

A truckie and ex-coach driver mate mentioned that the bus and coach company providing the CMS shuttles was Christian based and celebrating 50 years of operation. I thought this was a great chance for a HE

story and contacted them. CFO Rick Selby organised information and a quick meet at a bus stop with a coach driving Darrell, who said he would catch me on Friday.

My Fantastic Aussie Tours visit

Fast forward to Friday afternoon, there was a BBQ at the Fantastic Aussie Tours depot and Darrell gave me a tour of the facilities. I allowed an hour to get info and photos but as is always the case we got talking buses and trucks and spent nearly six hours changing gears!

Apart from offices and a workshop at Katoomba FAT operates 18 coaches and 2 autobuses. These include a double decker Denning coach, BCI's, Volvos, minibuses, Toyota Coasters, and a 1954 ex-Ansett Flxible Clipper with a 540 V8 Perkins diesel of about 170hp. This seats 18 people in beautiful red upholstery, a toilet, and small kitchen, which is perfect for small groups like wedding transport and hens' parties. Up to three red double decker Explorer coaches do a tourist circuit around the Katoomba and Leura townships, and Blue Mtns attractions like the Three Sisters rock formation, Echo Point, and the Scenic Railway and Skyway Rides 365 days per year. In 2017 FAT became the first certified 100% carbon neutral bus charter transport service in Australia. The explorer Bus was the first tourism operator/transport service in the country to be certified, and FAT and the Explorer Bus were the first to operate a certified carbon neutral bus and coach fleet.

Like many businesses FAT have had their challenging times. In late 2019-2020 bushfires interrupted this successful company, bus charters, and regular tourist bus runs were cancelled. Eventually rain stopped the never-ending fires only for

floods to cause landslides and cut off half of an Explorer Bus route! Then the pandemic came. With business dead and no government support half of the fleet were sold. However, things are good again and some vehicles sold have been repurchased. The company now has a third generation of their workers in place.

FAT contributes 10% of its profits to charity. All coaches sponsor a child. 14 children in Zambia are sponsored through Pro-Purpose under a program delivered through World Vision. FAT does volunteer charity work for Samaritan Purse. This involves providing drivers for a truck and trailer with emergency equipment. Efforts have included the Echuca floods and Rochester floods in Vic, and the Gold Coast Hinterland Tornado. FAT also runs Christian Fellowship Tours both in Australia and worldwide, a lifelong project of company founder John Cronshaw.



The 3 Explorer coaches, a 1997 Volvo (left) and a 2017 and 2018 BCI.

Darrell's interests

Darrell's passion is his and his wife Sue- Ellen's 1958 ex-Ansett Flxible Clipper coach, converted to a motor home, and they have a network of friends like them. It didn't matter what Clipper I mentioned Darrell knew the owner! He has done an enormous amount of work on it. Darrell

graciously gave me a drive of theirs that day and like many US coaches it had a massive turning circle that involved consideration. It brought back memories to me how I manoeuvred through intersections with American GM PD4107 coaches (Jumbos') that I drove years ago. Especially with its "Screamin' Jimmy" 2-stroke 6V53 217 hp GM diesel. Darrell told me that whenever he and his wife go away in the Clipper and they want a coffee they park right at a coffee shop away from most people and run in and out, as they always get asked a gazillion questions about the coach from the public! Sure enough, we stopped at Govett's Leap lookout for photos and four people descended with questions. I said, "I see what you mean Darrell!" Darrell also plays the drums in a ukulele pub rock band, "The Blue Mugs."

*Thanks for your time FAT and Darrell,
God Bless, Murray Reedie.*



Coach design progress over the years: Darrell and Sue-Ellen's 1958 Flxible Clipper in Ansett livery and FAT'S 1992 Denning double decker coach.

CMS info and history was taken from the CMS Summer School handouts. Some information on the bus and coach company was taken from an advertising feature in the Blue Mountains Gazette newspaper 13/11/2024 supplied by a FAT manager.

Golden Oldies

.... from the back page:

This 1988 model International Transtar 4670 is owned by Carl Bennett at East Kurrajong in the north-western outskirts of Sydney.

The truck was purchased new by Knights Transport in Kilmore, Victoria, where it towed a fuel tanker and was eventually traded in at Sydney Iveco at Arndell Park.

The second owner was a subbie for Boral Bricks, so the Transtar was painted in Boral colours and towed one of the first new Krueger flat-top trailers built to accommodate a Moffat Mounty forklift at the rear. It did this work for many years until it was parked up in 2007 and didn't turn a wheel until 2024, after Carl purchased it for the right price.

Carl is a Cummins-trained mechanic so it didn't take him long to get the old girl – which features a Cummins N14 444hp engine – fired up.

"It needed a new water pump, drive belts and batteries and it was a bit cranky to start, but soon it was running fine on the diesel fuel that was in the tanks when it was parked up," Carl explains. "The clutch worked and the brakes were a bit sticky, but we managed to drive it out of the holes where the front wheels had been sitting, with a bit of help from a forklift."

After that, all Carl needed to do was clean the windows before driving it home. He has since driven it to Denman and Dubbo truck shows to put it on display and it didn't miss a beat on either trip.

Running gear comprises a RoadRanger 15-speed direct transmission and SP40 diffs on International four-spring suspension. The high-rise sleeper was built by Sleekline Industries in Clontarf, Queensland.



where more papers were loaded for delivery northward as far as Inglewood in Queensland.

Getting back to "I've been everywhere" – the song mentions 93 town names, and the driver, as he drops the hitchhiker off, tells him he's been every place except one. Then the driver takes off, gradually fading into the distance.

The "one place" could be interpreted as anywhere – even lost. To be truthful that's where we all stand before a Holy and Righteous God – lost, condemned. But God in His great love has provided the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life; the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Saviour of all who trust Him.

One day everyone will cross a border with no return, when our life on Earth terminates.

"See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor. 6:2b)

TAILGATE

Border To Border and Over

by Neil Hawke

Back in the 1960's music was all the rage with younger people and Lucky Starr had a hit "I've been everywhere". Some older readers might recall.

With a slight delay in the publication of the first 2025 Highway Evangelist paper it was felt to be urgent to quickly distribute the 6000 copies arriving at the TFC office in Forbes. 48 prepaid bags (small, medium and large) had already been addressed. On the day, with assistance from John and Denise the papers were counted, banded together and placed in appropriate sized bags, and delivered to the Post office for distribution throughout Australia.

Now half of the papers were gone. Then I took a road trip south for deliveries along the Newell Highway as well as other towns to the usual truck stops, service stations and cafes reaching just over the Victorian border. After overnighting at Finley, and breakfast at the truck stop in Jerilderi I continued on to Mittagong to meet with the Truckies' Chaplain, John Wheeler, and talk about the work of TFC. The following day papers were left at Yass, then other towns back to Forbes



Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants?

In case he got a hole in one.

.....

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my leotards on, the class was already over.



The opinions expressed in the Highway Evangelist are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team or Transport for Christ Australia Inc.

Call Chaplain John Wheeler—

Transport for Christ Australia Inc.

PO Box 30, Mittagong NSW 2575

Phone: 0408 117 775

Email: jndwheeler@hotmail.com

Website: transportforchristaustralia.com

Regional representatives:

Queensland: Shawn Slade — 0424 344 777
Leanne Kelly — 0412 834 484

Central West NSW: Neil Hawke — 0455 216 363

Sydney Region: Murray Reddie — 0412 653 870
Vic Stone — 0401 394 142



Golden Oldies

This 1988 model International Transtar 4670 is owned by Carl Bennett at East Kurrajong in the north-western outskirts of Sydney.

The truck was purchased new by Knights Transport in Kilmore, Victoria, where it towed a fuel tanker and was eventually traded in at Sydney Iveco at Arndell Park.

Continued on page 14



Subscription Order Form



Individual Subscriptions: \$10.00 per year, or 20c each for bulk copies

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Post to: Transport for Christ, PO Box 30, Mittagong NSW 2575

Please make cheques payable to 'Transport for Christ'

TFC Bank Account (for donations only) BSB: 641 800 Account No: 025 106 581

***A digital version of the Highway Evangelist is available at
transportforchristaustralia.com***