

“ OUT OF LITTLE THINGS, BIG THINGS GROW ”



THE LONG TREK NORTH WITH MANY TONNES OF CLOTHING TO SUPPORT “OP SHOPS” IN OUTBACK NORTHERN TERRITORY FOR THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES OF KALKARINGI, LAJAMANU, ALI CURUNG & YUENDUMU IS A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND PRACTICAL COMMUNITY PROJECT OPERATING FROM THE BASS COAST REGION IN VICTORIA.



2009 – “Out of little things, big things grow”.

From a phone call about sending a few bags of clothes to establish an Op Shop in the Northern Territory to sending a bus and trailer loaded with over 4500 items of clothing for men, women and children, plus hundreds of pencils, textas, colouring books and toys for Aboriginal kids shows the spirit of giving and enthusiasm in the Wonthaggi / Inverloch area.

Well known and respected Community Leader and Pastor at the Wonthaggi Baptist Church, Brendan Smith, said; ***Lin Davies from Inverloch had an idea that has embraced the enthusiasm of the wider Bass Coast Community. Lin and her husband Kevin have been collecting clothing and stationery and have been overwhelmed with the level of interest and support from the community and within the local churches both in giving items and donations towards fuel and delivery costs.***

Kevin, together with another local identity, Vern Burchett from Inverloch set off to take the long trek north to deliver a bus, trailer and its contents and stock the Op Shops at Lajamanu and Kalkaringi and do some other volunteer work at Kalkaringi. There they were greeted by Bill and Pauline Morrison formerly from Nyora who are now working with the indigenous folk in the Lajamanu and Kalkaringi Communities.



Pictured above: In September 2009, Kevin unloading the mini bus and trailer with over 4500 items of clothing taken to the Aboriginal Communities at Kalkaringi and Lajamanu in the Northern Territory. The second photo shows part of the handover of the 2010 load which weighed in at well over 1000 kg.

Kevin and Lin who have been behind this project from its small beginnings wish to publicly thank the many generous supporters of this worthwhile venture. These include Wonthaggi Baptist Church, Anglican Op Shop in Inverloch, the local Inter-Church Council, WeCare Community Services in Dandenong, a range of other community groups within the region and also the many individuals who have been very generous with their time, donations or with provision of stock.

2010/11 – Further loads travelling to N.T.

With the initial two Op Shops well established, it was time to collect donations of good quality new and clothing to restock, so a purpose-built trailer was purchased to take another huge load to the Northern Territory for the needy and isolated families. The spirit of giving to something really worthwhile has been overwhelming and word spread far and wide with clothing, toys and educational materials being donated from Wonthaggi, Inverloch, San Remo, Cowes, Nyora, Beaconsfield, Berwick, Dandenong, Hawthorn and as far away as Ulverstone in Tasmania. The response was so great that well over 1000kg of good quality new and used items were collected and taken up North for a second trek by Kevin and his co-driver for this trip, Neil Sampson, one of the team of volunteers now working with Kevin on the project.

2010/11 Cont'.....

In April 2011 Kevin organised stock for a further two loads of clothing etc to be transported to Kalkaringi and Lajamanu in the Northern Territory filling two buses and a large trailer. He then planned and undertook a further trip in September 2011 when together with his wife Lin and Grand-daughter Claudia, they took another tandem trailer load of nearly 1500kg of clothing etc to the communities. On this journey the cultural experience whilst staying in the communities was further encouragement to continue the project and make more frequent deliveries. The Federal Government, through its Volunteer Grants Program 2011 approved the project for that year and provided financial assistance towards small equipment items and some fuel reimbursement in recognition of and encouragement to volunteering in the community.



Pictured above: Kevin loading the trailer with good quality clothing, education materials and toys. This trailer has since been replaced with an even bigger one for the 2011 and 2012 journeys. The second photo shows some of the happy recipients many thousands of kilometres away in the Northern Territory.

2012 – Project expanded & two further deliveries to N.T. plus support to other communities including New Guinea.

After three years of success in this project plus well established credibility in both the local community and the Aboriginal Communities of Kalkaringi and Lajamanu, Kevin's team of volunteers now receive a regular supply of good quality clothing that has enabled the expansion of the project to two deliveries per year in an effort to meet the community need in these remote areas of outback Northern Territory. So good is the quantity, quality and regularity of supply of these donated goods that we have been able to support other similar projects when supply sometimes exceeds our capacity. This has included supply to other Op Shops in Mooroopna, Tatura and the Salvos in Wonthaggi. Also 500kg of clothing was sent to the islands South-East of New Guinea. In March 2012 Kevin transported another 1500kg to the NT together with his Grandson Jayden who helped with the unloading and experienced the "outback" plus the indigenous culture and the need in these remote communities. In September 2012, with thanks to our generous donors and our team of volunteers, Kevin together with volunteer George Holloway undertook another delivery of 1500kg to NT.

2013/14 Two more deliveries to N.T. plus a big bus load

In March 2013 together with volunteer John McLean a further load of 1500kg was successfully delivered and in August 2013 accompanied by two volunteers Tim King and John McLean another successful

2013/14 Cont'.... delivery was completed. In 2014 rather than the normal twice yearly deliveries, a load of approximately 2500kg of clothing and sewing items collected by Kevin was delivered in late June by enlisting the help of a volunteer work party from the Vineyard Church in Berwick. The work party also performed other volunteer support works in the remote communities after delivering this huge load.

2015 – Additional outback communities now supported.

In April, accompanied by co-driver John Searle they completed a further delivery and in October the project expanded further to include the outback indigenous community of Ali Curung when Kevin was accompanied by his Grandson Jayden who then at 14 years of age had a wonderful road trip and enjoyed meeting and learning from the Aboriginal boys at Ali Curung.



2016 – A further two trailer loads.

2016 saw a further two trips, to Ali Curung to stock the Op Shop there and also much of the load was repacked onto another trailer and sent on to Kalkaringi and Lajamanu. Aaron Brown joined Kevin on the April/May journey and John Thomas was the co-driver in September. In addition Brendan and Christie Smith and their children travelled in convoy to the outback community of Ali Curung to see first-hand this unique Ministry and had the opportunity to preach in the Indigenous Church.

2017 – Deliveries to Ali Curung and Yuendumu.

In April 2017 Kevin and Jayden completed the journey to Kalkaringi with a load of 1100kg of clothing etc. This was the first trip using a motorhome as the tow vehicle which also provided accommodation whilst travelling. Then again in September accompanied by John and Hilary Searle he travelled with another load to Yuendumu, about 300km along the Tanami Rd North West from Alice Springs.

2018 – Collecting and fundraising underway again.

In April 2018 Kevin completed his 14th journey to the “Outback” with a load of 1100kg of clothing etc and now together with his team of volunteers Kevin is collecting stock for the next delivery scheduled for July 2018 when he will travel to Ali Curung for what will be his 15th journey to the NT. He is also seeking financial support towards the high fuel and travel costs for the long trek from Bass Coast VIC all the way to “Outback” N.T. Please consider supporting this unique project.

For more information or the opportunity to donate good quality clean clothing etc., or if you would like to contribute towards the high cost of delivery of the much needed clothing, please contact Kevin on 0401507090, or you can write to Kevin Davies at PO Box 132 Inverloch VIC 3996
- Thankyou once again for your support for this unique project.