

binbilla

global interaction association of former staff & friends

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*...to bring us together,
for mutual support
and encouragement,
and to provide
a context for
maintaining our
engagement in
global mission...*

Welcome To This Winter edition of Binbilla!

A NUMBER OF YOU WROTE to us following our first edition last November. We appreciated your encouragement and feedback. We are also grateful for the contributions received for the Pastoralia column.

On this occasion we share with you three great stories – all from different parts of the world.

Peggy Glasby writes with elegant simplicity about her missionary service in the Indian Sub-continent and Papua New Guinea, and a testing episode in her life. The latter is told with great sensitivity and courage.

John and Elaine Olley, since writing their Pilgrimage in Mission story for this issue, have taken up a six month leadership role with SFI in Kazakhstan. A *Festschrift* has recently been published in honour of John: *Text & Task – Scripture & Mission* (Paternoster Press). One of the contributors is David Firth, former ABMS staff member in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Eight months ago Les and Ruth Haydon returned to Zambia to celebrate with their African friends a century of Baptist work in the country. Les shares with us an optimistic picture of Zambia today and the health of the church since the localisation of ABMS work in the late 1990's. Our mailing list is still incomplete. If you know any former missionary staff or friends of GiA who did not receive a copy of the first edition of Binbilla, please let us have their contact details so that we can add them to the mailing list. We also remind you that if you would like to receive your copy of Binbilla electronically, please send your email details to: information@globalinteraction.org.au.



ROSALIND GOODEN AND CHRIS PITTENDRIGH
COORDINATORS

MY PILGRIMAGE IN MISSION

PEGGY GLASBY REFLECTS ON HER MISSIONARY & FAMILY LIFE

Peggy went to East Pakistan with ABMS in 1949. Her husband, Rex, arrived the following year and, together, they served with ABMS in East Pakistan (1950-1953), India (1953-1967) and Papua New Guinea (1983-1986)



I WAS BORN IN TASMANIA to a beautiful godly mother and an equally God-fearing father. When I was a little girl I can remember saying, “if only I could show this beautiful flower to those people we were told about in church and Sunday school, they would know there was a God.” In reality, those dark people were more aware of the supernatural than many of us. It’s God’s love through Jesus they didn’t know about. That was something I had to learn.

Missionaries sometimes stayed with us, so it wasn’t strange that one of my older sisters applied to be a missionary. She was a nurse, but she was rejected because of poor health. I was a young school girl at the time, and I made a promise to Jesus that I would offer to be a missionary. The only mission I knew was ABMS – and its work in India. I loved Jesus and I wanted to serve him. The idea of doing something medical appealed to me. This led me into pharmacy. Following graduation I applied to ABMS.

I ended up in India and married Rex. Eventually the Field Council sent us to Assam to work with the Rabhas, an animistic tribal group who wanted medical help. Rex was very capable. He had many gifts – such as confidence and real skill with people. He found a couple of teachers to help with the Rabha language and translation. A preacher from a sister tribal group came into the area. A few Rabhas became Christians and a church was formed. Today there are 70 churches and a Christian community of 7,000. My Dad wrote to me, “You have chosen the adventurous life.” That life continued.

In due course our four boys arrived. They became very much part of life in the village of Debitola. They played with the local kids and the local kids loved them. Debitola was their home. All but three of my boys have gone back there in the years since we left. As a family, we are still very much in touch.

Being a mother was, to me, more important than being a good missionary. I felt that living amongst a group of people, and serving and loving Jesus in a happy home, was being a missionary. We sang a lot. I didn’t like mumbled graces, so we sang our thanks to God. The boys loved those songs, and singing them has become a family tradition. When John was fourteen, we went back to Australia. It was a different world. Pop groups were a big thing – like the Seekers and Simon and Garfunkle. The Charismatic era was coming in. The drug scene was booming. There was a lot for our boys to deal with.

We went to live in the mining town of Savage River. It was a warm, close community – of which the church was a real part. Local events held on a Sunday, like billy-cart races, were postponed until the church service was over. And we helped the community, too. When the two older boys were ready for university, we moved to Hobart. A year later, Rex became the minister of my old church – the Hobart Baptist Tabernacle.

There was so much tragedy and human drama while we were in Hobart. The key was always in the door of our house; and all sorts of people walked in and sat down. There were a few regulars. Everyone was offered tea and coffee. The boys talked to anyone who came. People often stayed the night. If I let it be known to the boys that we might not have enough food, they would say, “There’ll be enough; we’ll make do”.

Rex and I later moved to the Western suburbs of Melbourne for a couple of years, then to Papua New Guinea. The latter was another great adventure. Rex initially managed a dormitory for fifty or so young men from the Sepik area working in the rain and mist at the Ok Tedi mine site, 8,000 feet above sea level. His next appointment was ABMS Missionary Advisor. Two years later we returned to Hobart where Rex became an industrial chaplain.

We had not been long in Hobart when Rex was diagnosed with an unusual cancer in the thyroid gland.

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ZAMBIA TODAY

LES HAYDON REFLECTS ON HIS VISIT TO ZAMBIA

Les and his wife, Ruth, served with ABMS in Zambia from 1970-1979 and 1990-1998. In the years between Les was the ABMS honorary State Secretary for South Australia for a period of six years



WE VISITED ZAMBIA to represent Global Interaction at the celebrations of the centenary of Baptist work in that country. Our impressions were more positive than we expected.

CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AT TOP LEVEL

President Levi Mwanawasa was baptised in a Southern Baptist church at the beginning of 2005. Unable to attend the celebrations because of a previous engagement, he sent the Minister of Lands, the Honourable Rev. Gladys Niyongo. An ordained minister in a Pentecostal church her contribution was not just diplomatic but through preaching and song leading she made a spiritual impact.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

We expected to discover that the economy had continued to decline from the time we left Zambia in 1998. In fact, it has begun to recover. We noted the following:

- The world copper price has increased giving Zambia greater income
- Farmers have moved in from both South Africa and Zimbabwe and, despite a drought in 2005, the commercial farmers seem to be doing quite well.
- There has been significant development around the capital, Lusaka as shown by two huge supermarket complexes built on the road to the airport.
- The government has allowed in expatriate expertise to help in the recovery. For example, the copper mines are now run by two Australian companies.

In spite of the above, poverty levels are still high in the rural areas. The peasant farmers find it difficult to afford farm inputs such as fertiliser. Rural people find it hard to come up with money for school fees, medical expenses and even the cost of the new Lenje Bible which sells for K40,000 = \$US 10.

THE CHURCH IS GOING ON WELL

- The Baptist Union of Zambia now consists of more than 800 churches.
- Boston Mwebela's model for training rural pastors in blocks of study around their planting and reaping seasons has placed pastors in most of the new churches planted in the Malambanyama area. It is now being employed in the Fiwale Hill area as well.
- Keith Gallagher is working with the leadership of the Northern Baptist Association of Zambia to help them with their decision making.
- Help is coming out of South Africa. It almost seems as if ABMS/Global Interaction moved out in order for others to move in with a different relationship. The Baptist Union of Southern Africa wants to partner with the Zambian churches. They have already seconded a lecturer to Fiwale Hill Bible College. An Afrikaner group, Fellowship for Cross cultural Education has also moved into the area.
- It is encouraging to see new generations entering into the Lord's work. We met the granddaughter of Jameson Lupunga, a teacher in the early days of mission schools. She is a fine young Christian and her children are great grandchildren of revered leader, the late Rev. Bob Litana.

One of the challenges for the Northern Baptist Association, which now covers a huge area, is to resolve the conflict between those who want to have control over the whole area and those who see the necessity to decentralise control into regional areas.

FIWALE HILL RURAL HOSPITAL

The hospital has become a centre for HIV/AIDS treatment and education. The latest addition to the hospital is an operating theatre that was nearing completion during our visit.

OUR PILGRIMAGE IN MISSION

JOHN & ELAINE OLLEY RECALL LIFE IN HONG KONG

John and Elaine served with ABMS in Hong Kong from 1968-1978. Thereafter John was a staff member at the Baptist Theological of Western Australia from 1979-2003 (including the position of Principal from 1991-2003) and Elaine pursued a career in social work. John is also a former ABMS Chairman



WE ARRIVED IN HONG KONG August 1968, a young couple (ages 30 and 29) with two young children (5 and 2), excited to be in mission overseas. The first Sunday, after a Chinese church service we were taken to eat in a hotel by missionaries. In Australia “good Christians” didn’t do that! That began ten years of personal challenge and growth with lasting impact. Much could be said but we focus on four areas.

MEN AND WOMEN IN PARTNERSHIP

At the NSW Annual Assembly several new ABMS missionaries were commissioned. All were married (as far as we can remember), but only the men were mentioned on the program and commissioned! Then in ABMS fields it took years before men and single women became missionaries “in full standing”, for wives much longer, if at all. What a change it was to be part of the American Baptist mission family. From the start both of us were treated as equal members of the team, some of whom had been missionaries for 20 years. Further, in social gatherings men and women conversed freely on all kinds of subjects (unlike the male/female groupings that still persist in Australia).

For Elaine this was a time of freedom to develop her potential and exercise her gifts, and for John a time to see fresh insights from Scripture and so for us both to grow in our relationship and ministry. This prepared us for changes that were to come in Australia (still inadequate in many churches). We both continue to be enriched in partnership where gifts are exercised freely.

THE INFLUENCE OF OUR CULTURE AND EXPERIENCE ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE AND INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE

That first Sunday began the journey of seeing how our cultural background affected our interpretation of Scripture! We knew we had to “contextualise” (although that word wasn’t used then), but it is always easier to assume one’s present interpretation of Scripture is “right” and then work out how to “adapt” it in new circumstances. An early conversation with Chinese students on the use of “father” in talking about God brought the immediate response that this implied “obedience”. That would not have been said in Australia. We came to see that our culture may be blinding us to aspects of faith and life, or at least bringing distortion. A fellow faculty member commented, “You Westerners separate faith and life – you separate Ephesians 1-3 from 4-6, or you stop at Romans 8. For Chinese the two are inseparable. Indeed, we evaluate a person’s teaching by their lifestyle.” We lived on campus with families from diverse backgrounds and faiths, even Christians were from many denominations. Hong Kong taught us to open our eyes to the insights of people from other cultures and backgrounds.

At one of our farewell dinners (you eat your way out of Hong Kong), a Chinese leader said, “I used to be one who said, ‘missionary go home’, for in one sense we are able to function effectively without you. Nevertheless we need you because you are not like us, you see things differently. The Church is not mono-cultural.” Ever since we have been enriched by the glorious diversity of the world-wide church, seeking to be open to learn from those who are “not like us”.

But there is another side. After our return Neville Andersen passed on an article about the role of the missionary as “stranger”: no matter how much you seek to identify you will always be a “stranger”, and that is your ministry. He continued, “And back in Australia, you will be still be a ‘stranger’.” The privilege of being missionaries means that in Australia there are ways we are different – this is a ministry, and we wouldn’t have it otherwise.

A HOLISTIC GOSPEL AND THE PLACE OF CORPORATE WITNESS

We worked at a College (part of the Chinese University) whose name meant “Honour Christ”. The leadership sought to live Christian values – compassion and justice. This was expressed in areas such as the pay and living conditions of the minor staff, employment of a blind telephone operator, and administration open to student concerns.

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BRIDGING THE SKILLS GAP

OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN THE GIA TEAM

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT of using your vocational skills in pre or post-retirement to assist GiA staff working abroad and Central Australia on a self funded basis? The period of service can be as little as a few weeks and up to two years.

The list of opportunities is endless! Cast your eye over the following list of skilled tasks. If one or more of them appeal to you, contact Karen Newnham, GiA Director for Human Resources, for further details (Phone: 9819-4944; Mobile Phone: 0411-513-024; Email >knewnham@globalinteraction.org.au<

AUSTRALIA:

- Maintenance tasks on staff housing in Central Australia.
- Ministry of encouragement (6-12 months) to Aboriginal Christian community at Ali Curung.

CAMBODIA:

- Primary and High School teachers (1-2 years) at Hope International.
- Speech therapist (1-24 months).

BANGLADESH:

- Income generation advisor (1-24 months).
- Public Health Advisor (1-24 months)
- Medical specialists (1-6 months) to assist national doctors upgrade their skills in obstetrics/gynaecology and general surgery.
- IT trainer (1-6 months).

CENTRAL ASIA:

- TESL trainer (2-3 weeks) to provide refresher training for GiA English teachers.
- TESL trainer (2 weeks) to help indigenous English teachers improve their teaching skills.
- University graduates (1-2 years) to teach conversational English to tertiary students. Specialised training is available.
- GP (2-3 weeks) to provide medical check-ups for GiA staff and advise on various medical issues.
- Physiotherapist (2-3 weeks) to advise GiA staff on muscular fitness and treatment.
- Finance/IT consultant (2 weeks) for bookkeeping advice and training in the use of Excel, Word, emailing and Powerpoint.

INDONESIA:

- Community Health nurse (1-24 months) to review existing programs.
- TESL teacher/trainer (1-24 months) to assist national staff improve their English skills associated with GiA staff visa requirements.
- Teacher (1-24 months) to assist children of GiA staff – primary to secondary school years.
- Trade teachers (1-24 months) to help national people improve their mechanical and electrical repair skills.
- Music and computer trainers (1-24 months).

KAZAKHSTAN:

- Early Childhood teacher/tutor (1-24 months) to assist GiA staff.
- Agriculturalist (1-24 months) to assist national staff engaged in rural program.

MALAWI:

- Financial advisor (1-24 months).
- Administration advisor (1-24 months).
- Primary school teachers (1-24 months) to assist GiA staff with their children's education.

MOZAMBIQUE:

- TESL teacher (1-24 months).

THAILAND:

- TESL teachers (6-24 months) to assist primary, secondary and tertiary students.

GIA NATIONAL OFFICE (Melbourne):

- Assistance with filing and naming photos and slides.

PEGGY GLASBY'S STORY CONTINUES

It was a shock to us. From then, things seemed to go wrong. I became very worried because of a special relationship Rex had with another person. I was really frightened. He was always a very loving and friendly person. But this relationship was different. I was determined there would be no slanging matches; no harsh words. It was a terrible time. I felt I could not share my thoughts with anyone – with the exception of a marriage counsellor. One night while I was praying, I had a strong feeling Jesus was beside me. He said, "Peg, it's going to be alright". These were words of comfort to me when I was down.

This state of affairs went on for months, even years. Rex moved out of our home to live with his new companion. At one stage he returned home for a brief while, then left again to deal with some unresolved issues with his friend. Both our extended families, and the people among whom we had lived, felt we had let our Lord down. I felt so ashamed.

Then a miracle happened. I left Hobart and joined Rex in Darwin. We stayed for a while with our youngest son, Dan, and, later, our eldest son, John, in Katherine. After a time we moved to Adelaide where Rex got a job with Westcare. The Aldgate church welcomed us warmly. We felt at home. That year we did a lot of sorting out. Eventually the cancer kicked in and Rex was largely bedridden. Old friends came to visit us. All the boys came for Christmas. My dear Lord Jesus was right. It did come right. Even when Rex died I was so grateful.

I grieved and suffered at the same time; but I was aware of the presence of Jesus with me. I knew he understood the agony of my spirit; and I began to realise that he not only understood, but he suffered with me.

JOHN & ELAINE OLLEYS' STORY CONTINUES

There was little evangelistic activity in terms of "preaching", but opportunities to speak about Christ were many as non-Christian students and staff asked, "What is it about the Christian faith that makes Chung Chi College different?" We were in Hong Kong when the Christian Industrial Committee under Raymond Fung was active in informing factory workers of their rights and helping in other ways (and were branded as "communists" for doing so!).

This was Raymond's response to workers who said, "Christianity? Our boss is a Christian and has Christian messages over the PA – and look at the way he treats us!" The HKCIC developed a relevant and strong evangelistic thrust, seeking for personal conversion to Christ, linked with a concern for justice. Eventually even Christian factory owners came around. The debates of that time (it was towards the end of the Chinese Cultural Revolution) helped us to see that the Gospel has to be incarnated in the corporate behaviour of the Christian community – and then words are heard.

Ever since we have sought to live and teach the integration of faith and works, evangelism and social justice, for the individual and above all in the corporate life of the Church. Chinese leaders taught us the key place of corporate holistic witness, over against the (still) individualistic perspective of so many in Australia.

THE REALITY OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We went to Hong Kong as missionaries from NSW – but soon became Australians as many from every state and territory wrote to or visited us, saying "We are praying for you". In many times of pressure and busy-ness the reality of so many praying sustained us – and prayers were answered. We experienced being part of a great team that spanned Australia and the places where ABMS ministered. To this day, GiA "Pray Daily" and the Hotline continue to help us as we in turn pray for others.

PERSONALIA

KEEPING EACH OTHER INFORMED & IN CONTACT

KATH RUMBOLD (VIC) died in Melbourne on March 14 2006. Grace Dodge writes, 'A very special memorial service was held at the Kilsyth South Baptist Church for Kath at the end of March. Kath taught at a number of schools in Victoria and South Australia and served in Bangladesh with ABMS and BMS in Mymensingh and Barisal respectively. She set up an English Medium School for the Pakistan army at Jessore. In recent years she has been residing at Walmsley Village Kilsyth Vic. She has been deeply appreciated for her lectures with the U3A on comparative religions and for her Lenten studies. She established a scholarship fund for needy students pursuing higher studies in Bangladesh.'

Another of our links to the past was cut with the death of **RUTH JOYCE** in Canberra. Ruth was the daughter of Wilf and Gwen Crofts. She was born in Calcutta and grew up in East Bengal, with much of her schooling in Darjeeling. Her grandparents and great grandparents were notable Baptists in New South Wales and Western Australia.

Some of you may remember our Filipina colleagues who worked in PNG. We received news of the death of **CHITA NANCIOGAYO** after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

HANS LANE, one of the outstanding leaders in the Baptist Union of PNG, died unexpectedly at the end of last year in his mid-forties. Roger Bryson writes, 'Sharing a PNG coastal-highlands heritage, Hans moved easily between various schools and tertiary institutions, obtaining high results in all his academic work. He studied at the Christian Leaders' Training College and, later, with support from Global interAction, he completed a M.Th. degree in the Philippines. He served for three years as the BUPNG Director of Ministries, then Dean of Studies and NT lecturer at CLTC for a period of eighteen months. Hans developed heart problems which led to his untimely death at the peak of his career. Hans was a great friend of many ABMS and GiA staff. He was a man of real spiritual understanding and perception, with a love of God, family and people. His wife, Jenna and the two children, Isaac and Cindy, have remained at CLTC. Jenna has been appointed to the teaching faculty.

ROS GOODEN (SA) is planning on teaching a missions course at the Christian College of Theology Bangladesh in October 2006, following a time (July to September) with the students at GiA Global Discipleship Training course in Townsville.

KAREN WELLS (SA) returned early to Australia from Kazakhstan for treatment on her eyes, and has had a hectic few weeks including marriage to Jeff Gibbs. Following their wedding in Adelaide they travelled to the USA for a second service with her family. They have now returned to South Australia, and put Jeff's house on the market. They plan to settle for twelve months in Adelaide.

VAL BEVERLEY (NSW) has had a busy and useful three months back in Birisiri, Bangladesh, starting with the 125th anniversary of the church at Birisiri and finishing with the Garo Baptist Convention women's camp which was held at Bhutia in Molajani Circuit.

GRAHAM AND CAROLINE EDGAR (SA), former missionaries in Thailand, are moving from Adelaide to Queensland where Graham will continue his role as GiA Development Officer. His time as GiA Director in South Australia has been much appreciated. His replacement, Kyle Moyle (SA) is a former SFI staff member in Indonesia. Kyle is revelling in the contact with a growing number of enthusiastic young people.

ROGER AND MARY BRYSON (SA) finished their ministry at Flinders Street Baptist Church in March 2006 and they are exploring interesting possibilities for the future. Roger writes, 'For the present I am plying my old trade in real estate by doing some contract work in property disposal with the South Australian Department of Transport. I have also been involved with GiA and BUPNG representatives in reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding between our two organisations.'

KEN MANLEY (VIC) has often said that 'ABMS is the glue that stuck Australian Baptists together'. Ken has recently published a two volume history of Australian Baptists. Congratulations, Ken! We look forward to reading *From Woolloomooloo to 'Eternity': A History of Australian Baptists* (Paternoster: Milton Keynes, 2006).

Another "must" read for mission supporters is **ARTHUR KELSHAW'S** book which reflects on Arthur and Jean's missionary service in PNG.

ANOUCHKA CHATELIER (nee Wilkins) is hoping to go with her husband, Steve, to teach at the MK School in Almaty, Kazakhstan, for twelve months. They are being sponsored by the school at which Anouchka teaches in Brisbane, as a partnership development for the school.

PERSONALIA

KEEPING EACH OTHER INFORMED & IN CONTACT

DOT HUMPHREYS (nee Allen), while visiting Melbourne, was in contact with Grace Dodge. Dot was a pioneer medical worker in the Baiyer valley (PNG) from 1956-1960. She is now living at Nambour (QLD) and active in the Yandina Baptist Church. She has had two trips to China in the last 10 years and she would love to hear from former ABMS colleagues. Get in touch with Ros Gooden if you would like her contact details.

BETTY ANDERSEN continues the long Andersen contribution to Baptist missions. She is representing New South Wales on the Human Resource Committee in 2006.

It was lovely to have a long letter from **MARGARET WALSH** (NSW) following the first edition of Binbilla. It was full of news of the family, children and grandchildren.

KEN AND JENNIFER HAWLEY (NSW) have recently retired from pastoral ministry at Cabramatta, NSW, and have spent time visiting their son and daughter-in-law who are working in Yemen.

TONY CUPIT writes about his work with the BWA Living Waters Conferences. 'I have just returned from Curitiba ... Next I am off to Thailand and India to set up the Living Waters Conferences for next year.'

JIM AND MARILYN KIME (NSW) have returned to Sydney after completing their time as interim team leaders in Kazakhstan. Photos of them in the snow and ice are much different to those taken in the warmer settings of Central Australia, PNG and Townsville! The Kimes will be replaced by John and Elaine Olley (WA). John and Elaine leave in July. This follows a very interesting year in 2005 for John as Acting Principal of the Bible College of Victoria.

ERIC BLISS (QLD) is in poor health. His daughter, Sharon Hill, wrote after a recent MRI scan: 'Dad's Doctor ... told Mum and Dad that there have been no changes in the size of the tumours in Dad's head since the previous scan four weeks earlier ... Dad still has the tracheostomy, a peg in his stomach for feeding, still gets dizzy at times, tires very easy, has highs and lows, has headaches quite often – and enjoys going outside in a wheelchair and soaking up the sunshine. The latest plan is to send Dad back to Bundaberg Hospital by air ambulance ... Thank you for your continuing prayers and please continue to pray for Dad.'

Contributions to the Pastoralia column are welcome. These can be sent to Rosalind Gooden: 3/1 Ferguson Avenue, Myrtle Bank SA 5064 or rgooden@werple.net.au

EVENTS

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & CONTRIBUTIONS

Consideration is being given to holding a Binbilla National Conference somewhere between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast in Queensland in September 2007. The suggested three-day program will include presentations from the GiA Directors on current and future ministries, updates on GiA teams, Bible study, a variety of recreational pursuits and time to catch up with GiA friends and former missionary staff. The cost of the conference (excluding travel) will be approximately \$300.00 per person for shared accommodation and all meals. If you are interested in attending the conference, kindly register your interest by writing to Chris Pittendrigh: 15 Woodlea Street, Doncaster East Vic 3109 or chris.pittendrigh@newhope.net.au.

The 50th Anniversary of the commencement of ABMS work in Irian Jaya (Papua) will be celebrated in October 2006. Invitations have already been sent to former members of staff. Several are planning to attend, some with family members. If you are interested in attending, please contact GiA.

Rob Lutton and the State Directors are actively planning Resonate Events in each of the states to replace the open sessions of the annual Board meetings that moved around the states. *Resonate Events* have already been held this year in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales. Note in your diaries Brisbane 1-3 Sept, Perth 20-24 September and Adelaide 13-15 October.

Binbilla is produced by Global interAction
PO Box 273 Hawthorn
Victoria 3122 Australia
(03) 9819 4944

