

# On Track



## Gearing up for 2022

We know that our Ministry Teams drive thousands of kilometres every year to visit, train, disciple, evangelize, and bring the good news of Jesus Christ to inland Australia - that's why our tagline is "Worth Driving For". In order to travel such long distances across remote Australia, our Ministry Teams need a particular set of skills; good concentration for the long hours on the road, determination to press on to the next destination, and last but not least, advanced 4WD skills.

One of the plans for the New Dunesk property was always to develop a 4WD training track. We knew a training course that included steep gradients, winching requirements and technical turns would enable our Ministry Teams to safely develop needed technical skills while also gaining a greater appreciation for the capability of their vehicles.

During the 2021 Christmas to New Year break, Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades from Newborough in rural Victoria led a team of 4WD enthusiasts to develop our track. The team were keen to ensure that people of all skill levels and degrees of confidence could safely navigate different aspects of the course. Covering a variety of terrain along the wooded ridgeline and incorporating a range of challenges, the track now caters for every skill level from the novice to the veteran.



The team of volunteers (L-R): Bennett, Josh, Rachel, Nerroli, Noah, Kelcey and Truman

The Manager of New Dunesk, Paul Denness, was the first to trial the completed track, and was quick to give it his tick of approval, stating "this course has a number of very challenging aspects". He also pointed out that "in the future, there will be lots of people wanting to use this training opportunity".

At the upcoming opening of New Dunesk, PIM plans to have a static display of one of our patrol vehicles, and will put on a demonstration of its capability on the 4WD track. The opening will be held on Friday the 18th March 2022, and all are welcome. Visit [www.pim.org.au/new-dunesk](http://www.pim.org.au/new-dunesk) for more details, or email Andrew: [ceo@pim.org.au](mailto:ceo@pim.org.au).



# Thinking strategically

**"If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."**

This quote by George Patton Jnr was presented to the PIM committee at the commencement of a two-day strategic rethink in January.

Recognising that significant change and fresh challenges had arisen from two years of lockdowns and national disruption, the committee were keen to revisit their initial vision and reasoning that led them to purchase the New Dunesk property at Ardlethan. They were also keen to explore new opportunities as well as understand their weaknesses and strengths for ongoing mission to the inland.

To achieve this, the committee underwent a 'first principles' review of the PIM's purpose and strategy.

Daniel Mapperson brought his significant experience in strategic thinking and complex planning to facilitate the review. He directed the committee to review their understanding of the needs that exist, profile the specific needs groups, define their end-state, as well as test and confirm existing guidance and policy.



At the conclusion of this thorough and robust process, the direction for mission to inland Australia for the next decade has begun to take shape. From here the committee will gather its thinking into formal documents, complete the needed costings, seek relevant approvals, and engage in wider consultation on a number of specific issues.

The committee are positive about their newly formulated plan that will ensure an enduring gospel witness to the inland by the Presbyterian church.

## Jack Knapp, a man of the people



**On Friday 16th of February 2022, Jack Knapp, former PIM Superintendent and Convener, passed into glory.**

Following church union in 1977, Jack played a significant role in PIM for many years, and served for 28 years as the Superintendent. He also made many important contributions across the wider church during that time. He was fondly remembered as a larger-than-life character who was ever the enthusiast for PIM. He was full of anecdotes and stories about the life and ministry of the PIM Padres. His presentations at Assemblies and Presbyteries kept everyone both enthused for the ministry and thoroughly entertained.

Jack could relate to people of all ages. At PIM promotional days you would find him discussing with people how they could consider leaving a bequest to PIM, and then 5 minutes later be giving a soccer coaching clinic to all the children. He truly was a man of the people!

The team at PIM give thanks to the Lord for His servant Jack.

## The end of an era at PIM



*From the PIM Convener, Vaughan Smith*

After seven years as CEO of PIM, Andrew Letcher has announced his intention to move on from the role.

By God's grace, Andrew has led PIM through a period of transition and growth. His time with PIM has seen the undertaking of several new projects, not the least of which is New Dunesk, which will set the tone and direction of PIM's mission for years to come. He leaves us with a stable foundation for the future, with exciting prospects in the pipeline.

Personally, I am very thankful for Andrew's help in settling into the new role of convener, and patience with me as I've learned the ropes.

Andrew will spend the remainder of 2022 helping PIM to transition to and train a new CEO. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family and less time on the road! Please pray for wisdom as we seek Andrew's replacement, and that he enjoys some well-earned rest.

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### Applications now open: CEO

PIM are now advertising for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO is responsible for leading, executing and managing all activities of the PIM, including the resources of the mission.

Applicants must be an active member in good standing of a Christian church and able to affirm the reformed faith as stated in the Westminster Confession of Faith. Professionally, applicants must have strong business acumen with proven ability in team leadership. They must have exceptional communication skills and strong financial management experience. They must be able to work with a geographically spread team and be prepared to travel regularly and extensively.

For a full position description, visit [www.pim.org.au/ministryopportunities](http://www.pim.org.au/ministryopportunities)

To apply, please email the Rev Vaughan Smith at [convener@pim.org.au](mailto:convener@pim.org.au) for a letter detailing the application requirements.

For further information, please contact Rev Vaughan Smith via email or call +61 413 208 731 or contact Martin de Pyle at [mdepyle@inet.net.au](mailto:mdepyle@inet.net.au).

Applications close: Friday 29th April 2022.

## Do you want to serve in the Snowy Mountains?

In God's wonderful timing an opportunity now exists for us to start the long awaited Snowy Mountains Patrol.

We are now calling for Expressions of Interest to join the PIM team that will be starting this exciting new gospel ministry.

Based out of the town of Bombala in NSW, and working across remote parts of East Gippsland and South East NSW, this new patrol will seek to establish and develop relationships with people living in isolated areas where there is currently very little gospel witness. To be successful in this role, applicants will need to have well developed skills in evangelism and discipling and have the ability to relate well with people living in the Snowy Mountains area.

To learn more about this great opportunity please contact Andrew Letcher on 0438 868 964 or email [ceo@pim.org.au](mailto:ceo@pim.org.au).





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### CEO's corner

## From Andrew to you

PIM is a disciple making organisation. In the locations where we work this disciple making requires both intentionality and creativity, among other things.

Our mission field is unique. We face challenges that include the tyranny of distance, isolation and all too often the absence of regular Bible-teaching churches. This drives us to constantly look for new and creative ways to pursue our mission.

It has been exciting to see the infrastructure of New Dunesk take shape under the energetic vision of Paul and Janae Denness, but to leverage this facility we must continue to initiate creative new ideas, so that we can support and partner with local churches in remote and rural places. It is our prayer that these partnerships will lay the foundation for sustainable, long-term ministry solutions that honour God and advance His Kingdom.

Much is planned for the months ahead. At New Dunesk, we look forward to the official opening event, as well as conducting the Country Elders Preaching Workshop and launching the Nomads' Network. Our patrol ministry in the Snowy Mountains is being established, and we are in conversation with targeted congregations about building enduring partnerships. We trust that we will continue to have new and creative ministry opportunities to share with you over the coming months.

On a personal note, as PIM continue to build their future ministry initiatives, I have decided after long and prayerful consideration, that the time is right for me to step aside as CEO. Now is the right time to make way for a new CEO who will lead and drive this next exciting season. It has been a joy and privilege to be part of the journey of reshaping and re-orientating PIM. Over the coming months I will be working hard with the PIM Committee to ensure a smooth and successful transition to the next person who will get to take on this amazing role and continue to drive us forward.



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.

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worth driving for