

GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY: MOUNT MAGNET, WESTERN AUSTRALIA SUPPORT REQUESTED FOR OUTBACK WORK

Mount Magnet, Western Australia, is a mining town located 6 hours drive north-west of Perth. It is a regional centre with a population of around 500 people.

The Mid West Patrol is based in Mount Magnet. The current Patrol Padre, Bert Pierce, together with his wife Penny is due to retire sometime this year. They have served the people of the patrol and community with great distinction over many years and will be greatly



Surendra, May'an and Gabriella Wesley

missed. The PIM has a church building and manse in Mount Magnet.

Who will reach the people of the Patrol and community with the gospel after the Pierces leave?

The town and patrol has a significant Aboriginal population and for this reason the Australian Presbyterian World Mission has entered into a partnership with PIM to help fund the cost of the new Patrol Padre for the Mid West Patrol and Mount Magnet PIM church.

Late last year APWM & PIM interviewed Surendra and May'an Wesley in relation to the upcoming vacancy at Mount Magnet. Surendra was born in India and May'an in New Zealand. Both have lived in Australia for extended periods and have experience in rural and outback environments. Surendra has just completed his theological studies in India.

The mission field is clear. The new potential workers have appeared. The



Mount Magnet PIM Church

next step is to raise the needed support for this ministry. APWM has set the goal of raising \$30 000 as year in team support for Surendra and May'an. APWM is looking for people to become prayer and financial partners in this gospel initiative to the people of outback Western Australia. Will you consider becoming a partner?

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please use the RESPONSE FORM on the LAST page of ON TRACK.

NEW LOOK FOR PIM CLEAR EMPHASIS ON REMOTE MINISTRY REINFORCED

The PIM has begun its second hundred years of ministry with a newly designed logo and a revamped corporate look.

Reflected in the new logo and colour scheme are both the ministry, and the remote localities that the PIM serves in.

The new logo is shaped like a road sign. The intersecting circles and Southern Cross represent PIM's unique Christian mission. The colour scheme was specifically chosen to represent the

aridness of much of Australia's landscape.

The Superintendent of the PIM, Stuart Bonnington, said the design of the new logo was just what PIM was looking for. 'It is fantastic' he said.

The new look for the PIM will be phased in over the next three months.

The new logo was officially launched at the PIM Rally held at Donvale Presbyterian Church in Melbourne on the 30th of January. It was approved by

the Full Committee of the PIM when it met in Sydney the day before.

It was designed by Hilary Bruce a friend and supporter of the PIM.



ALSOP'S SENT OUT PIM PRESENCE IN DROUGHT AFFECTED CENTRAL QUEENSLAND



The Superintendent with some members of the Central Queensland Presbytery and David and Kathy Alsop the day after their commissioning service to the work of the Central Patrol

JOIN US IN JUNE IN BELTANA STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We are asking for help to proclaim the gospel clearly in one of the remote areas of Australia.

Offered is a chance to be part of a team to "make disciples of all nations" Matt 28:18-19 and to have a taste of what it is like to work for the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

Why: to reach the residents in Beltana and the small surrounding towns, stations and travels with the message of God's love and saving grace through Jesus' death and resurrection

When: June long weekend every year, while we are the PIM team in SA

Where: Beltana (small township at the northern end of the Flinders Ranges)

How: provide dinner, entertainment (we may have a Christian bush poet, looking for other entertainers) and a short evangelistic talk on Saturday night, Church service and lunch

GETTING READY FOR THE MUNGO PATROL

FURTHER STEPS ON THE JOURNEY TO THE OUTBACK

The first PIM vehicle to receive the new PIM logo is that of the Mungo Patrol based out of Mildura. Colin and Alison Morrow will use this vehicle in their work.

Colin said 'PIM appreciates greatly the support of Gary Fulton of Metro Signs (www.metro-signs.com.au), Ash, Vaughan, Dan and the other members of the 'team' who worked so hard to get the artwork, printing and applying of the signs done so quickly and with such great professionalism.'

on Sunday morning in Beltana's Smith of Dunesk Mission building. Details will be finalised when we know who is coming and what gifts they bring.

Accommodation: Beltana Station (they cater for tourism as well as being a working sheep station – with a few cattle, camels and alpacas). Please check them out on Facebook or website. Accommodation types: motel room type (men's quarters), bunk room (shearers quarters) and facilities for campers. It also has a huge communal area and a homestyle restaurant / cafe. Award winning.

FAQ

Do I need a 4WD to get there?

No. The roads are sealed until the last approx. 10km. The dirt road is routinely used by the local school bus so is usually in very good order.

How do I get there?

Mostly participants drive. One family flew to Adelaide and drove to Beltana in a rented car. One couple used it to launch their grey nomad sojourn around parts of Australia.

What else is there to do out there?

Photography / painting/ sketching – brilliant scenes and the ancient ruins at Puttapa springs and Beltana township make great subjects.

4WDing – on the station and in the Flinders

Experience a different way of life – check out station life or the local small towns in the area. Recommend Copley bakery award winning quondong pies. Blinman for arts and crafts. Check www.beltanastation.com.au, www.arkaroola.com.au, www.igawarta.com (excellent Aboriginal cultural experience) & www.flindersranges.com

Saturday morning us used for letterbox dropping and a working bee on the Beltana Mission Church building (over 130 yrs old) and grounds.

Sunday afternoon is open to whatever the group wants to do. Last year, the people who were interested in outreach to local aboriginals were taken to some settlements and David introduced them to Christian workers doing just that, some went to Puttapa Springs/ ruins of the original homestead and some stayed and put their feet up.

There is more that we can tell you. Please contact us for further information.

David and Gae McDonald, John Flynn Patrol, SA



DROUGHT RELIEF APPEAL THE WORST DROUGHT EVER IN SOME AREAS OF THE OUTBACK

The PIM is delighted at the interest and support shown by our Moderator General, Rev David Cook, for the needs of a large part of our country which suffers under severe drought conditions at this time. We write to add our support to his appeal and to let you know something of our approach to the issues involved.

The PIM has been working in these areas and has been the Presbyterian Church's main organisation for ministering in the ups and downs of Outback life for over 100 years. We have been particularly presenting the needs of these areas due to their severe drought conditions for the last 18 months.

Our regulations appoint us to do various things including "the provision of relief from suffering and hardship, conducive to the advancement of religion".

At our last PIM committee meeting in Sydney PIM Superintendent, Stuart Bonnington, confronted us with graphic pictures of the desolation of these desperate areas.

Our approach is to provide:

1. Diaconal aid, through our funds given for this purpose or set aside by us for this purpose. These funds are always stretched beyond their limits. In the past we have helped people with grocery bills, education and health expenses, and many other needs that overwhelm them.

2. Ministry to the spiritual and emotional needs of suffering people.

Our funding, whether we talk of PIM or the PCA as a whole, is minuscule compared to the funding of some other aid agencies, and the Prime Minister has said that he will announce a drought relief package next week, which we expect will be in the order of millions of dollars.

The one thing that governments and most other aid agencies cannot and will not do, is provide **funding for the greatest need** that these sufferers have – the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In my first year of PIM ministry in WA, I learnt a very important lesson. I visited an area which had been hit by severe drought conditions. The area was not only a physical desert, but was overwhelmingly arid in spiritual terms. As I headed home after one particular patrol I remember feeling extremely discouraged and helpless. The problem was not that people were presenting me with issues that I could not cope with, it was that no-one was presenting me with any issues at all! They were closed towards, and defensive against any outsider coming along to 'solve their problems' before disappearing back to the city. Of course I did not know that this was their attitude at the time – I just thought I was an ineffective evangelist and hopeless padre! After the season broke and the dry land drank its fill, I found myself visiting again in the same area. When I went to properties and commented "whoa, it looks so much better than it did 6 months ago!" they then opened up and were happy to speak to me as a friend. Some commented, about how they had so many 'experts' coming when times were tough, but that they had all gone back

to the city now, patting themselves on the back for the good job they had done, and yet had no concept of the struggles that continued as people tried to put their lives back together.

Forgive the length of the story, but I think that it illustrates the point that the best way to help our drought suffering people is to provide them with regular ministry.

PIM attempts to do that, along with bringing diaconal aid and often simple and small gifts (toiletries etc) to show the love of the Presbyterian Church for people in the bush. The above story illustrates, I think, that ministry in crisis is tough, and sometimes of limited effect. What we need to do, is to develop ongoing relationships which will be the foundation of much more effective ministry.

The areas most affected by drought, are areas where there are no Presbyterian Churches (and few other churches as well).

In recent correspondence from David and Kathy Alsop, one of our Queensland Patrol teams, they said:

"On the 2 patrols we have done in drought stricken areas, graziers have not shown any need of monetary handouts in the quantities we could give (they need mega bucks) BUT they just want to talk, and talk, and talk without us looking at our watches. They bandy about different ideas they have to "drought-proof" their properties and are grateful to talk to people who know about cattle farming and the industry. Often it starts with the wife giving us a cuppa, then the husband turning up for a "quick" break and he stays talking for a couple of hours. We always give the "Challenge" and a word of testimony of how God has helped us through hard times on the land. In such situations we have always been invited back and ... "Camp here whenever you want" and ... "No-one like you has called in for a long time".

PIM, as the main agency of the Presbyterian Church of Australia working in these areas, asks you to pray for us, and consider how you may be able to support the great financial needs of ministry in these remote areas? You can give to the Moderator's appeal or direct to PIM.

With warmest Christian greetings, and deep thanks for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus our Lord,

Rob Duncanson | Convener, Presbyterian Inland Mission
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FROM ROGER CRANE QUIET ENCOURAGEMENT FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND

Great news from here is that a scan yesterday showed no sign of lymphoma after four sessions, session five concludes tomorrow and only six will be needed. We are in Praise mode in a big way (Feb 25th).

'Thanks for your prayers, please keep going friends' – Roger and Margaret Crane PIM North Queensland Patrol.



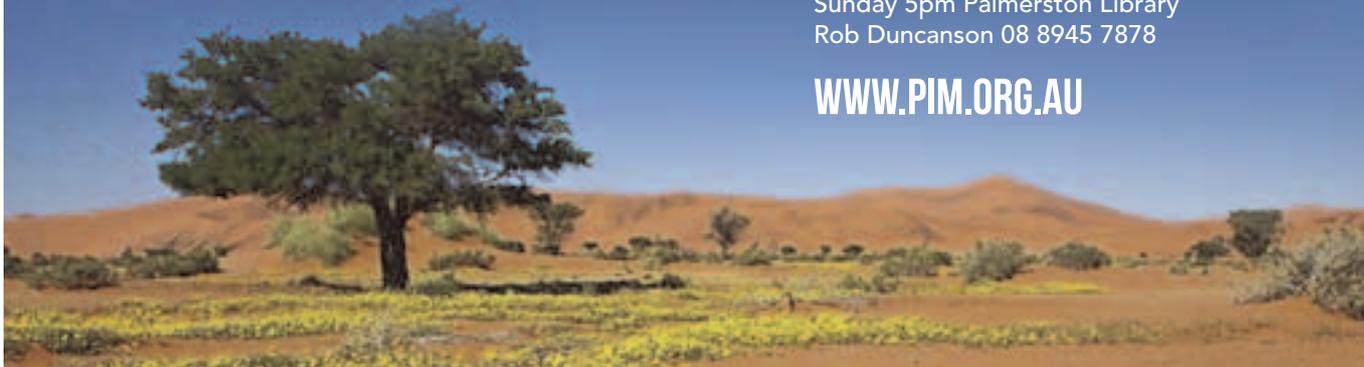
Roger Crane (North QLD patrol)

PIM THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS AND BEYOND

Please contact Robert Benn if your congregation, presbytery or church group in NSW would like an interesting and informative PIM presentation. 02 4757 4144 • 0431 062 853

NT PRESBYTERIANS

“THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM”



Alice Springs:

Sunday 10am 20 Parke Crescent, The Gap
Keith Bell 08 8953 7748

Darwin:

Sunday 10am Kormilda College, Berrimah
Sunday 5pm Palmerston Library
Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

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RESPONSE FORM

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Donation – PIM Mid West/Surendra Wesley	
Total	

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Return with payment to:

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PO Box 4014
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Fax: (03) 9876 1941

email: admin@pim.org.au