



IRCA* -Oceania 2020

*International Rural Churches Association
<https://irca.online/>

Theme: Bringing Hope in Challenging Times

[Longreach, Queensland, Australia](#)

Sunday 23 to Friday 28 August 2020

The ecumenical conference will commence on Sunday 23 August 2020 with reception and dinner and conclude at lunch time on Friday 28 August, to enable participants to catch the afternoon flight out of Longreach.

There will be an option for people to stay on in accommodation until Saturday 29th August if they need to.

The theme "Bringing Hope in Challenging Times" will be an opportunity to share stories of lament and stories of hope in difficult times.

Rural communities throughout Oceania - Australia, New Zealand, and the Islands of the South Pacific and Melanesia - are all experiencing challenging times. We have been facing challenges for some decades now and the 21st Century has only made this more daunting. Rural churches are embedded within rural communities and can be their heart and soul, however we often feel unsupported by urban based denominational churches and can be negatively impacted by decisions made at the national or regional level.

We therefore take up the task ourselves to network with other rural churches and work together to inspire and encourage. That is what IRCA-Oceania 23-28 August 2020 is all about.

The conference will include:

- Inputs from invited speakers
 - [Rev Linley Liersch](#), Uniting Church in Australia minister, on growing people and churches in faith and hope
 - [Rt Rev Matt Brain](#), Anglican Diocese of Bendigo, on trialling ways to sustain ordained ministry in rural locations
 - Captain Elizabeth Johnson, Salvation Army, bringing statistical insight into [rural and remote ministries](#)
 - Rev Canon Greg Harris, [Bush Church Aid](#), on financing ministry to rural and remote places
 - A panel from a wide range of denominations sharing a workshop on approaches to the current difficulties in rural and remote ministry



Longreach

- Field trips to local points of interest, with opportunities to meet local people living with the land
 - [The Stockman's Hall of Fame](#)
 - [Qantas Founders Museum](#)
 - [Muttaborra](#)
 - [Longreach School of Distance Education](#) see also [here](#)
- Time for participants to share stories of challenge and hope in their own home place
- Meeting as IRCA-Oceania to consider our purpose as a network and make plans for the future
- Each day will begin and end with prayer

We, in the rural churches, are bearers of hope through whatever challenges we, as rural people, might face: drought, floods, biological pests, and global economic and political influences.

Cost

AUD1,250 early bird price AUD1,100 if paid by 30.04.2020

This covers accommodation, meals, conference expenses (including field trips).

Registration

A registration form with payment portal is being prepared and will be uploaded once it is finalised. Watch <https://irca.online/network/oceania/irca-oceania-2020/> for updates. Also [Facebook](#)

Enquiries: [email](#) or +61-417513390

