

**Aboriginal  
Evangelical  
Fellowship  
of Australia Inc.**



**AEF**

MAGAZINE

December 2021

Dec. 2021

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Convention ONLINE!!

Eastern Area Ladies

Christmas thoughts

FNMT Updates

and more...

**celebrating 50 yrs!**



*Above: Some of the ladies who attended the AEF Eastern Area Ladies 50th Anniversary.*

Luke 2:12 ... You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

## EDITORS NOTES

We are always on the lookout for good Artwork and AEF stories to share with our readers. If you or your Church has something that might be a blessing then please feel free to email it to [aef@aef.org.au](mailto:aef@aef.org.au). We need high quality pics. Please make sure permissions are obtained first. NOTE: The AEF wants everyone to know that anyone attending the events we run might have photographs taken which may be used on the fb page or in the mag. etc. If you don't want us to use them please let us know. Tony Riches

### Please be aware:

This magazine may contain images of Indigenous people who have passed on to be with the Lord.



## Congratulations on turning 80!!...

*You sure don't look it.*

Our AEF life-members, Neville and Lorraine Lilley, have become octogenarians.

We congratulate you both on this wonderful milestone after many decades of service and faithfulness to the work of the Lord and the ongoing work in the AEF in particular.



Your achievements would take more than what these pages could contain but just a few things we are thankful for are- your tireless leadership at the National office where you both gave so much.



Neville continues to serve on the AEF Federal Council. Lorraine continues helping by speaking at Ladies events.

Together they serve as Chaplains in the Port Stephens area. As elders in the community they are called on to help in

many ways for both young and old who need them.

God has certainly blessed you both with years to your life and LIFE to your years. May they continue to be fruitful ahead of you-from all the AEF Family.

*Below: Neville speaking to a NAIDOC gathering.*



***While 2020 and 2021 have been years that many would like to forget, God has been faithful to His children and we can thank Him for seeing us through.***

*If you are a member of the AEF you will be sent an invitation to the 2020 and 2021 AGM's which will be held on ZOOM for the first time. Details will be made available with the AGENDA's which will come to members only soon. State border closures made planning very difficult so this is our best solution to meet our obligations as registered Charities with ACNC.*



*It is not going to be possible to have elections at this time and they will be held at the next Port Augusta Convention in 2023. Pray with us for Gods' guidance as we plan to grow the work of ministry and service across Australia*

**ONLINE MEETINGS in place of the National AEF CONVENTION**

**1-4 Jan. 2022 Sat. night to Tues. night**



There will be opportunity to share in fellowship and the richness of Gods' Word. It's going to be great given all the uncertainty we have faced. See more on our facebook and youtube pages. The webpage will show links too.

**The AEF of Aus. Inc.**  
welcomes everyone to the  
**National Convention**



**ONLINE ONLY**

*Have your family, friends, church join us ONLINE  
At a time when you're ready—ANYWHERE in the WORLD!*



**SPEAKER - BILL NEWMAN**  
**INTERNATIONAL EVANGELIST**

**LAUNCH times listed below-ALL SERVICES WILL STAY ONLINE from then!**

Songs! Testimonies! Items and a message!

**SATURDAY 1st JAN. 7PM AEDST**

Lead by Rev. Neville Naden NSW

**SUNDAY MORNING 2nd JAN. 10AM AEDST**

Cherbourg Church QLD and/or Balga Church WA

**SUNDAY NIGHT 2nd JAN. 7PM AEDST**

Lead by Ps. Max Conlon QLD

Songs Testimonies Items and a message

**MONDAY 3rd JAN. 7PM AEDST**

Lead by Ps. Dennis Taylor WA

**TUESDAY 4th JAN. 7:30 PM AEDST 7PM SA time**

**LIVE FROM PORT AUGUSTA SA.**

Revs' Nathaniel and Neville Naden and those attending training from within SA share with us.

## from the Chair...

Greetings family in that Name which is above all other name!

*2 Timothy 2:3. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Praise God for His grace, mercy and strength, for His faithfulness in our calling and positioning. Family we can see where the world is heading,*



and the difficulties we are facing and going to face. So I encourage you to put on the whole armour of God so that you can stand against the wiles of the devil.

Praise God for the growth and blessings in different pockets of ministry. Keep up the good work soldiers and keep the lights burning. May I encourage you to keep your focus and faith, and continue to be faithful and obedient to the Lords calling no matter what the cost. The Bible reminds us that:

*the word of God is living and powerful,... Heb. 4:12 And 1Thess.2:18 says the Word of God, ...effectively works within you who believe May God continue to strengthen bless and keep you. Pastor Max Conlon.*

Many amazingly talented artists are creating Gospel Artwork among our AEF family.  
*Below: The Cross and the empty tomb by Ngardarb Francine Riches 120x90cm  
Col 1:16 by Him all things were created...in heaven and earth...all things!*



**The 50th AEF Eastern Area Ladies Convention** was held from 11th - 14th June 2021 at the Bethshan Christian Conference Centre, Wye NSW. Our ladies came from far and wide - New South Wales, Queensland and even South Australia. Sadly, Victoria was facing another Covid-19 lockdown just before the weekend, and several of our ladies could not attend. However, we thank God for the 40 ladies who attended the full weekend, and an additional 13 ladies that came as day visitors. It was a wonderful time of blessed fellowship.



*The very first AEF EA Ladies Convention was held at Nanima, Wellington NSW. Our Main Speakers Dot Caton, Kath Bird and Lorraine Lilley watching Aunty Ruth Naden (from Nanima) cut the cake.*

# Prayer liftout

*Right: Memorabilia - Coffee Table Book and Pen*

*Below: We thank God for our young ones, Evangeline Lilley and Kailyn O'Donnell sharing in a skit at our 'Reflections' concert.*



Three of our elders (Dot Caton, Kath Bird, and Lorraine Lilley) were our main speakers and shared Gods' Word based on our theme '**Let go, let God**' and Bible verse "**Trust in the LORD with all**

***your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight***" Prov. 3:5-6 (NIV). Our speakers reminded us of God's faithfulness and how we can totally depend on Him in all circumstances - we thank God for our Elders and the wisdom they continually share with us.

We celebrated God's faithfulness, but also wanted to treat the ladies who continuously serve tirelessly within their community and ministry with a special dinner.





**\* Remember us O Lord!**

**Covid Safety for our churches, communities and elders.**

\* Max Conlon, the Chairman of AEF and his wife Tracey as they continue in the service of the Lord in Cherbourg Qld and also in many places. Max takes many, many funerals.

\* For the AEF Family and Yth. Services to raise up a new generation of praying givers.

\* for our Volunteer Sally Burton who help's admin.

\* Neville & Kathy Naden as they travel and minister all over Australia.

\*Strong marriages and families. Our Churches especially our leaders testimony is witnessed more than our words. May there be good role models.

\* The grieving and the lost. The hurting and the hopeless. Send them the hope of the Gospel.

\* growing unity in Christ



**\* Revive us O Lord!**

\*2022 Convention. ONLINE EVENT (our first) Preaching with Impact to transform lives. May the sharing in it be a blessing.

\* for the churches that are currently without a Pastor. We are asked for many but can't find them. Send labourers into the harvest.

\* that God will raise up a new generation of committed servant leaders.

\* The faithful Women's ministries across the country. Also the National ladies and Eastern ladies committees as they seek, discern and serve God's plan throughout the upcoming year.

\*Our 20+ AEF Ministers have been called on to help people cope through another difficult year. Strengthen them Lord.

\*for the many who have turned back to follow the Lord again with their whole heart.



**\* Lead us O Lord!**

\* For Christian witness for workers who serve God across the country. May Gods' Spirit move through the words they share.

\*For Christ to be honoured through Christmas services all over the country.

\* Suicides, particularly for young Aboriginal men as the statistics are not in decline. Pray for the hope found in the gospel that it reaches people before it's too late to find hope.

\* AEF State Councils as they try to plan activities for the Aboriginal Christian community once things are all open again.

\*First Nations ministry training through the teaching of Gods' Word will equip followers of Jesus and be committed to the work of ministry.

\* Pray for revival. Breathe life into your people Lord that we may obey you!



THUR

**\* Sustain us O Lord!**

\*Strength and encouragement for the small numbers of Christians meeting and witnessing across the country.

\* Praise for our kind supporters and prayer warriors that uphold us and the work across Australia.

\* NSW – Chaplains, for Denis and Maureen Atkinson at Cummeragunja. Neville and Lorraine Lilley, John and Dot Caton as they serve in the Port Stephens area. Ps. Ossie and Robbie Cruse are in Eden. Much of their work is by phone and email and FB. Pray for good health and strength for them all.

\*for trained counsellors for Aboriginal children and adults. That people will get the support they need.

\*Governments as they go through their many issues. For wisdom and integrity as the Covid issues affect every State in Aus.



FRI

**\* Teach us O Lord!**

\* for financial and other resources needed to run our many vital programs.

\* SCIYP Indigenous Youth Chaplaincy -to get much needed support. Focusing on Youth suicide and Christian hope is the priority at this time. People contact us often in distress

\* Churches across the country and their leaders.

\* Ps. Tony and Francine Riches at the National Head Office in Melbourne. They have many seeking advice and support by phone and email from all over Australia.

\* for our faithful widows who have been tireless witnesses to the grace of our Lord Jesus.

\*young people in need of direction. That they may find their all-in-all in Jesus.

\*For the children in this nation. That they will have access to Sunday schools.



SAT

**\* Guide us O Lord!**

\* WA Chaplains- Ps. Dennis and his wife Wilma Jeta, Ps. Albert and Maxine Knapp . Ps. Gerald and Jackie Eades in the Perth

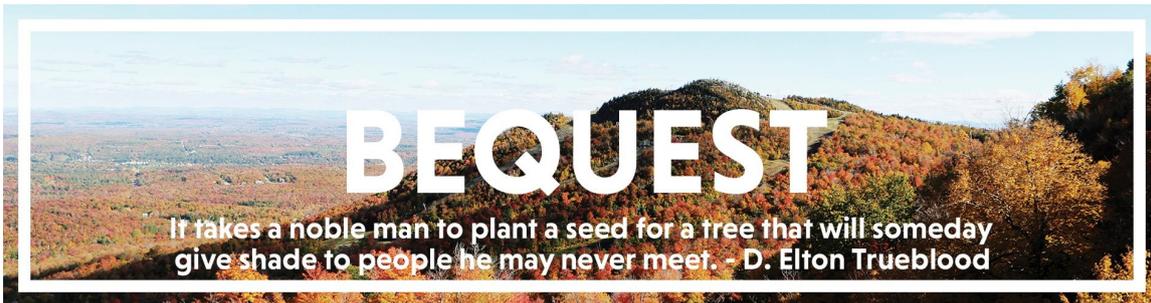
\* Pray for our Aboriginal communities health and that of our leaders and their families and Covid safety.

\* For the women of Cherbourg who attended the Grief, Trauma and Loss training with Tracey Conlon. May healing grow.

\* **FNMT** Ask God for wisdom and grace as Dennis Taylor works to establish this program to help people in their walk with our Lord and prepare for His service. Thank God for all He is doing with this work.

Other

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**BEQUEST**  
It takes a noble man to plant a seed for a tree that will someday give shade to people he may never meet. - D. Elton Trueblood

***THE SINGLE BEST THING TO EVER HAPPEN TO THE AEF FINANCIALLY...***

*has been the kind support of a very small number of people who show their care for the ministry to, among and by Aboriginal people by leaving something in their WILL to the AEF or AEF FYS. Inc.*

*It's been a wonderful blessing to us.*

*You don't have to be rich to make a difference but you do need to write your plan in your WILL so it happens.*

*If you would like more information please feel free to ask. It's easy to do and makes a difference that will win souls and help the people who need it the most. **It's your legacy!** May it have a great impact.*

**UNPLANNED? No WAY!** By Neville Naden

I think that many over this festive season will celebrate the event, not recognising the eternal significance of the birth of the Christ child. Many celebrate because the season lends itself to celebration. It's during this time that people take holidays and spend time with family and they lavish on people gifts of all shapes and sizes. *But what is Christmas all about?*

I was reading this week about so many unplanned pregnancies. There are many websites that encourage young women to contact their organisation. Quite often such counselling can lead to advice about abortion etc. Unplanned pregnancy really catches people by surprise.

**When we read the Christmas story, we find that the birth of Jesus was not unplanned,**

**in fact it was totally the opposite! It was planned from eternity past!**

God gave the first suggestion that a Saviour was to be born in Gen. 3:15. where He is pronouncing judgement on Adam, Eve, and the serpent because of their disobedience. In vs. 14, So the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel'

Friends, before time as we know it, the all-knowing God had a plan in which He, Himself would come in the form of a man to address the problem of sin. His first coming was in the form of a baby. However, the story doesn't end there. He is coming again, not in the form of a baby but in the form of a King. He is coming for His people. Those who He called to Himself.

***The question is,*** are you a part of His family? Have you experienced the call of God upon your life? If you haven't, we would like to pray for you. We (AEF) want you to be a part of God's family and because God is the author of salvation, we would like to ask Him, on your behalf, to be merciful and gracious to you. As you celebrate Christmas this year, may you know the comfort of His love and His provision for your eternal existence. *Every blessing in Christ. N.Naden*

**Hello, my name is Lonny Bendessi.**

I'm 27. My mother's side comes from Koonibba, which is a mission near Ceduna on the SA coast. My father's side comes from Kalgoorlie area in WA.

Around 2015 at the time I felt like had no hope or sense of direction like I hit my lowest point of my life. I had pushed everyone away and I was this angry person but at the time at this point I felt something in my heart that pointed me towards the Lord I took a big leap of faith and 6 years later I'm still going strong with the Lord.



*A TESTIMONY of GRACE*

I am currently a second (going on to third) year in my Theological studies at Ridley College in Melbourne.

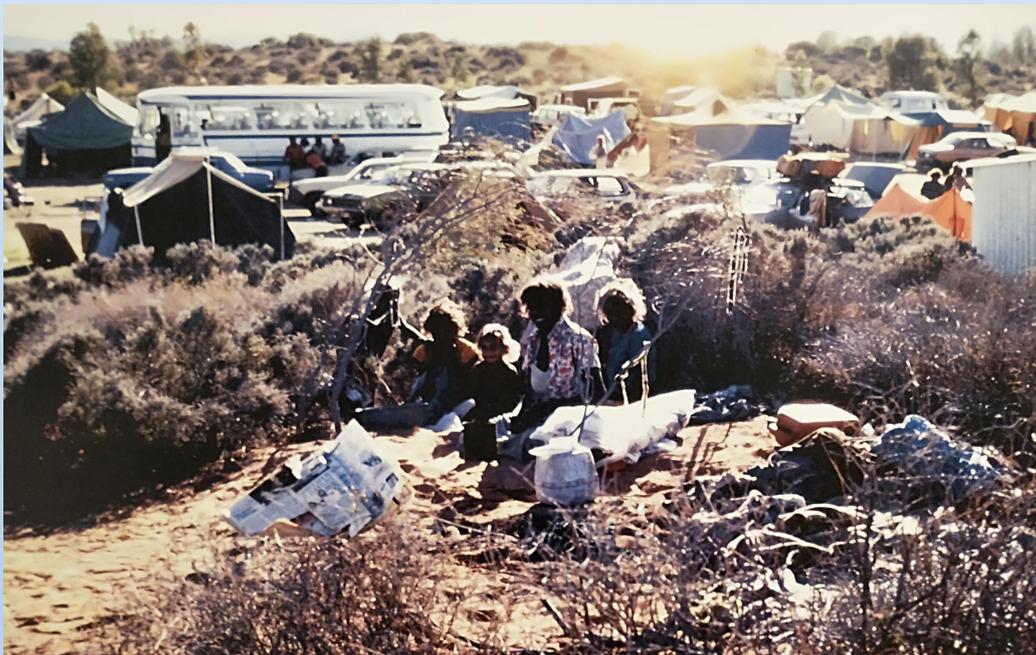
In 2019 I had this urge that God was calling me to ministry I went to brother Ps. Don Hayward at the time and enquired about it. We prayed for 4-5 mths. straight and the Lord gave confirmation.

Being in college has shaped me as a Christian but also as a person to aim to becoming

more Christ like in Spirit and in truth.  
*John 4:23-24.*

I thank the Lord for how far He has brought me and look forward to where He'll take me in the future.

*Acts 17:11 ... they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily...*



The old pic. above reminds us of the shared world of Aboriginal Christianity in the contrast of camping in the bush, in tents, caravans and wherever... just to share in fellowship as the people of God at the National AEF Port Augusta Convention. This year we will only be able to share ONLINE. Something that could not be imagined when this photo was taken. The AEF holds on tight to a treasured Scripture from these early years with Christians from all different nations and walks—ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS! From Gal. 3:28 Walk with us!

**Pastors Minute Ps. Tony Riches**



**CHRISTMAS is a time of blessing and FALLOUT!**

*Many of you reading this will have had some bad experiences at Christmas time. You hear the song playing in the shops "It's the most wonderful time of the year"... Yeah Ok...Not for everyone it's not. Some of us lost a loved one who we would give anything to have at the Christmas table. Some of us have worries about meeting up with people who don't act or talk like they should. Some love a big mob getting together and other's, not so much. We are under pressure to buy and cook and clean and visit and sometimes there's just not enough*

*PEACE ON EARTH and GOODWILL toward men, like the angel said there would be. Why not? Well sin's damage still exists today. Wrong values and priorities often arrive with the 'festive season'. Most want to eat drink and be merrily eating and drinking some more. Is that something you can relate too? How did it ever come to this; from the manger in Bethlehem where the KING of KINGS was born outside of the safety of even a house to enter this world? Christmas today—where Jesus is not front and centre of anyone's thoughts (as He should be all year long.)*

*If Christ is 'misplaced' at Christmas the wise men were looking for the wrong child, the shepherd's had a hallucination, the myriad of angels were making up a song without any meaning and worst of all—you and I are still in our sins. Isaiah shot an arrow of prophecy accurately to a time and place 600 yrs. into the future that landed like the Star of Bethlehem pointing to the place where we would find the PRINCE of PEACE, the Saviour of the world. What an amazing thing for him to see and to say. His people were doing it tough. They were in exile, persecuted, displaced from their home country, and worst of all drifting from God.*

*He promised dark days ahead. Trouble for the people of the Lord who has long since stopped listening to Him. In the middle of all of that he saw the most amazing revelation which we celebrate this time of the year. Is. 9:2 -The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. Enter Jesus our Saviour, our rescuer, our friend.*

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Is. 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*I wish you all a truly blessed Christmas with Him. What is it without Him anyway?*

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## First Nations Ministry Training

In 2022, BCA will partner with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship of Australia in supporting Dennis Taylor as the principal of the First Nations Ministry Training Initiative.



The AEF of Aus. is delighted to have Bush Church Aid whose theme is 'Australia for Christ, partner with us. This Initiative seeks to develop the Biblical and theological understanding of Indigenous Christians in churches across Australia and then identify and facilitate the training of potential ministry leaders.

Dennis and his wife Valda have been working in a ministry context for over 30 years, first as lay preachers and then following theological training, in Indigenous churches in Victoria and Western Australia. Dennis looks forward to working together with BCA to achieve our mission of reaching First Nations people in rural, regional and remote Australia with the good news of Christ. Please pray for him and Valda as they work to find and train new Indigenous leaders. See it here <https://www.bushchurcaid.com.au/mission-profiles.php?id=2208>

Are you looking to have this training yourself, or in your Church?

*Please contact: Principal Dennis Taylor— Email: [dennista777@hotmail.com](mailto:dennista777@hotmail.com)*

*Post: 24 Curedale Street, Beaconsfield WA 6162 Mob: 0481 065 771*

*Account—Bible College BSB 083004 Acc: 935705831*

## SCIYP Solid Chaplaincy Indig. Youth Program

*Sadly there is no decline in the numbers of young people wanting to end their own lives. What is it that can be done? Who has the power to fix this and why aren't they? These questions haunt people who are working to make a difference in this most troubling of issues we face in communities across Australia. SCIYP is established to help people hear about a better way, a living hope, of Saviour who cares who is also the judge who delivers. Mainstream resources are not making enough difference. Please pray and support us as we continue dealing with people in crisis in Jesus Name.*

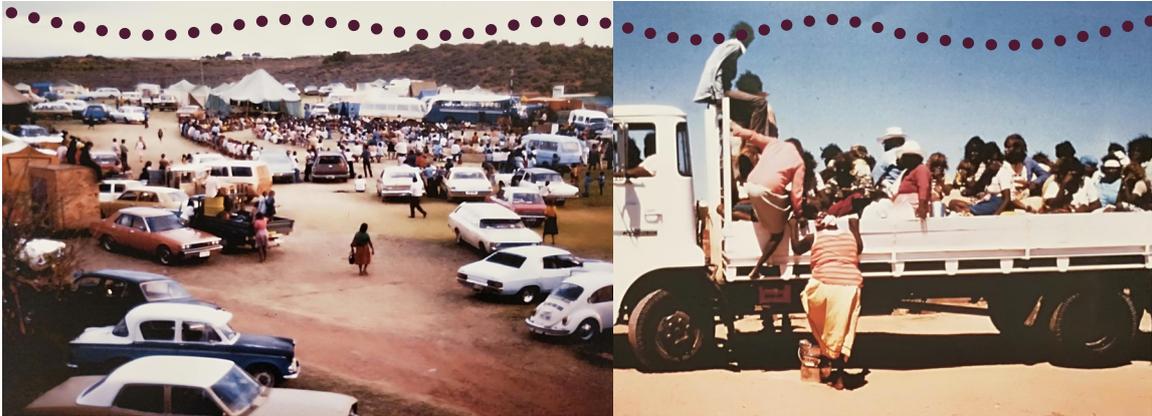
## **David F Kirk Memorial Scholarship Fund**

*Aboriginal people in training need your support. Would you be willing to help a student through this training period?*

*Your gift would be most appreciated and it can be sent to the*

**D. Kirk Memorial  
Scholarship Fund  
PO Box 136**

**Tanilba Bay NSW 2319  
Telephone: 0419500092**



Above: Early AEF Convention photo's. We're still building on a firm foundation of faith in Christ!

[aef@aef.org.au](mailto:aef@aef.org.au)

[aef.org.au/audio-video/](http://aef.org.au/audio-video/)

Watch Us On  
**YouTube**



**PROGRAMS**—2022 looks like opening up to more great fellowship events. It has NEVER been easier to support the AEF. There are needs in many areas and we would be happy to give you more information on anything we do.

**SUPPORT** - There are a few ways to get involved.

- 1 - Direct transfer Bank to Bank. *Highly recommended!*
  - 2 - A Bank deposit of Cash/cheque into the main AEF account below. OR
  - 3 - Posting a cheque or money order to head office. see the address below.
- To be sure we respond please txt the details of the deposit to 0498611109 email a message to us: [aef@aef.org.au](mailto:aef@aef.org.au)

**PRAY** for the many people and the very important programs we run.

*Consider fortnightly online support*

**MEMBERSHIPS ONLINE**

Please indicate where you want your gift to go as we have several accounts.

- 1: For **General Support** AEF Inc. National Acc. BSB **082-810** Acc. **18449-5529**
- 2: AEF Family and Youth. **Services Inc.** (deductible gift recipient)
- 3 - David Kirk **Scholarship** fund
- 4 - Community **Chaplaincy** program
- 5 - SCIYP **Youth Chaplaincy** Program
- 6 - Jigamy farm **Youth Camp** Eden.
- 7 - **Other** please specify.....

please add in the bank Reference: *Your name (or your church's)* and write: **MEM** (for member) so we will know that it's for you.

**Email us:** [aef@aef.org.au](mailto:aef@aef.org.au)

**Web:** [www.aef.org.au](http://www.aef.org.au)

**Post:** AEF Inc. P.O .221 Highpoint City VIC 3032.