

# On Track

## A future harvest

**There is an old proverb that says, 'the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second-best time is today'.**

At New Dunesk, we are planting trees. A few tangible trees, but mostly ministry-related trees. New Dunesk is about investing in people, to Inspire, Equip and Send them out for Gospel ministry in the Inland of our great continent.

One of the ways we are doing this is through our Gap Year program. By investing intentionally into the lives of 18-20 year olds, we are planting trees that we hope will yield kingdom fruit in the decades to come. We hope that in the years ahead some of our Gappies will become useful and effective members in their local church. Some may go onto become elders in country churches. Perhaps a few will candidate for the ordained ministry with a heart to become a rural pastor. And of course we hope that some may join PIM as we continue to pursue our mission of making disciples for the Lord Jesus in remote and rural places.

Border closures and travel restrictions have meant we have postponed many events planned at New Dunesk this year, but we decided not to delay the start of our Gap Year program. We have taken the long view, and are getting on with planting trees today.

Our first Gappy, Noah, has hit the ground running. His energetic approach to life and his teachable nature means we have been able to put him to work in lots of different ways. A month or so into his Gap Year and he has already become a very handy tractor operator, learning to tow trailers and tackle a whole host of farm related jobs. His work building the campsite at New Dunesk will be appreciated for years to come!

Noah has also signed up to teach two scripture classes at local primary schools, and in the months ahead will develop skills in leading church services, public Bible reading and corporate prayer under the guidance of Derek Yu, minister at Temora Presbyterian Church. By the end of the year, we expect he will also have begun to develop some preaching skills.

To help prepare Noah for whatever God has in store in the future, he is undertaking the Timothy Partnership. This entry level theological training is conveniently delivered by distance education, allowing Noah to weave it into his work on the farm and service in the church. Who knows where Noah will end up in the years to come, but our prayer is that he will be able to look back and say that his Gap Year at New Dunesk was an important year of his life.

In the future, we plan to increase the number of Gappies we take each year to four. If you know someone who might be interested, let them know about this unique opportunity. Planting trees is a long-term investment, and today is a good day to start.



## Bike riders

It was our expectation that utes, 4WDs and family cars will regularly make their way to New Dunesk. To our surprise, the very first visitors this year were on motorcycles. On a road trip out of Canberra, they heard of the property and decided to ride their chrome plated bikes up the long dusty drive. After parking them under a tree, they were given the tour, and a sense of the vision for the property. A favourite stop on the tour included a walk by the piggery that is currently being converted to a conference centre, with quipps that it should be called HOGS. It was encouraging to know they were impressed with New Dunesk, and even more so to hear that they promised to return with more riders another time.

Significantly, some riders had no association with the Presbyterian church, yet were pleased to see our church making an effort to "do something for the people in the country". Pray that many more different groups of people will call in and be inspired about what we as a denomination are doing for ministry to rural Australia.

## Penrith Presbyterian

Colin and Alison Morrow, like many of our Patrol teams, experienced the frustrations of lockdowns and border closures. Yet as soon as the NSW borders opened, they could hardly contain their excitement to travel out and meet their 'flock' again.

One aspect of the delight, Alison writes, "was to be able to bring some joy to those on the land by delivering grocery vouchers to the people in our patrol area. Some of our supporters from St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Penrith organised the vouchers and, over the Christmas and New Year period, we were able to give them to the people we visit. They were incredibly grateful to know that, despite being so far away and not knowing these people, they were thought of in such a loving, giving way." Alison said, "there were tears, there were hugs and there were lots of, 'Please send our thanks to these wonderful people'". Thank you to the people of Penrith for their generosity. It was a practical way of helping the people on the land, of showing Christian love in action and of helping to open doors for sharing the Gospel.

To all who support the Morrrows through prayer or other practical ways, thank you. God continually opens many new opportunities that enable them to share the Gospel and bring His Good News to the people in their 'parish'. And to St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Penrith - thank you too.

## Fire season ready

The season of Spring brings growth to native grass. Scattered across the landscape of New Dunesk there are many varieties, and with the warmth of the sun that followed good rain we witnessed its prolific growth.

But the beauty of native flowers and the rangy grasses that sway to the breeze also alert to another need – New Dunesk needs to be fire season ready.

When one of our Club 100 members heard of the need, production began on a purpose-built fire cart. A trailer frame was restored, with Davey pump and Honda motor fitted, an old 1000 litre spray shuttle repurposed, and hose and nozzle installed. After a coat of fresh hammertone paint, it was good to go.

Establishing New Dunesk to be a functional property that is ready to Inspire, Equip and Send out people for ministry in rural Australia is proving to be a real team effort. People from all over Australia are helping as they can. We are certainly happy to be fire season ready.



# Life at Mt Magnet



It is now six months since Alvin and Narelle started work in the church at Mount Magnet. A remote town in Western Australia, it has a population of about 450 people, and less during the summer months as people move to the coast to avoid the heat.

The children are now well acquainted with their surroundings (mostly red dirt and flies), and Narelle has brought the beginnings of life to their bare yard. She successfully propagated a range of native plants, bringing life to a once barren space. There is even the sound of life from six little Wyandotte chickens!

Over summer, as temperatures reached up to 50°C, the Chai family remained so that they could continue to build relationships, serve in the community and minister to those who stayed. Their congregation has stabilised with about 15-18 locals attending every Sunday.

Despite strong gospel resistance in the area, they are deeply encouraged in Christ who is blessing his word to the hearts of his people and bringing Spiritual life. One of the congregants that Alvin has journeyed with since October recently gave her life to Christ. The Chais recount many major transformations in her life and are rejoicing she is committed to weekly discipleship meetings.

Alvin, who is always quick to encourage others to think about their life before God, quickly reminded us of the need "to hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Heb 10:23).

## Unexpected

Kim Jaeger's patrol area starts from Hobart in the south of the state and reaches past Stanley in the north west. One morning, while parked outside his supermarket and loading his vehicle with supplies to take on patrol, Kim was approached by an elderly gentleman. This passer-by had noticed the PIM sign on his door. It caught his attention, so he approached Kim for a chat. It was a cold rainy Tasmanian day and in the providences of God Kim was parked under cover. Everything was right for a long conversation.

This man had regularly attended the Presbyterian Church in his youth, but stopped and never went near a church for decades. He engaged with Kim on a wide range of issues including the heart of the gospel message. When they eventually separated, his words to Kim were 'you have certainly given me a lot to think about'.

Kim's plans for that day certainly did not include this meeting. But he tells us that unexpected conversations are what he expects. God is building his church. As our patrol padres are about their planned visits, they prayerfully expect the 'unexpected'.

## 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.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to receive future On Track updates from PIM. Here are my details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please detach and return with your gift.

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— worth driving for —

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

 CEO's corner

## From Andrew to you



**PIM is all about people. People who serve in different places and in different ways.**

As the CEO, it is a great privilege for me to work with an amazing group of people who diligently and sacrificially go about their different tasks for His glory.

Colin and Alison Morrow have chalked up seven years of service with PIM, and recently the PIM Committee was

pleased to sign them up for another four years. Based out of Mildura, Colin and Alison reach people living in South Western NSW and North Western Victoria who have little or no other opportunity to hear the Good News of our Saviour.

Likewise, Kim Jager recently completed four years of service, and has just been reappointed for another four. Kim's work takes him to isolated people in the midlands of Tasmania, and up to Stanley in the North West where he preaches regularly.

Perhaps the least visible people in the PIM world are those on our governing committee. Elected by the General Assembly of Australia (GAA) every three years, the PIM Committee members diligently oversee and direct the work of PIM, shaping and steering the organisation towards evermore effectiveness and the good stewardship of the resources we have been entrusted with. In February, as part of our planned succession process, Les Fowler stepped back from the role of convener and the Committee elected Vaughan Smith to that task. Les will continue to serve on the committee until the next GAA. Vaughan is pastor of the Presbyterian church in Taree, NSW, and has been on the committee since the last GAA.

Please be in prayer for all the PIM Team and Committee members as together we seek to make disciples of the Lord Jesus in remote and rural parts of our nation.

Andrew Letcher  
CEO

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.

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worth driving for