

On Track



God's wonderful providence

By Alvin Chai, Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church

Daniel*, a working nomad from Victoria, was driving past Mount Magnet one day when his car suddenly broke down. Having sent his vehicle in for repairs and being alone in Mount Magnet, Daniel decided to attend our Sunday service one weekend.

Narelle and I got to know Daniel quickly and naturally developed a friendship, which was delightful in the context of our declining shire population. We even prayed quietly that he would stay in Mount Magnet for a bit longer! And lo and behold, despite his car being fixed that week and being able to return home, Daniel was offered a 10-week casual job at the local roadhouse!

Daniel thus remained in Mount Magnet, enabling us to begin our weekly discipleship, where we prayed together and studied the Scripture. Then, four weeks in, while reading a Romans passage, Daniel said, "Alvin, I don't think I'm saved... what must I do to be saved?" Well, doesn't this remind us of Acts 16:29–31?

Like the Philippian jailer, and by God's wonderful providence, the rest is history. Daniel confessed and professed his faith in Christ. He immediately became a member of our weekly Bible Study and participated faithfully at church until his work contract ended.

Daniel is on his long journey back to Victoria, where he will settle and reunite with his family. We were able to connect him to a local Presbyterian church, to which he looks forward to committing.

Let us pray for Daniel – that God would sustain his obedience and trust in Christ and that he go on to spiritual maturity in the fellowship of other believers. Let us also pray for Daniel's family – that he might point them to Jesus and his wonderful gospel of salvation.

*Name has been changed to maintain confidentiality.

A well deserved honour

As part of the 2023 Australia Day celebrations for Mount Magnet Shire, Alvin was nominated for the Community Citizen of the Year award. The Presbyterian Inland Mission sincerely congratulates Alvin on this incredible achievement. It is a clear reflection of the impact that Alvin has on his local community and people like Daniel*.

Alvin serves as the pastor at Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church. His main focus is indigenous outreach and discipleship, as well as providing pastoral care to the local community.

If you are interested in supporting the work of Alvin and Narelle Chai through prayer or financial giving, please visit pim.org.au/give/mount-magnet, or contact Alvin directly by emailing alvinchai@pim.org.au.

Summer in the Snowys

By Noah Vasiliades, Snowy Mountains Patrol

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork..." (Psalms 19)

God is clearly visible through the works of his hands in the Snowy Mountains. The area is full of beautiful places declaring his praises and showing his marvellous works.

As we have started to meet our neighbours and knock on some doors we have been encouraged by how friendly and welcoming people have been and the relationships we are starting to build. Though there have been some closed responses at the mention of God or faith, we have been encouraged by the few conversations where people have been willing to engage, even a little. This has made us eager to make the most of every opportunity, remembering that we are just one small part of God's work out here.

In the coming months we hope to get a small group of people together to read the Bible. In the meantime, we cling to the hope of his perfect plan in his perfect timing. We are praying he will bring people together around his word and enable us to speak his truth clearly and faithfully.



Bombala Easter camp out 7-9 April 2023

Noah and Nerroli invite you to Bombala for an Easter camp out weekend. Come and join in a tag along tour of the town and district, enjoy a Saturday evening bonfire, and hear more about the Vasiliade's work and ministry. On resurrection Sunday morning, join Noah as he opens the church for an Easter Sunday service and BBQ lunch with the locals. There will also be opportunity to volunteer your time on Saturday morning for a short working bee at the church.

If you plan to attend or want to find out more, please contact Noah on noahvasiliades@pim.org.au.

News & updates

New Dunesk Gap Year

PIM does not currently have any participants lined up for the New Dunesk Gap Year over the course of 2023.

In 2022 the program was reviewed by the CEO and the PIM Committee, introducing a brand new financial structure for the program which now requires no fees or costs to participants.

The New Dunesk Gap Year is a fantastic opportunity for participants to experience life in a genuine rural environment. Each month, Gappies are engaged in general maintenance and development projects at New Dunesk, as well as participating in and contributing to activities at the local church. There are also many seasonal opportunities for further employment and work experience across the network of rural businesses known to PIM.

Daily life at New Dunesk includes many opportunities for engagement with God's word through shared and personal devotions, mentoring from the New Dunesk manager, and the completion of the Timothy Partnership Academic Studies in Theology Certificate (ASTC).

All young readers of On Track are encouraged to approach PIM with their interest or queries regarding the 2023 and 2024 program. It is never too late! Participants can begin in February or July each year.

We would also greatly appreciate the prayers of our readers that God might bring the right candidates to New Dunesk for the Gap Year Program.

For more information on the New Dunesk Gap Year, visit pim.org.au/gap-year, or email gapyear@pim.org.au



March

Nomads Network launch

28 March - 2 April 2023

The PIM Nomads Network kicks off for 2023 with a weekend of evangelism training and networking. To find out more visit pim.org.au/nomads-network.

Any Nomads who may be passing through the area throughout the month of April are also invited to camp at New Dunesk and receive some more informal training while networking with other Nomads.

April

New Dunesk Founding Partners weekend

14-16 April 2023

A celebratory weekend to thank all Founding Partners for the impact they have had on New Dunesk.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service & tag along tour

20-25 April 2023

Tag along with Colin and Alison Morrow from the Mungo Patrol Team, as they spend four days on the road travelling from New Dunesk to Beltana (SA) for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

May

New Dunesk Work Party

5-7 May 2023

A hands on weekend at New Dunesk with a focus on finishing The Piggery and Campgrounds. To express your interest please contact Paul directly on 0493 294 798 or email newdunesk@pim.org.au.

Country Elders Leadership Workshop

Dates to follow

Following our first highly successful preaching workshop in 2022, this new four day workshop for country elders will focus on leadership skills. Presented in partnership with Christ College, NSW.

June

Discipleship Training Workshop

Dates to follow

A four day workshop for anyone who is eager to learn how to disciple others while also growing in your own faith as a disciple of Jesus. This workshop will run in June and September in 2023.

July

Father Son Weekend

14-16 July 2023

Fathers and sons are invited to attend this adventure filled camping weekend at New Dunesk. The event includes spectating the Australian Can Shooting Championships in Ardlethan, plus further talks on firearm safety, bonfire devotions and Sunday worship.

August

Country Elders Preaching Workshop

22-24 August 2023

Back by popular demand, this four day workshop for church leaders in country and remote places focuses on developing preaching skills. Presented in partnership with the Expository Preaching Trust.

September

Discipleship Training Workshop

Dates to follow

A four day workshop for anyone who is eager to learn how to disciple others while also growing in your own faith as a disciple of Jesus. This workshop will run in June and September in 2023.

October

Camper Trailer Muster

October School Holidays 2023

An opportunity for travelling families to come together, meet other people and be encouraged by the Gospel. Includes a number of evangelism focused talks, with sessions for both adults and children.

Camping at New Dunesk

Is your church, youth group or conference looking for a location to hold your 2023 camp? New Dunesk may be the perfect fit. To learn more, please contact Paul on 0493 294 798 or email newdunesk@pim.org.au.

To register your interest for a particular event, and to ensure you receive further information as it becomes available, please email [Hugh on ceo@pim.org.au](mailto:ceo@pim.org.au) or call 0438 868 964.

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🚩 CEO's corner

From Hugh to you

Wow, 2023 is already racing by! I had a friend suggest that on the 1st Feb we were already 1/12th of way through the year. But of course, we were only 31/365th at that stage. And by the time this edition of On Track hits the newsstands, February will be a memory!



The seasons change and time marches past, and despite the changes we can trust in Jesus Christ, the Creator and our Saviour. By His word He created:

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, (Gen 1:14).

And by His word He continues to uphold the earth and everything in it: *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power....(Heb 1:3)*

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease (Gen 8:22)

We continue to live in a culture which is less and less inclined to acknowledge God and His holiness and is more and more inclined to promote man as holding all knowledge and wisdom. It is from these halls of worldly wisdom that we see come forth God-less theories promoted as fact at an ever-increasing pace. First it was 'just' evolution instead of God's creation. Now we see man being put forth as being able to be our own saviour as we 'control' the earth's atmosphere and temperatures...!

We need to acknowledge God as the one who hangs the planet in space in just the right location to sustain life albeit 'freezing' at the poles and 'hot' at the equator. *He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing. (Job 26:7)*

While the whole of creation suffers as a result of man's sin, it is still 'obedient' to its Maker. *He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting (Psalm 104:19)*

...and so should we, acknowledge Him and give Him the glory.

Hugh Castleden
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 —