

On Track



Founding Partners make an impact

Goldilocks would have loved the weather. Not too hot, not too cold – just right. Which was a real blessing. Our long planned for volunteer work crew had arrived to install the new roof on the Piggery; a job that is best done when the weather is just right.

The Piggery is a central piece of New Dunesk infrastructure. From here, we aim to run a whole host of programmes that Inspire, Equip and Send out God's people for ministry in the Inland. We are very much looking forward to the day when this building is filled with people undertaking training, enjoying one another's company, and learning more about what God is up to across our nation.

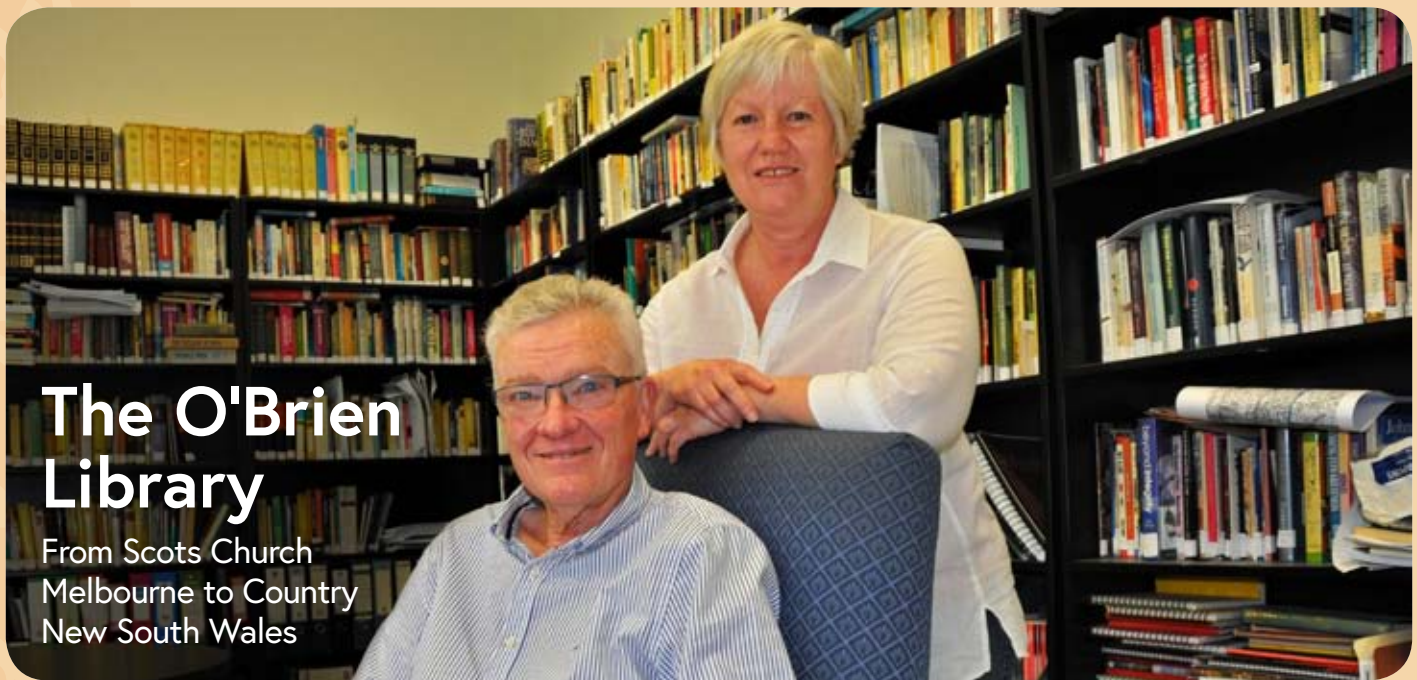
The work crew punched out a huge amount of work in less than a week to transform the Piggery. We were blessed by their skills, hard work and generosity, and we look forward to having them back for another round of work in the not-too-distant future.

While the work crew were busy hoisting roof trusses, fastening metal sheets and laying out insulation, another group of generous people were quietly at work behind the scenes making it all possible; these people are our Founding Partners. Because of their commitment to make regular financial donations each month, we have the confidence to proceed with our plans. The donations made by our Founding Partners are specially aimed at getting New Dunesk up and running in the first three years. In this case, our Founding Partners have literally helped put a roof over our heads! Their generous donations paid for

all the materials needed for the Piggery and for hiring the equipment we needed to safely do the high access work on the roof. What a blessing!

We have designed the Founding Partners program so that it is a real partnership, not a one-way street. Our Founding Partners enjoy many benefits, including an invitation to drop in and camp at New Dunesk anytime they are passing by. We are thrilled that some of them have taken the time to do this. In recent weeks, we have enjoyed a number of visits from Founding Partners who have made a visit to New Dunesk part of their travel plans. They have enjoyed seeing first-hand what their partnership is achieving, and they have caught the big vision for what we are doing through New Dunesk. Some have enjoyed a campfire, a great sunset and warm fellowship over a meal with other travellers.

We still have room for more Founding Partners to get on board. This is a great way to be part of a brand-new initiative that will build our church's capacity to reach our nation with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Founding Partners are providing the financial resources to lay the foundation for a ministry that, we hope, will bear fruit for decades to come. At \$100 per month for three years, or \$50 per month for two years, it is not an insignificant commitment – but it is one that will make a big difference in making disciples amongst people living in remote places across our big country.



The O'Brien Library

From Scots Church
Melbourne to Country
New South Wales

Richard O'Brien is country, born and bred. Coonamble was his home. Country blood runs through his veins.

Yet, his life as a Presbyterian pastor has seen him plant a congregation at Croydon Hills in Melbourne, then be called to St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Armidale NSW (not long before they celebrated their 150th anniversary), and finally establish a pioneering ministry as the Minister to the C.B.D. of Melbourne. In these last 18 years of service, he established a range of city ministries that contributed towards a bigger vision for Scot's Church.

For Richard, the preaching of God's Word, and especially preaching consecutive Christ-centred sermons through books of the Bible, has always remained his priority in pastoral ministry. This priority on preaching is reflected in the many books he has on the subject. In fact, Richard's extensive library that he has gathered over a long ministry vocation, seems to span every known subject and genre. Novels to commentaries, the classics through to the contemporary. You could realistically find any good book you were looking for. There are literally thousands of books covering metres and metres of bookshelves.

So imagine our surprise and excitement when, at the conclusion of his ministry at Scots Church in Melbourne, Richard approached PIM to ask if his library would be of any value to the new training facility at New Dunesk. With an emphatic yes! PIM quickly dove into the logistics of how to move the library from the heart of the city in lockdown to the newly established training facility in Ardlethan. After packing the substantial library from Richard's office at Scots', as well as more books located in his home office in Surrey Hills, filling a small truck, and completing the long road trip, we are thrilled to announce that the O'Brien Library has now arrived at its new home at New Dunesk. Bookshelves are still being

constructed, some boxes have been unpacked, and the cataloguing has begun. What a resource to have in place for every visitor at New Dunesk.

Richard's heart for rural ministry has been a lifelong endeavour, and one that PIM has benefited from more than once in the past. His enduring interest has seen him participate in a PIM tag-a-long tour, frequently travel to rural congregations, and mentor country pastors. There is a strong place in his heart for the country, and he has always looked for ways to give back. This most recent gift will have an immense impact on the future training, disciple-making, and teaching that will occur at New Dunesk for generations to come. There are now quality resources for the New Dunesk Gap Year participants who are completing theological subjects through the Timothy Partnership, as well as resources for members of the Nomads' Network who are looking for help with their evangelism and apologetics. Most immediately, these books will be helpful for the Country Elders Preaching Workshop being run at New Dunesk in August this year. As Andrew Letcher, PIM CEO, has pointed out: "there is something in this library for everyone".

As Richard concluded his ministry at The Scots' Church in Melbourne, he wrote to the congregation. He concluded his words to them with a prayer of the Apostle Paul, praying "that your love may abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11). So too, Richard and his wife Rosemary pray that the O'Brien Library, now located at New Dunesk in NSW, will prove to be a valued resource to the wider church well into the future, and that it will help many more people grow in knowledge and all discernment.

Manager for New Dunesk



We are excited to announce that Paul and Janae Denness, along with their family, have joined PIM to manage New Dunesk! Paul and Janae have significant experience in mission, evangelism and discipling. They have served cross culturally with APWM and MAF for many years and most recently have been serving in Australia with the Navigators. We welcome them to the PIM team and look forward to their involvement in the ministry. They plan to move from Ballarat to New Dunesk at the end of June.

Country Elders' Preaching Workshop

PIM is working with Langham Partnership to deliver the Country Elders' Preaching Workshop at New Dunesk from the 26th to the 29th of August this year. This practical workshop uses a proven training approach to help participants develop their preaching skills in order to better serve God's people. To find out more visit our website or contact Andrew on 0438 868 964 or ceo@pim.org.au.

A Sign



We needed a sign. A few actually. We want visitors zipping by on the Newell Highway to easily find New Dunesk. Steve Dyer and the team from Signs Plus in Swan Hill took on the job and made us a wonderful set of signs. And then, they donated the whole lot to us at no cost. What a blessing!

Thanks Dennis!



When COVID hit, more than 3000 people connected to their home churches each Sunday using PIM Congregation Connect. It was a tremendous blessing to many people.

Behind the scenes was Dennis Rayson, the driving force that built PIM Congregation Connect. His service has been a huge blessing to many people.

Sadly, PIM has come to the conclusion that as good as Congregation Connect is, we can't find a way to sustain it long term, so have decided to bring it to a close.

Dennis has chosen to continue to personally offer the program under the new name Kerusso. So, as we farewell Dennis from PIM and thank him for his wonderful work with Congregation Connect, we also wish him well with Kerusso.

If you are interested in using Kerusso for your church, give Dennis a call on 0428 830 276.

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Thank you for your support

From Andrew to you



New Dunesk is probably the biggest investment in rural training infrastructure the Presbyterian Church has made in Australia.

It is certainly the biggest investment we have made in mobilising the Australian church to reach remote and rural places in our continent with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

The vision that PIM set out for New Dunesk is being vigorously pursued. One of the most exciting parts of this journey, for me as the CEO, is to be able to see all the different ways that God's people are contributing to this tremendous new venture.

We have received some amazing and timely donations, both big and small. We have received tools and books (lots of them), a fire rig and a four-wheel drive. Our wonderful new signage was donated by the supplier, and we have been blessed with some very useful furniture.

Volunteers have given generously of their time, some even taking annual leave or stepping away from their own businesses, in order to contribute their valuable skills. Much progress has been made through their sacrifices.

Our Founding Partners have signed up to give regular financial gifts each month during these first few years to get New Dunesk up and running, and to purchase all the needed materials to build a place that will bless many for generations to come.

Would you like to get involved? There are many ways you can do that. A big need right now is for some more Founding Partners to join the team, which is already making such a vital contribution. If you would like to partner with us in this way, you can find details of how to do that enclosed with this edition of On Track or you can visit our website.

To all those who have contributed to New Dunesk so far, thank you!

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.