

On Track



Out west - patrol and parish together

The Miles-Roma Charge on the Warrigo Highway between Brisbane and Charleville is toward the top of the list of remote congregations in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (and Australia).

Despite comparative isolation and current factors that erode the existence of the Christian Church in such contexts, the Miles-Roma congregation - led by the Session and the Rev Glen Perkins - is committed to a bold and biblical mission 'to be Christ's body, glorifying God, making followers of Jesus together'. A central part of this mission is replanting the Roma congregation, which is well located for focused PIM ministry among the people in southwestern Queensland. The Miles-Roma congregational mission has much in common with the PIM, which exists to see people in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia become mature and faithful followers of Jesus. Not surprisingly, Glen is a highly valued member of the PIM Committee.

In the Lord's providence, a close relationship between the Miles-Roma Charge and the PIM has developed in intentional evangelism, discipleship, and Christian pastoral care. At the heart of this relationship are Doug and Marcia Walker, the volunteer PIM ministry team in the St George Area Patrol, who also are a crucial part of the Christian leadership at Miles-Roma. In Doug and Marcia, Patrol and Parish come together in a busy ministry.

The Walkers live in Dulacca and use the Warrego Highway to evangelise, disciple and care. Marcia teaches RI in Drillham during school terms. From Roma (where they are involved in strengthening morning and evening Bible studies), especially in the cooler times of the year, the Walkers patrol in a clearly defined area between Mitchell and St George.

"We have built some good relationships there, but we long to spend a solid block of time in the area. A patrol without side trips is usually about 800 to 1000 kms" says Doug.

Much Gospel work has been and is being done by Doug and Marcia Walker, all of which have proven 'worth driving for'. The prayers and practical support of the people of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to this end are eagerly sought.

If you would like to learn more about Doug and Marcia Walker and the St George Patrol, visit pim.org.au/give/st-george-area/. You can sign up to the mailing list to receive regular prayer requests and updates, or consider supporting the Walkers financially.

For more information about the Miles-Roma Presbyterian Church, visit milesromapresbyterianchurch.org.au.

📅 Current events

A friend of the PIM

Robyn Birch and her husband Max, currently members of St Andrew's Church Townsville, once lived on a remote cattle station at 'Bunda Bunda', near Julia Creek.

Starting in the 1980s, they regularly received visits from a number of PIM workers, concluding with Roger and Margaret Crane who were serving the North Queensland Patrol at the time. The Cranes brought great blessings in the Lord Jesus Christ to the family through their visits.

Out of gratitude to the Lord, Robyn has a deep desire to see the PIM strengthen and expand its current Patrol 'footprint' in Queensland and indeed throughout the Commonwealth. To that end, Robyn and the Missions Committee have organised various mission support activities for PIM at St Andrew's, with plans underway for another event in 2024. She believes, however, that the Lord's work goes forward through prayer, and is a keen supporter and user of the PIM prayer bookmark. Robyn hopes all of PIM's supporters will join her in praying every day for the establishment and advance of the PIM.

A copy of the PIM prayer bookmark has been included in this edition of On Track for you to cut out and reference when praying for PIM. If, like Robyn, you wish to distribute the PIM prayer bookmark in your local church, you can email admin@pim.org.au to request printed copies be mailed to you.



Pictured: Robyn with some supporters of PIM at St Andrew's, Townsville.

🕊 From the patrols

Blessings in Bombala

*By Noah and Neroli Vasiliades,
Snowy Mountains Patrol (NSW/VIC)*

Australia Day Long Weekend is a great opportunity to get together with your friends and neighbours to celebrate the blessings of living in our great country.

These long weekends also provide an excellent opportunity to travel to rural areas to catch up with friends and share the Gospel, and three of our friends did just that on this past Australia Day weekend. Consequently, we had the opportunity to open the Bombala Presbyterian Church for the second Sunday service since the Snowy Mountain Patrol started twelve months ago. After a quick tidy of the church building, hall and grounds, we all sat down to pray for the church service and those who would come.

Nine locals joined us to sing praises to God and hear His Word, making fifteen total in attendance for Sunday worship. It was a wonderful blessing to have the pump organ played, and Noah preached on Luke 19 – 'You have a Saviour who seeks and saves the lost. Jesus knew Zacchaeus and called him. Zacchaeus responded in faith, and Jesus declared salvation to Zacchaeus' house for "the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." That is how God works in your life. As you are drawn to seek Him, you find He is the One seeking you.'

The fellowship continued with afternoon tea and a BBQ-cooked lunch after the service. It was an encouraging time, and many good Gospel conversations were had.

Please continue to pray for the people in the Snowy Mountains Patrol that they will come to know that we have a faithful God who calls His people to Himself.

"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out." Ezekiel 34:11

Noah and Neroli would welcome your Gospel partnership as they seek to build a prayer and financial support team. To find out more, visit www.pim.org.au/patrols/snowymountains.



Thank you Kim

It was with very great reluctance that the PIM Committee closed the PIM Tasmanian Patrol at the end of November 2023.

The PIM remains very thankful to the Rev Kim Jaeger for his gospel service and commitment to the people of Tasmania since he began patrolling in 2017. Over the years, Kim has ministered extensively in the Midlands and NW Tasmania. He has built relationships, shared the Gospel and helped make disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ amongst people with little access to the Christian church. Kim also undertook preaching duties. He was influential and well-loved. The PIM wishes Mr Jaeger and his family well and the very best in the future. We are thankful that the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania has been able to appoint Mr Jaeger immediately as a Rural Chaplain, allowing for no break in his Gospel ministry in rural Tasmania. Thank you, Kim.



Thank you Les

In the history of the Presbyterian Inland Mission, the Rev Les Fowler is unique. He is the only person who has served as a Patrol Padre, a Committee member, the Convener and Superintendent. Following the retirement of PIM CEO Hugh Castleden at the end of June 2023, the PIM Committee sought a safe pair of hands to guide the PIM until the commencement of the new full-time Superintendent on 1 January 2024. Thus, Les was appointed, and he, with Shirley, his wife, and a PIM volunteer at his side, tackled complicated and challenging circumstances with Christian grace and wisdom.

The PIM Committee extend its sincere thanks to Les for his service in a time of rapid and unforeseen change in the life of PIM. Thank you, Les.

PIM Nomads Network Orientation Week

19-24 March 2024

The PIM Nomads Network Orientation Week, held at New Dunesk (NSW), provides practical apologetics and evangelism training that can be applied both on the road and in day-to-day life.

Through this event and participation in the Network, PIM Nomads:

- develop skills and confidence to effectively share the Gospel with others
- are inspired to return to their home churches with renewed vigour to serve
- become advocates of PIM and country churches wherever they find themselves.



PIM has the pleasure of inviting the Rev David Burke, Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, as the keynote speaker for the 2024 orientation event, supported by the Rev David Hawken (Griffith Presbyterian Church) and the Rev Stuart Bonnington (PIM Superintendent).

There is still time to register for the Nomads Network Orientation Week being held on the 19-24 March at New Dunesk. Please get in touch with Stuart by calling 0438 868 964 or email superintendent@pim.org.au.

"...brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured,"

2 Thessalonians 3:1



Thank you for your regular prayers for the work of PIM.

This prayer bookmark can be cut out, kept nearby and referenced as you pray for PIM everyday.



Pray for the Presbyterian Inland Mission everyday

Sunday

That hearts would be opened to the Lord Jesus Christ as He is proclaimed by the PIM teams.

Monday

For God to raise up more PIM workers to serve the remote and isolated areas of Australia.

Tuesday

For the health, safety, faithfulness, fruitfulness, and longevity of PIM teams as they seek to make disciples for Christ.

Wednesday

For the finance and wisdom required to develop, sustain and advance the ministry of PIM.

Thursday

That New Dunesk would inspire, equip, and send out ministry to inland Australia.

Friday

That more PCA congregations would become regular, prayerful supporters of the work of PIM.

Saturday

That those who lead and administer PIM may make wise decisions to advance Christian discipleship.

pim.org.au



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Superintendent's corner

Inland update

It is a great privilege to serve as PIM Superintendent and to be able to bring this first Outback update. In doing so, I invite all On Track readers to join me in making every day a PIM prayer day. **Why? Let us ponder some questions.**



What is the Presbyterian Inland Mission?

The PIM is your Gospel ministry to 'the regions beyond' (2 Cor 10:16). The PIM has been sharing the Good News about the Lord Jesus Christ for 112 years, and with a fresh intentionality since 1977.

What does the PIM do?

The PIM seeks to explain the Gospel, make disciples and extend Christian pastoral care through patrol teams in WA, VIC, NSW and QLD and by the growing PIM Nomad Network. To this end, the PIM operates New Dunesk, where we 'inspire, equip and send' the Lord's people through various ministry events 'into the regions beyond'.

How can you be involved in the ministry of the PIM?

In many ways, of course. But in the first instance, we ask that you please consider praying for the PIM daily using our PIM prayer bookmark. Then be open to God's Spirit as He leads you about how you can further support PIM, its ministry teams and the vital work of New Dunesk.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with me on any PIM matter.

All glory be to the Lord Jesus.

For Christ and the Continent
Stuart Bonnington, Superintendent

Free coffee and cake on 'The Big Lap'

If you pass through Albany on 'The Big Lap', make sure you contact Stuart Bonnington and drop in for your free coffee and cake and personal update on the ministry of the PIM!

For all general enquiries

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For all donations

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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.