

On Track



Bonnington is back with PIM

The PIM Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev Stuart Bonnington as our new, full-time Superintendent.

Stuart has served as a local church pastor in both Western Australia and Victoria since 1990 and will take up his appointment as Superintendent in January 2024.

Stuart has a long-standing love for Gospel ministry in remote and outback Australia. He served part-time as PIM Superintendent from 2005 - 2015, during which time he was involved in a wide range of new initiatives for PIM, including the establishment of the Mount Magnet patrol, developing the initial vision for the Snowy Mountains Patrol and holding the memorable centenary celebrations of the Australian Inland Mission in 2012.

Stuart is greatly looking forward to helping PIM ministry teams to make disciples (Matthew 28), and in further developing New Dunesk to 'inspire, equip and send out' people for Gospel work in Australia.

He is eager to continue to grow support from the PCA and engage with people, organisations and congregations Australia wide, working together in partnership to reach into the regions beyond with the word of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:16).

Stuart will succeed Hugh Castleden who has been our CEO since 2022. The PIM Committee wishes to extend their deepest thanks to Hugh for his service to the Mission, and especially for his help in navigating through these changes to our governance structure. The introduction of a Superintendent is the first step of this restructure that aims to strengthen PIM's ministry focus across all areas of the organisation.



For the remainder of 2023, Les Fowler will step into the role of Interim Superintendent as we transition to this new governance structure and prepare for Stuart's commencement in 2024. Les' association with PIM goes back to 1985 when he was appointed as a patrol padre. He joined the PIM committee in 2003, and served as Convener from 2015 to 2021. The PIM committee extend their thanks to Les for assisting in this transition process.

Stuart will be attending the General Assembly of Australia (GAA) in Sydney in September and is eager to meet as many friends and supporters of the PIM as possible. If you would like to organise a time to meet, or to simply have a chat, please call him on 0400 012 865 or email superintendent@pim.org.au. He is eager to hear from you.

Fathers, Sons, (and Daughters)!



Fathers and sons (plus some daughters and mothers!) gathered at New Dunesk for a weekend of family friendly activities in July. The time away was a great opportunity for parents and kids to spend time building and strengthening relationships with one another. Over the course of the weekend many new friendships were also formed as fun activities were enjoyed across New Dunesk's property.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a safety fire arms talk and a few entertaining childhood stories from the weekend's organiser, Marty de Pyle Jnr.

Saturday started at the Ardlethan Gun Club to observe the National Tin Can Shooting Championship. 100's of participants from around Australia converged on the town for this annual shoot. Aiming at cans propelled into the air by modified manual clay target traps was a sight that needs to be seen to be believed!

An afternoon back at New Dunesk included learning how to launch pneumatic rockets, mastering the art of yabbing and making campfires from scratch.

Each evening Isaiah Vasiliades (pictured left with his son, NAME) led a series of devotional talks around a large campfire. A Sunday morning church service in the piggery included a sermon on 1 John about the privileges that belong to Christians.

The weekend ended on a high with an extreme 4WD demonstration over New Dunesk's 4WD training track. Two highly modified vehicles climbed an impossible rock face to the rapturous cheers of spectators.

Camping, four-wheel drives, campfires, group activities and warm fellowship - what a weekend! We can't wait for next year. The Father Son weekend in 2024 will be held from the 12th-14th April, with Dads and all their descendents invited to attend.



Study week with real refreshment

Reflections of a city pastor

As a pastor of a busy congregation, I appreciate and enjoy the opportunity the church gives me to draw aside from the weekly rhythm of parish life and spend time in the focused study of God's word.

Throughout my many years as a pastor I have participated in many different activities, but this year was unique, and very refreshing! I contacted New Dunesk to see if I could book an on-site caravan with the hope that I could have a week in the quiet of the country to complete an intentional reading program. There were also several writing tasks I was keen to finish.

Upon my arrival the week was everything I had hoped and more. The location was idyllic, the facilities and

camp kitchen are second to none, and the countryside was such that I could delight in His beautiful creation as well as His word. The property manager was also the happiest 'Caravan Park' worker I have ever met!

The reality is that for many Pastors, myself included, the demands of congregational life surround us, pushing and prodding us to squeeze the most out of every moment. We willingly serve and give ourselves to the sheep entrusted to our care, seeking to mature them and advance God's Kingdom. But how good it is to draw aside for a time. We know that spiritual maturity requires theological study, and as John Calvin says, prayer is like a priceless treasure that God has offered to His people. I found New Dunesk to be the perfect place to 'come apart for a while' (Mark 6: 31) to study and to pray.

To book your stay at New Dunesk, call 0493 294 798 or email newdunesk@pim.org.au.

📌 From the patrols

Producing good fruit at Mount Magnet

By the Rev Stuart Bonnington

*The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.*



Narelle Chai has been nurturing an orange citrus tree down the side of the Mount Magnet Church building. The leaves are green and beautiful oranges hang from the branches.

A growing tree bearing fragrant fruit forms an apt metaphor for the mission of Alvin and Narelle in the most remote and isolated ministry of the Presbyterian Church through the PIM. It is a

vital work that needs to be further nurtured and strengthened. On the nearly thousand-kilometre journey along the Great Northern Highway from Dalwallinu in the WA Wheatbelt to Newman in the Pilbara, the only full-time resident Christian ministry you will encounter is the Mount Magnet Church/Mid West Patrol of the PIM.

Through intentional evangelism and discipleship among the local community, station residents and those who travel up and down the Great Northern Highway, fruit is being borne for the Kingdom of God.

C., a local indigenous woman, has received the gospel in clarity and truth and seeks to minister among her people and school children. The Warrambo Christian Youth Group meets regularly to know Jesus and make Jesus known. A well-attended Bible study attracts a membership eager to grow in the Christian faith. Sunday church attracts local solid support with a steady stream of children attending the Sunday school. In all this, Alvin and Narelle have a joint ministry of personal encouragement, pastoral support and Christian friendship to the community in general, exemplified by Narelle's work at the Regional Aboriginal Medical Service both in Mount Magnet and in the even more remote town of Meekatharra two hours to the north. The September holiday children's club, run with a ministry team from the Christian Reformed Church of Canning (Perth), greatly encourages the Church and community alike.

The ministry context in the Outback is challenging, confronting and discouraging, but despite it all, lives have been and are being changed through the grace of the Lord Jesus. The tree is planted and growing, producing good fruit at Mount Magnet.

Please pray for Alvin and Narelle as they seek to make Christ known in outback WA. For those planning a trip through Western Australia, put a visit to Mount Magnet on your to-do list – Alvin and Narelle and the local church family are always encouraged by the fellowship with other Christians that pass through.

To subscribe to regular email updates or to financially support this Gospel work in Mount Magnet, visit pim.org.au.

Bits & bobs

For those who donate

Have you made a donation but haven't received a receipt? It may be that you have not added enough information to a deposit to enable us to identify you. If making a deposit to the PIM bank account, please identify the payment with your initial and surname, (or church/organisation name and location) and add a brief description of where you would like the gift allocated. E.g. "St Andrews, Outer Barcoo, Snowy Mountains".

For further assistance on managing your donations, please email admin@pim.org.au.

On site van needed

With increased numbers of people seeking short term or overnight accommodation at New Dunesk, PIM is still looking for a caravan that could be donated for that purpose. The van does not need to be registered, or registrable, but simply of sound enough condition to be converted for on-site use. Please email admin@pim.org.au if you can help.

Bonnington at GAA

Our new Superintendent, the Rev Stuart Bonnington, will be at the GAA and is keen to catch up with as many supporters as possible. Please contact him to arrange a time to meet. Call 0400 012 865 or email superintendent@pim.org.au.



Updates from the track

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Thank you for your support



Laurie and Gwen Peake, Leichhardt QLD

In June, Laurie and Gwen completed a long and final 4-month patrol, during which time they also moved from their property in Wandoan to settle in Toowoomba. Laurie and Gwen have been part of the PIM team in various roles for more than 30 years, and their ministry and service will be missed. From all the PIM Teams, the Committee and PIM supporters, a sincere thankyou to you both.

Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades, Snowy Mountains NSW

Noah and Nerroli continue to make many contacts in the Snowy Mountains and Gippsland areas. Noah is meeting weekly to disciple a young man in the town of Bombala. He is using his previous experience as a tree climber and an arborist to open many Gospel-centred conversations.

Colin and Alison Morrow, Mungo NSW/VIC

Colin and Alison are thanking God for the many positive opportunities they had to engage in deputation throughout NSW last month. They are encouraged by the many people who expressed a real interest and enthusiasm for the work of PIM. They ask for prayer that the Bible study groups they run throughout NSW and VIC will bear much fruit for the Gospel.

Alvin and Narelle Chai, Mount Magnet WA

Alvin and Narelle are thankful for the recent visit of the incoming Superintendent, Stuart Bonnington. They both give praise to God for the many opportunities they have to own and defend the Gospel, and for the large number of children they are able to teach the Bible to.

Kim Jaeger, Tasmania

Kim has recently gathered a group of men together from the southern midlands of Tasmania to meet for weekly prayer and Bible study. Kim also asks for prayer for a man who recently came to faith, and for another lady who attends a different study who recently responded positively to the gospel.

Doug and Marcia Walker, St George QLD

Doug and Marcia have found themselves busy supporting local churches in the area, given that there are so many vacant churches.

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.