



PRESBYTERIAN  
INLAND  
MISSION



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Gap Year  
Prospectus



## General information

### Dates

The Gap Year is a full-time live-on programme that starts in early February and finishes in late November each year. Applications open 1 August each year and will close once the programme is full. 2-4 participants are accepted each year.

### Cost

\$12,000 for the full year, which covers:

- On site accommodation (excluding meals)
- 6 subjects for the Timothy Partnership Academic Studies in Theology Certificate (ASTC)
- Firearms Safety Training
- Chainsaw operators course
- Agricultural Chemical application course
- Front end loader/tractor operator training
- First Aid training
- In-house training programmes
- Travel expenses for placements on other properties.

Participants who undertake the ASTC at a 75% loading (3 subjects per semester) may be eligible for Youth Allowance/AUSTUDY. Participant who do not qualify for any allowances should contact us to discuss course costs.

### Living arrangements

Participants will live on the New Dunesk property in Ardlethan NSW, in a caravan or similar type accommodation located at the property's campground. A camp kitchen, laundry facilities and a common area are provided.

The New Dunesk manager and family live nearby in the homestead. It is expected that Gap Year participants and the onsite family will develop a close relationship over the course of the year; however, participants are still required to take care of their own washing, cooking and housekeeping chores. Where required, assistance will be provided to help participants learn to prepare a range of easy and nutritious meals.

In order to manage the practicalities of rural living, all participants will need to hold a driver's licence and have their own vehicle.



## Daily life

Daily life as a New Dunesk Gap Year participant (Gappie) involves a diverse range of activities, with plenty of variety throughout the year.

**Daily devotions** start off the day and involve everyone at New Dunesk. As well as actively participating in these devotion times, it is expected that by the end of the year participants will have developed the competency and confidence to plan and lead these sessions themselves.

Self-guided **Bible study**, as well as structured learning as part of the **Timothy Partnership course**, are also a daily activity. The New Dunesk manager will become a mentor to participants as they work through the course content, grow in their knowledge of the bible, and learn to apply it to their lives.

Time is provided each day to complete washing, shopping and other chores as required. Weekends and evenings are given as time off to relax. Throughout the week time is also provided to prepare for any upcoming ministry activities.

Rarely do two weeks at New Dunesk look the same. The year is interspersed with a **range of events** that bring visitors onto the property and keep life at New Dunesk busy.

The New Dunesk Gap Year Programme is an exciting opportunity for young people to grow in their faith and build practical skills, allowing them to share in PIM's vision to *make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia.*

The programme aims to:

- Grow participants as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and deepen their theological understanding.
- Develop participants' practical farm skills and provide opportunities to explore a variety of rural employment options.
- Equip participants with useful ministry skills to be applied in evangelistic and church settings.
- Connect participants with rural churches, where they might make a meaningful and long-term contribution.





During these busy times, Gappies will often need to work in the evenings and on weekends to help these events to run smoothly.

In between these busy times, Gappies perform regular farm work and projects on a daily basis, which can look like:

- Fencing repairs around the property
- Mechanical work on farm vehicles
- Assisting neighbouring farmers with projects as needed
- Vermin and weed control
- Other projects as identified by the New Dunesk Manager

Over the course of the year, participants also engage in **intentional and regular supervised ministry work** at one of the local Presbyterian Churches. This might include opportunities such as worship service leading, public Bible reading, preaching, teaching SRE or helping to run a bible study or small group ministry. Whatever the task, training and mentoring is provided to help each Gappie prepare for the activity and run it well. Debriefing and feedback form an important part of this process so that Gappies can develop their skills over the year.

Gappies also participate in various evangelistic outreach efforts at local community events.

As the PIM Gap Year programme is small, there is flexibility to accommodate daily life to individuals needs.

### Field placement

Each Gap Year participant will undertake a placement of 4-6 weeks on another rural property to gain wider experience in the agricultural industry. The placement is carefully sourced through the networks of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and could be anywhere within Australia. This placement is designed to broaden both the agricultural and church experiences of each Gappie and help them think further about where they might like to live, work and serve in the future.

## Timothy Partnership Academic Studies in Theology Certificate (ASTC)

An important part of the Gap Year Programme includes the completion of the Academic Studies in Theology Certificate (ASTC), delivered by the Timothy Partnership.

The ASTC is intended to be an introduction to theological studies and prepares Gap Year participants for future study if desired.

The course consists of 8 subjects:

- Introduction to Study Skills
- Developing Study Skills
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christian Belief
- Plus 3 electives, that include such subject areas as pastoral care, teaching RE, and leadership.

The Timothy Partnership guidelines suggest each subject requires 3 hours of study per week. Most of the course work is done on a flexible and self-directed basis that readily works around life at New Dunesk.

It is expected that Gap Year participants will complete 6 of the 8 subjects over the course of the year. They will then need to complete a further two subjects after the completion of the programme to be awarded the full Academic Studies in Theology Certificate.

**More information on the ASTC can be found at:**  
[www.pynsw.org.au/timothy-partnership-certificate/](http://www.pynsw.org.au/timothy-partnership-certificate/)



## Skills and qualifications

In addition to working towards the **Academic Studies in Theology Certificate with the Timothy Partnership**, participants will also gain useful church ministry skills throughout the course of the year that will equip them to:

- Lead a regular Bible study
- Run SRE classes
- Lead a church service
- Publicly read the Bible and pray confidently
- Preach (where appropriate)

Throughout the course of the year, participants will gain a variety of practical farm skills, including:

- Installing, maintaining and repairing fences
- Driving and maintaining tractors and other farm vehicles
- Safe and effective use of a range of tools, including chainsaws, mowers and power tools
- Firearm handling and safety
- Livestock and grain handling

### End of Year employment options

As the year comes to an end, we endeavour to help find opportunities for our Gappies to gain paid seasonal employment in harvest and grain handling work in the wider Ardlethan area. This seasonal work not only provides Gappies with an income, but also helps to build an employment history and additional skills.

If participants choose to take on seasonal employment, the exact completion date of the Gap Year may be impacted. Harvest time in the area generally begins in November and there is usually a need for extra workers from this time.





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**At Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM), our vision is to see people living in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia become mature and faithful followers of Jesus.**

As a ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, we've been taking the good news of Jesus to the furthest regions of our country since our foundation in 1912, by the Rev John Flynn.

We continue that mission today through our network of ministry teams, and from our new long-term home in Ardlethan, New Dunesk.

**For more information on the work of PIM and New Dunesk, visit [www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au)**

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