



# ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 2 2015

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
BY WORD AND DEED



## FROM SURENDRA WESLEY...

### MINISTRY BEGINS

Dear friends and supporters,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May, Gabriella, our little one to come and I as a family thank God for bringing us to Mt. Magnet and the Mid West PIM Patrol, conducted with the generous support of the APWM.

We arrived in Sydney in mid January 2015. The Rev. Dr Peter Barnes had organised for us to stay with Mr. Franco Sullaun, a member of the Revesby Presbyterian Church. Franco and his daughter Rachel were wonderful hosts, we got along so

well with them that our supposed one week stay with them extended for the whole three weeks at their request to Dr. Barnes! Thank you Franco and Rachel!

While in Sydney we visited the congregations at Revesby, Ashfield and Penshurst. During the worship services, I was given the opportunity to share about the ministry at Mt. Magnet and the Mid West Patrol. I showed photos of Mt. Magnet and distributed many of the prayer cards which had been prepared for us by the Rev. Kevin Murray, the National Director of the APWM. People were very friendly in each of these churches and spoke with us at the end of each service and expressed great support for our work. We were also able to attend a PWA meeting where we were also very warmly received. The Rev. Rick and Mrs Kayleen Manton gave us invaluable

insights into Indigenous peoples, cultures, and languages. Our time with the Manton's was complemented when we met with the Rev. Cliff Letcher, who has worked for many years with the Australian Indigenous Ministries.

At the start of February we flew to Perth on the 6th of February and our preparation for PIM continued in earnest. Among the first people we met were Mr. Clive and Mrs. Doreen Griffiths who have done so much work in recent times at Mt. Magnet in anticipation of our arrival. I completed a St. John's course in 'Remote First Aid' and RAC courses dealing with operating and maintaining a 4WD vehicle.

We thank you all for your warm welcome and wonderful support and making us feel part of work and ministry of the PIM and the APWM. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

## VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE

### CENTENARY VOLUME STILL AVAILABLE

To commemorate the founding of AIM in 1912, Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in a large format full-colour book entitled VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE. Stephen was selected because of his photographic skills and his personal commitment to the PIM. Over the years he has visited sites of historical significance to the PIM as well as

travelling through various Patrol areas. Stephen currently serves as an elder of the Kerang Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the magnificent photographs, VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE contains an historical account of the work of the AIM and the PIM written by Stuart Bonnington. Stuart has done research in church history, with a special focus on the place of the Presbyterians in the Australian story. Stuart combines being the



Superintendent of PIM with ministry at the Scots Church in Fremantle.

All profits from the sale VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE will go to support the PIM. For bulk orders please contact the PIM Office.

## THANK YOU CLIVE AND DOREEN VOLUNTEERS RETIRE (AGAIN)

From May to December 2014, keen PIM supporters Clive and Doreen Griffiths from the Fremantle congregation 'filled in' at Mt. Magnet. As in previous times of voluntary service, they did an outstanding job in the congregation and in various maintenance projects for which the PIM Executive is very thankful. This included a major project – the construction of a new toilet/shower block which has greatly enhanced the utility of the property.

Clive and Doreen write... 'With our arrival at Mt. Magnet, we resolved that our first duty would be to sustain morning Worship every Sunday. A small regular congregation regularly gathered. With numbers ranging from 2 to 9, but typically – with visitors – about 7. Via notices in shop windows and notice boards, we invited visitors passing through the town to drop in for a 'cuppa' during the week and worship with us on Sundays. We met and offered hospitality to many interesting people (the visitor's book contains 45 names for the period, 41 of whom shared meals with us), especially during the winter 'tourist' months. Although even later, in early December, Ron and Jean knocked on the door one Thursday afternoon, announcing that they were

"Presbyterians from Cairns". They stayed for the evening meal and parked their van overnight. Next morning they announced they would stay until the Sunday Service and help finish off the building project in the meantime. The 'finishing off' took a little longer and they left just before lunch on the Monday. With fairly regular visitors on a Sunday, Doreen established the pattern of preparing a cooked lunch (for up to 8) to be shared at midday each Sunday. Regular members were also invited so we had 'guests' every Sunday. From July we set up for Sunday School in the 'shed', setting the table for a 'fellowship meal' (breakfast) from 8.10am each Sunday. We had a small group whose attendance was spasmodic. However we persevered, setting up, each week often to no avail. Potential exists, but will develop slowly.

Our second objective was to do some work on the property.

Some of that list has been accomplished.

- reticulation has been updated (extra solenoid) and arranged so that sprinklers do not need to be shifted during or after each watering cycle.
- a new clothes hoist has been donated and erected.

- the sagging cornice in the 'child's' bedroom has been repaired; walls painted; donated furniture and effects added.
- garden beds reorganised.
- new rear fence erected. Since its 40m length makes it exposed to wind damage, two intermediate 'struts' have been added.
- multiple holes drilled in the floor of the Church with white corks in them (from white ant treatment) have been painted over.
- a new donated sink cupboard with a second-hand sink has been erected in what was the vestry. This area (with a functioning air conditioner) can now be used for morning tea after the Sunday Service, especially in the hotter weather.
- The local sewage contractor has generously pumped out the septic tank as a donation to the Church.
- A major activity, in the last 3 months was the planning and construction of the toilet, shower and basin room adjacent to the side door of the Church. This facility needed to satisfy the current standards for use by disabled persons, which increased the cost over that of a similar facility that could have been built several years ago.

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## MEEKATHARRA COMMUNITY CENTRE TRANSFORMING A CHURCH IN RUINS TO CONTEMPORARY USEFULNESS

Meekatharra is a town in the Mid West region of Western Australia and derives its name from the Aboriginal word of the Yamatji peoples. It means 'place of little water'. Any visitor to the town would quickly agree it's very aptly named.

Meekatharra is located 764 km north-east of Perth and may be reached by the Great Northern Highway. It is a major

supply centre for the pastoral and mining area in the Murchison region of WA, it is a centre for sheep and cattle transport and it is a regional home to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air.

Although the mining boom of the 1980s has passed, a small but strong community still exists. The population presently numbers 812. Of that number, 47.0% are of Aboriginal descent.

In February 2015, the APWM and the PIM sent Surendra and Mayan Wesley to work in Mt Magnet. Prior to their arrival the PIM invested thousands of dollars to establish a functional community centre that could be used for a range of



community engagements as well as Sunday services. Already, this addition to the town has been well received. In Mt Magnet, what was once a disheveled church building now is operational, functional and holds community value. Part of the vision for sending the Wesleys to labor in this area was the opportunities that exist in Meekatharra, 200 kms to the north of Mt Magnet.



This same vision of the APWM and the PIM to establish a community centre from the crumbling church building at Meekatharra is now before the whole church. Once again, with the use of volunteer labor and the generous gifts of God's people we are seeking to establish a community centre that will serve as a place for ministry and outreach in this outback town of WA.

A costing submission to complete the work has been submitted by Mark Jellis from the Melton Presbyterian Church in Victoria. As well as repairing the building which includes a new roof, gutters, downpipes, roof battens, and fascia boards, the intent is also to construct a new toilet block and shower facility. If additional funds are available, an internal kitchen will be installed.

It is the prayer of the APWM and the PIM that re-engagement in the area with a profiled ministry presence and intentional objectives will bring the

gospel message to bear to both the local aboriginal community and the townfolk of Meekatharra and its surrounds.

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED

[www.fionapfennigwerth.info/fiona@fionapfennigwerth.info](http://www.fionapfennigwerth.info/fiona@fionapfennigwerth.info)

Fiona Pfennigwerth has produced a coffee-table sized book which contains the text of the Gospel of John (ESV), beautifully illustrated by her drawings of the Australian outback. Fiona's artistic talent is clearly evident on just about every page, as is her love for the story of Jesus as recounted by His friend and disciple John. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED is a book to be cherished and if given to others, will be received as a most attractive gift.



### JOHN FLYNN PATROL (SA) THE MCDONALDS....

We had a fantastic time of encouragement and support at a PIM support meeting held at Terry and Judy Sadler's place at Narrabri. 45 people attended the function. The following day we went to church and shared in the worship service. The congregation is very aware of the PIM due to the Sadler's past service in PIM...We ask for prayer for our Beltana Outreach at Easter time, we have a number of keen workers for the harvest coming to join us...Following an tour of our supporting congregations, (including Wollongbar, Ballina, Evans Head, Bangalow, Lismore, East Lismore, Southern Cross, Arimdale, Inverell, Glen Innes and Narrabri) we have appreciated greatly reconnecting with our brothers and sisters who have been long term supporters of our patrol work...

### LEICHHARDT PATROL (QLD) THE PEAKES...

Gwen and I have been working the Leichhardt Patrol now for about 13 years, We still feel we are only just getting to know people. One man has always kept us at arms length till now. But this year he has grown Leucaena for the first time and treated me like a long lost friend as we discussed the success of his planting. He knows I grow about 600 acres of Leucaena and was keen to compare notes. On a previous visit, his wife invited us in for a cuppa for the first time. I also gave him a copy of LeTourneau's book

MOVER OF MEN AND MOUNTAINS. We have brought 50 copies and are distributing them to the men of our patrol with some good feedback so far...We visited one property where 'R' was just getting out of bed at 9:00 am. He had been feeling a bit down he said. He mentioned that he liked reading about his future in the columns on the stars, for he found that they are mostly encouraging predictions. In due course I asked him if it wouldn't be better to read what the Maker of the stars has to say about his future. It slowly developed into a full blown opportunity to point the way to a living relationship with the Lord...

### MUNGO PATROL (NSW) THE MORROWS...

We patrolled closer to Mildura for some days before travelling to Deniliquin and Hay. When doing this we came across quite a number of smaller properties within less than 100 kms of Mildura. In the course of one day, we shared the gospel with 5 people all on different properties and one chap gave us a water melon and a pumpkin to say thanks for coming...

### NORTH PATROL (QLD) ROGER AND MARGARET CRANE

As we become more well known in our patrol area we are finding that more significant conversations seem to be "just happening". This has allowed us to challenge people as to what the Gospel is all about and what their relationship with Jesus. We still encounter people

like 'H', who invite us in for a cuppa but who insists that this Jesus Christ business is a load of rubbish! We need Godly wisdom, pray for us!..

### PWA 2015 MARKET SAT-PHONES FOR PADRES

The PIM is delighted to have been chosen by the PWA in NSW to be the recipient of the proceeds of the 2015 PWA Market.

The funds raised will be used to provide the PIM patrol padres with Satellite phones and call plans. Due to the advance of technology and in order to maximise safety, the PIM has resolved to replace the HF radios the PIM patrol Padres are currently equipped with, with Satellite phones (Sat-phones). Sat-phones will be provided to maintain communication in emergency situations and would only be used when a conventional phone or mobile phone service is not available. The Sat-phones would be portable hand-held model. A Sat-phone is a type of mobile phone that connects to orbiting satellites instead of terrestrial coverage. A satellite must be in range for satellite phone communication. Sat-phones cost approximately \$1,500.00 to purchase with an additional cost of approximately \$500.00 for a Satellite Call plan per year. Following extensive investigations, the Sat-phone the PIM would like to purchase is the Iridium 9555, along with the Pivotal Iridium Call Plan (Pivot 45). The PIM is very thankful to the PWA for its long standing support and this latest expression of gospel partnership.

# 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  
Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

[WWW.PIM.ORG.AU](http://WWW.PIM.ORG.AU)

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## RESPONSE FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Donation – PIM general funds		Donation – PIM John Flynn/David and Gae McDonald	
Donation – PIM Mid West/Surendra Wesley		Donation – PIM Mungo/Colin and Alison Morrow	
Total			

Payment details:

Cheque enclosed (Payable to Presbyterian Inland Mission)

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