

On Track



PIM at the General Assembly of Australia

The 2023 General Assembly of Australia (GAA) met in Sydney at the start of September. It was a joyful four days around the Word of God, led by the Moderator-General, the Rev David Burke.

PIM was active in many ways.

Members of PIM renewed connections with a wide range of PCA congregations, while also making significant new contacts with friends from the Christian Reformed Churches. Colin and Alison Morrow from the Mungo Patrol and Stuart Bonnington spent time at the federal PWA Conference. Overall, heartening goodwill toward PIM was experienced over coffee, meals and personal discussions.

Around 200 PIM show bags containing information on our gospel ministry were given away. These included a PIM prayer bookmark, launched as part of a desire for deeper spiritual engagement in the ministry.

The 2024 program at New Dunesk, to inspire, equip and send people out for PIM ministry, was announced, with enquiries already being received for the Nomads Network 2024 events. We also received positive feedback about the suitability of New Dunesk for church camps and fellowship.

Throughout all these activities, dreams were dreamed, and visions for future gospel ministry in Australia were entertained.

As part of the mission focus on Wednesday night, the Convener, Rev Vaughan Smith (NSW), highlighted, *"The PIM is incredibly grateful for all the support from churches, presbyteries, and individuals over the last four years. Special thanks go to the Founding Partners of the New Dunesk project...We appreciate your prayers, as it is through a church shaped by and committed to prayer that God establishes his kingdom work here on earth."*

While significant challenges exist, the Convener outlined a comprehensive plan by the PIM Committee to sustain and advance gospel ministry beyond the furthest fences in the long term. These actions gained the full support of the GAA.

A high point of the report was the introduction of the incoming Superintendent, the Rev Stuart Bonnington (WA), to the GAA. Stuart will be active from 1 January 2024 to advance the mission objectives of New Dunesk and support the Patrol teams. Prayer and renewed partnerships with old and new friends of PIM will be vigorously sought in future days.

Stuart welcomes any contact from individuals and churches. He is keen to support and promote the disciple-making mandate of the church and the PIM. To reach out to Stuart, call 0400 012 865 or email superintendent@pim.org.au.

Pictured above L-R: PIM Committee member Rev Martin de Pyle, incoming Superintendent Rev Stuart Bonnington, Moderator-General Rev David Burke and PIM Convener Rev Vaughan Smith.

A God moment at Nimmitabel

By David and Isabel Schultz

Recently on our holidays to NSW whilst visiting our son on the Monaro, or Snowy Mountain Plains, we happened to call in at Nimmitabel for morning tea. Nimmitabel is an old historic township of just 320 people and about 52 kilometres from Bombala.

Whilst enjoying a cuppa in one of the old historic buildings, we couldn't help but overhear two women on the table next to us discussing the pros and cons of Christianity. By the way they spoke it was clear they were not Christians themselves.

I took the opportunity to lean over and say, "I can't help overhearing your conversation about Christianity. We're Christians, and it's encouraging to hear people discussing matters of faith and religion." We ended up joining together in a very pleasant and I hope fruitful conversation. The two ladies had just moved into town. After they left, the owner of the café came over to us and said, "I couldn't help overhearing your conversation with those two ladies." He then said, "I'm an Anglican and help run the local youth group here."

What followed next was a great encouragement to us. As we chatted, he told us about a young couple who had come up from Gippsland to do ministry at Bombala. He told us that they had visited Nimmitabel, and while in the town the young man had helped him cut down a large tree. His practical help apparently made quite an impression. The owner of the café seemed to be amazed that a young couple were coming up onto the Monaro to do ministry in this day and age. We said to him, "I think we know who you are talking about – are their names Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades?" He responded with surprise, "Yes, that's them!"

Noah and Nerroli, don't think you're not making an impression for the Gospel! People are taking note. There are fields white and ready for harvest up there, including the café owner, and the two ladies who have just moved into town!

Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades have been working hard to engage in evangelism and discipling work in their home town of Bombala and the surrounding area, running outreach events and building relationships through one-on-one Bible reading. If you would like to stay updated on the work of the Vasiliades, visit pim.org.au/give/snowymountains and sign up to their mailing list.

Church camp in the outback

By Rev David Hawken, Griffith Presbyterian Church

Over a weekend in early September, over 60 people attended the Griffith and Leeton Presbyterian churches camp at New Dunesk.

We shared dinner together on Friday as other campers gradually arrived and were warmly greeted by the onsite manager who gave us a brief orientation. Then, over a campfire and some toasted marshmallows, we spent time together enjoying the peaceful surroundings and one another's company. We got ready for bed and made use of the warm showers on an otherwise cold night!

Over the next two days we focused on the theme of church unity as we heard God's word taught and attended Bible studies. We were challenged to keep Jesus as the source of our unity since his death and resurrection is the sole reason why we are Christians! During our free time some of us explored the area on a bush walk while others sat back at camp and read a book or talked amongst themselves. There was something for all interests at New Dunesk.

We didn't just hear about church unity, we also got to put it into practice as we all served each other through cooking, cleaning and competing in family fun games.

We had a great weekend together and have already booked our camp for next year. If your church is considering a camp or weekend away, I recommend you consider New Dunesk.



Is your church, youth group or conference looking for a location to hold your 2024 camp? New Dunesk may be the perfect fit! Located one hour north of Wagga Wagga NSW, New Dunesk hosts a self-catering campsite set in a beautiful outback landscape, complete with powered camp kitchen, amenity blocks and air conditioned conference centre. For more information on booking New Dunesk, email newdunesk@pim.org.au, call 0493 294 798 or visit pim.org.au/new-dunesk

What's on at new dunesk



Why not plan ahead for 2024 and add one of New Dunesk's events to your calendar.

Whether you're looking to improve your preaching or leadership skills, connect with other Nomads out on the road, or enjoy a weekend of fun and music, there's something for everyone at New Dunesk.

Registrations for our 2024 events are now open. For further details on each of these events and to register, visit pim.org.au/events. To find out more, email events@pim.org.au or call 0438 868 964.

MARCH

19-24 March 2024

Nomads Network Training and Orientation

A week of practical evangelism and apologetics training with other Nomads.



APRIL

12-14 April 2024

Dads and Descendants

An adventure filled camping weekend of bonfire devotions, survival skill activities, 4WDing and so much more!



JUNE

7-10 June 2024

Country Preachers Workshop

Develop your expositional preaching skills through this practical workshop, presented by Langham Partnership.



AUGUST

1-4 August 2024

Country Believers Leadership Workshop

Practical training and biblical guidance on how to be a church leader in the areas that God has placed you.

OCTOBER

1-6 October 2023

Nomads Network Reconnect Week

An informal week of fellowship, encouragement and reflection with other Nomads in the Network.

5 October 2024

TRACKS: An Outback Gospel Concert

A family friendly weekend of camping and live music at New Dunesk. Be sure not to miss this exciting weekend! Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from an exciting lineup of Gospel country music singers.



Networking Nomads



'A sower went out to sow...' (Matthew 13:3)

Any congregation would be very glad to have Ron and Lyn Hicks within its fold. Humble, friendly, 'can-do' kind of people who are also mission-minded, committed Christians. The Hicks' commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ is seen in their many years of local church service at Mittagong (NSW) but also in their keen involvement as PIM Nomads.

When Ron and Lyn first heard about the establishment of the PIM Nomads Network back in 2020, they immediately felt that it might be a ministry they could be involved in. The idea resonated with them - they enjoyed caravanning and travelling around outback and inland Australia, and with training supplied by PIM they could be further equipped to evangelise and disciple those who they encountered when 'on track'. They loved the initial four-day training event held at New Dunesk and being part of the foundation cohort of PIM Nomads. Ron and Lyn love the vision of New Dunesk to 'inspire, equip and send out' gospel workers into remote and isolated areas of Australia.

When on a recent trip through WA, Ron and Lyn took time to visit the Mount Magnet congregation to encourage and share in the ministry there. The further north and west they have travelled, the less visible signs of Christianity they have encountered. By word and literature, however, they have sought to sow the seed. For as Jesus said, the harvest is nevertheless plentiful, even though the workers remain few. On the homeward leg of their journey back to Mittagong, they visited the Fremantle congregation. There they met the incoming Superintendent, and shared what has happened for them so far as PIM Nomads, being like the Sower going forth to sow the seed of the Word of God. Good work has been done but much remains to be done.

Ron and Lyn warmly encourage our PIM readers to consider becoming PIM Nomads. The 2024 Nomads Network will kick off with an Orientation Week from 19-24 March, providing practical apologetics and evangelism training that can be applied during the coming year of travels. For more information on the Nomads Network, visit pim.org.au/nomads-network or email superintendent@pim.org.au.

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Thank you for your support

Thank you

Long time supporters of the PIM, Lexi and John Ireson from Donvale Presbyterian Church in Victoria recently donated a caravan to New Dunesk. The plan for the caravan is that it will be permanently set up for short stay accommodation. Thank you Lexi and John!



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.