

# On Track

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Inland Mission  
Issue 1, 2020



## God decides our paths

**God is at work in all encounters experienced by our PIM Ministry Teams. Through prayer and the prompting of the Holy Spirit, He guides our steps and prepares the way for the Gospel to be shared.**

Proverbs 3:6 'In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.' (ESV)

Janet Cripps shares this story from their patrol area:

As we travel the outback, we have a real sense that the Holy Spirit is guiding our path and puts specific people in our way for a reason. It is very exciting work, but often the journey with individuals can span several years before we see any fruit for our labours!

A few years ago, when we were helping at a community event, we had the opportunity to work alongside a few women who had travelled from north of our patrol area. Over the weekend we spent many hours helping and generally chatting as we worked. I particularly connected with one lady, Lilly, who readily asked where I was from and why I was volunteering so far west. I shared simply about my faith and the calling to do PIM work, and then the conversation veered elsewhere. No other opportunity presented itself for anything deeper to be said.

A year later in a different outback town, we crossed paths with Lilly again. Lilly sought me out and we spoke for a couple of hours. She shared with me her battle with anxiety and depression over the drought.

She was still feeling quite bereft, but had received some help through counselling and occasionally attending a small church in her local area. I encouraged her to keep giving her burden to Christ, and to trust that God loves her and has a plan for her life. We left, promising to drop into Lilly's property sometime, even though it's out of our usual area.

Recently, we had the opportunity to travel north, passing right by Lilly's property. After phoning her ahead of our trip, she warmly invited us to drop in. When we arrived, Lilly stated, 'How did you know I needed a visit? Has someone been talking about me?' We assured her that was not the case, but that we were just passing by. Over a meal, Lilly shared about her life over the past year and what was troubling her. Her mother had recently died, and she was struggling with guilt and grief. We listened and encouraged, cried and laughed too. We left the next morning after having a lovely time of prayer with her and leaving our contact details.

We aren't sure when we will meet again, but we feel certain that the Holy Spirit guided our steps and prepared our path to cross with Lilly's. ●

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Worth driving for





Photo courtesy of *The Courier*, Narrabri

## NEW BEGINNINGS

# Welcome 'Smiths of New Dunesk'

In February, Sam and Shell Smith began working as our New Dunesk property managers.

Sam and Shell are both native to country NSW, and most recently lived in Narrabri, where Sam served as the minister at Narrabri Presbyterian Church for four years. Prior to completing his Bachelor of Theology degree, Sam worked first on his family's property and then as a builder.

The Smiths enjoy camping and spending time together as a family. They have five children, ranging in age from 14 to 6. They are looking forward to combining two of their great loves - Gospel work, and country life - at New Dunesk. ●

## PIM'S NEW HOME

# New Dunesk

**After nearly two years of planning, praying and waiting, earlier this year we finalised the purchase and collected the keys to the property that is to become New Dunesk. It has been a long journey, but it was worth it!**

Lord willing, New Dunesk will become a place where God's people are inspired, equipped and sent out to proclaim Christ to those living in remote and rural places of our country. Places where there is little, or no, Christian witness.

New Dunesk will also become PIM's official 'home'. Our new home has 600 acres, a homestead, a great spot for a camping ground, a four wheel drive track, and a range of sheds that will be put to good use as we roll out new programmes. We have leased out much of the farming portion to a neighbour in order to generate an income to help cover our costs.

You will find PIM's new home in NSW, just five minutes south of the little town of Ardlethan, along the Newell Highway. It is easy to find and easy to get to. And crucially, it is ideally located to connect churches in the most populated parts of our nation with frontline mission activities in the least populated areas – places where there is very little gospel witness.

This year we plan to launch our PIM Nomads' Network (for Grey Nomads) from New Dunesk. A number of other initiatives are also being developed that will create lots of new ways for you to get involved in the ministry of PIM, including our Gap Year programme.



Whatever your stage of life, we think you will find something of interest at New Dunesk in the months and years ahead. So keep an eye out for updates here in On Track and on our Facebook page.

We will also be putting together a few work teams to tackle some projects on the property. If you are interested, and have some practical skills and some free time, please give Sam a call on 0427 782 506 to see if you might be able to help out in some way.

Above all, please pray! This exciting new initiative needs considerable prayer. There is much to be done, and many challenges to overcome as we seek to set up New Dunesk to be a useful tool in reaching our nation with the Good News of Jesus. ●

## Mt Magnet appointment

We are excited to announce that Alvin and Narelle Chai, along with children Elliot and Lewis, have been appointed to Mt Magnet. They plan to commence their ministry in the middle of this year.

This is a real answer to many people's prayers. With Surendra and May Wesley finishing in December last year, we have been actively looking for the right couple to carry on this unique work. Much prayer has gone into this, and the Lord has answered.

The Chais are looking forward to settling in and continuing this ministry. They have a background in cross-cultural ministry, evangelism and discipling and have a very useful skill set that will be incredibly helpful in the next season of ministry in and around Mt Magnet.

Please pray for the work in Mt Magnet during this time of transition. Bev and Ken Basham and a number of others have done a great job keeping the work going during this time of uncertainty and transition.

If you were financially supporting Surendra and May at Mt Magnet, we encourage you to consider continuing on and supporting Alvin and Narelle.



## David and Gae McDonald

After about eight years of service, David and Gae McDonald are stepping back from PIM and taking an extended break. David and Gae initially served in South Australia where they carried out patrol ministry in the Flinders Ranges and surrounding areas. They then moved to Narrabri where they have been active in North West NSW (Darling Patrol).

We praise the Lord that a number of people have come to know Him under the ministry of the McDonalds. Many isolated Christians have also been encouraged in their faith and scores more people have been blessed and challenged as they have interacted with David and Gae and seen and heard the gospel of Jesus Christ through them.

We thank David and Gae for their great work for the gospel and sacrifices made through PIM. They will be missed. We wish them well in their next season, and look forward to seeing what God has in store for them.

If you have been supporting David and Gae financially, thank you! We do invite you to continue supporting the work of PIM, perhaps in another area.



## My Gift to show Jesus' love to Australians in the outback

I want to help share the gospel with more people and communities in remote and isolated regions of Australia.

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## ✦ CEO'S CORNER

# From Andrew to you

It was Thursday 30 January, 2020.

I was a bit like a little kid on Christmas morning. After two years of discussions, planning, presentations, searching and praying we were just an hour or two away from taking possession of the 'New Dunesk' property.



All the work had been done, and I was sitting in the town park at Ardlethan drinking coffee and waiting to hear from the church's Law Agent that the settlement process had been completed, and the property was finally ours.

I got the call to say all was well and hopped back in the car. Five minutes later, I was at the front gate, looking down the long driveway that leads to PIM's new home.

After checking out the house and doing several drives around the property, in an attempt to let it all sink in, I drove up along the 120 acre elevated bush ridge, parked the car and climbed up the rocks to the highest point on the ridge. I had a magnificent 360 degree view. It was a clear day and I could almost see forever. I stayed up there alone for at least an hour, soaking in the view, and giving thanks to the Lord for His provision of this wonderful place.

My prayer on that day was, and still is, that God will use New Dunesk for His glory, and that it will become a place that changes the way our church reaches the lost in remote and rural parts of our massive continent; a place where God's people will be inspired, equipped and sent out for gospel ministry to our 'inland'. Will you join me in that prayer?

I look forward to seeing you at New Dunesk sometime soon. I'm sure we will have an activity or two there that will be of interest to you.

Proclaiming the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ really is worth driving for. Thanks for being part of the mission of PIM.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew Letcher  
CEO

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION  
PO Box 287, Woori Yallock VIC 3139  
☎ 03 9005 8256 ✉ [admin@pim.org.au](mailto:admin@pim.org.au)  
📱 @PresbyterianInlandMission

[www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au)



Worth driving for

PRIVACY: PIM values the privacy of the people we work with, therefore, we may at times change the names of people in stories, substitute photos or obscure some geographic details that might identify them. However, all the stories we tell are true and accurately convey what we see God doing in people's lives.