

# On Track



## ANZAC Day in the outback

There's a small outback community in South Australia by the name of Beltana. Many people may have never heard of this town, but for PIM it holds great significance as the birthplace of PIM and its patrol ministries across outback Australia.

As they have done for many years past, Beltana locals came together on Anzac Day to remember the sacrifices of those who served. This year one of PIM's dedicated Gospel Nomads, Newton Williams, led the service.

In the early hours of the morning, residents from this tight-knit local community gathered in the town centre to remember the fallen through prayers, the reciting of the ode and a reflection given by Newton. There was also the traditional playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

Newton and his wife Gillian decided on a whim to attend the Beltana Anzac Day service last year. After attending the Nomads Network training event at New Dunesk earlier in the year, Newton was asked to lead the 2026 service at Beltana.

Newton's first response was "Wait a minute! This is the first church Flynn pastored, what a history. Here am I supposed to fill the shoes of those that started the AIM. Way too much pressure!"

But Newton said "Challenge accepted with trepidation." He also commented "Ron Hick did such an outstanding job last year, how can I even fill his shoes?"

But Newton met the challenge and delivered a thoughtful address that wove together themes of remembrance, hope, and the credibility of Genesis and the Bible as God's word. He quoted Psalm 19:1 that the heavens declare the glory of God.

In his address he asked the question, "out here without the light of civilisation can you really see the glory of God in creation?" The answer was yes. This is particularly relevant on Anzac Day as it has often been repeated, "There is no such thing as an atheist in a fox hole."

Organisers and attendees described the day as highly successful. The event struck the perfect balance between solemn reflection and a community event that brought everyone together. In a small historic town where 'larger' public gatherings are rare, the service fostered a strong sense of community and connection among the participants.

PIM, and with the support of our Gospel Nomads, will be conducting the Anzac Day service in Beltana again next year. This is an enduring partnership PIM has with the Beltana Progress Association. If you are traveling through South Australia in late April, make your way to Beltana and help support this community event and help maintain a gospel witness there.



## **Gospel Nomads Orientation Week**

**The latest Gospel Nomads Orientation Week was held at New Dunesk in March, and once again it was a great success.**

Several nomads had attended once or twice before, and it was a joy to rekindle friendships with them. It is encouraging to hear their stories from the road, and learn how they've put their training into practice as they've travelled across the country or in their home church. Their stories of taking opportunities to speak of Christ in caravan parks, campgrounds, and country towns were a reminder of how God uses ordinary conversations in extraordinary ways. It was equally refreshing to meet first time nomads and hear what prompted them to join the network. All nomads came with a willingness to learn, and all were quickly welcomed.

The Gospel Nomads have become an invaluable part of the expanded ministry of PIM and we are excited to see the network grow with a dedicated WA Gospel Nomads event in October this year. For more information on this event visit [pim.org.au/event/wa-gospel-nomads](http://pim.org.au/event/wa-gospel-nomads).

Our prayer is that as the Gospel Nomads Network grows around the country they will continue to complement the work of patrols and support PIM's mission of taking the good news of Jesus to the inland.

## **New Dunesk hosts Christ College students**

**Every year, teams of students from Christ College in Sydney spend a week on mission. This year they travelled to Henty Presbyterian Church to help plan and be involved in a range of ministry initiatives.**

Mid way through the week they travelled to New Dunesk to learn of the needs and opportunities of people living in remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia. After refreshing their Australian church history, they learnt about the current work and ministry opportunities available. They also toured the property at New Dunesk and learnt how it is being utilised to inspire, equip and send out people for gospel work.

The team were able to meet some of the Nomads who had just completed a week's training together at New Dunesk and who stayed on to be a part of the Working Bee that was taking place.

## **Celebrating the resurrection**

**What you celebrate communicates to those around you what is important to you.**

For Christians, Easter is that time where we celebrate and express thankfulness to God for the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. We celebrate God's wonderful mercy and to do this with God's family is so special. This is what we were able to do again over Easter in Bombala. We welcomed families from across VIC, NSW and ACT for a weekend of prayer, bible talks and fellowship. A Sunday morning service, egg hunt, lunch and outreach concert all served to both encourage the believers who came as well as testify to the wider town the great reason we as Christians have so many reasons to be glad.

One story that brought great joy to me concerns one local lady who had just come along. She had stayed for a while and was just getting ready to go so came to say goodbye to me and to show her appreciation before departing. But 15min later I saw her, not having left, but having yet another conversation. Seeing God's people so ready to give time to others, to engage in other people's lives, to love them as they are, is yet another reason that makes me truly thankful to God for this weekend.



*By Noah Vasiliades, Snowy Mountains Patrol*

Combined with their visit to Henty, it gave the students an understanding of the challenges faced by those living in regional communities. By the end of their visit, many expressed an enthusiasm for supporting gospel work across regional Australia. The connections made and lessons learnt will undoubtedly shape their ongoing journey in ministry, as they return to Sydney to continue their studies.



## Work party work smart, and hard

With the age and experience that gathered for the New Dunesk Working Bee in March, it was clear from the outset that this group would work smart, and hard! Dedicated volunteers came together with a clear goal: to build a covered outdoor stage area. By the end of the week, even though interrupted by rain, Phase One was completed.

Like all major projects, planning was paramount. John Chester (Chesty) ably supported by his wife Mouse, gathered all the material needed and allocated tasks based on skills and time availability. To keep cost to an absolute minimum, all the walls for the stage were built by hand using rocks from on site. Those who have been to New Dunesk will tell you that there are rocks everywhere!

The team came from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The oldest was Cedric at 84, and he led the way in working smart and hard. But sincere thanks are expressed to everyone – getting the job done was certainly a team effort. And all are now looking forward putting the stage to good use at this year's Tracks Outback Concert!



# Tracks

## Outback Concert

**2-5 October 2026**

New Dunesk, Ardlethan NSW

Featuring

**Sons of Korah**

**Zoë Tyne • MountainKind**

**Anna Waters • Ben Price**

Camping • Bushwalks • Barista coffee  
Campfires • Kids activities

Plus so much more!

**Tickets on sale now**  
**[pim.org.au/event/tracks](http://pim.org.au/event/tracks)**

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## Thank you for your support

### Convener's message

## From the Convener

The PIM committee continues to oversee the existing Patrol Ministries, Gospel Nomads Network and our spiritual home at New Dunesk as well as plan for new patrols and other gospel ministries to the inland.

The latest such patrol is the North Roma Patrol. With the support of the local church in Roma and the Darling Downs presbytery we are confident we will have someone employed in that role soon. We are always happy to see there are people who have the same desire as us to reach people in remote and sparsely populated parts of the country with the gospel.

As I reflect on my own experience of training for ministry I am thankful that I was encouraged to pursue rural ministry but also know very few of my fellow graduates are ministering in country churches and none at all took up a job with PIM or similar role to reach remote parts of Australia. In contrast, I can think of quite a few of my cohort who are serving in international mission roles in different countries such as Vanuatu, Japan, Cambodia and various countries in Europe. These are valuable ministries no doubt and I am glad for the work of overseas mission, but wouldn't it be great to see the same enthusiasm for mission to our own country?

As Jesus says in Matthew 9:27-28 the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore please pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up more workers for his harvest field, especially to inland Australia.

Rev David Hawken  
Convener

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 —