

On Track



Blessings in Bombala

By Noah Vasiliades, Snowy Mountains Patrol

As in many country towns, the Christmas holiday period means time away and trips to the beach. For ministry, it means a great opportunity to engage with the broader community, to invite people to church and to show hospitality.

Our stall at the town market was a great way to catch up with the townsfolk and continue to address everyone's need for a solid foundation on which to build our lives, our families, our towns and our country. We were able to invite more people to our other Christmas events and activities as well as the weekly Sunday Bible study.



The Carols was a great time of encouragement and celebration of Christmas with brothers and sisters from Orange and Canberra coming down to help support our little team of locals. They did a truly wonderful job of playing the carols for us, to the glory of God. The weather was beautiful so we were able to set up outside and enjoy an open air evening, singing of Jesus birth and engaging in conversation over good food afterwards.

It was such a blessing to have Jenny, one of our Gospel Nomads, and her wonderful team help Nerroli run a Gingerbread house making morning in the Church hall. Jenny shared a short gospel talk with the group over morning tea while waiting for the icing to harden.

Meanwhile Bob, Jenny's husband, joined me in Delegate where I was leading a Carols Service for the locals, and we were able to meet more of the families in the town.

Christmas Day saw the Bombala Church open for a small yet encouraging service, followed by a BBQ lunch with friends in town.

As we move into 2025, we are more aware of needs and opportunities in and round the Snowy Mountains, East Gippsland Patrol. I was reminded this week, you cannot do everything, so make what you can do count. God works through our weakness and limitations, showing his power though us in our dependence on him. 'Blessing the work of the hands of him who calls God his dwelling place, (Psalm 90).'

In his mercy our heavenly Father was faithful through your prayers and support for his work last year. We look forward with eager anticipation to what God has in store for this year ahead. As you pray and support us, as we step out in faith and serve those God has placed in our paths, may He be glorified. May his word be taught, the forgiveness of sins accomplished by the cross and sinners called to repentance. Lets us pray in hope, knowing God will have his way in 2025.

📅 Current events

PIM visits Murwillumbah

The town of Murwillumbah in northern NSW has everything. From an award-winning Ice Cream shop to an Art Gallery with an original Monet, it's an easy place to spend some time in.

On a recent visit, it was encouraging for PIM to be reminded for how long the local congregation have been supporting ministry to inland Australia. Many members were able to speak of Patrol Padres going back decades whom they had prayed for and supported financially. More recently, some of the congregation had travelled to New Dunesk to attend the Tracks Outback Concert. They reported that it was an event that certainly inspired them for the work PIM is doing.

Our PIM Padres and ministry workers are thankful to God for many congregations like Murwillumbah around Australia who continue to support their work over many years and in so many different ways.



Pictured: Martin de Pyle Jnr (PIM Committee member) and Pastor Diego Herrera at Knox Park (affectionately called John Knox Park by Pastor Herrera).

📍 From the patrols

PIM goes to PYV

In January, Colin and Alison Morrow from the Mungo Patrol headed down to Phillip Island to be camp parents at the Presbyterian Youth of Victoria's (PYV) annual summer camp. It was a wonderful, gospel-centred and God-honouring week.

Whilst there, Colin and Alison were able to run a workshop on missions and talk about serving with PIM. This led to great opportunities to talk to individuals and groups of campers, answering their questions about sharing the Gospel in the outback and how people respond while out on patrol. On a personal level, Colin and Alison were also able to answer questions about how many years they have been with PIM, and in particular, how they handle the extreme Mildura heat!

Alison writes:

"It was such an encouragement to have so many young people come up following the talks, and at various times during the camp, wanting to know more about serving God in a full-time role."



"We are so thankful to God for the opportunity to serve with a brilliant team of leaders who led these campers in a week full of fun, whilst modelling Christ at all times."

"We ask you to pray for these young people, that the Lord will work in their hearts and will raise some of them up for service with PIM in future years."

What's coming up on the PIM calendar?

Gospel Nomads Orientation Week

25-30 March 2025

The 2025 Gospel Nomads will once again kick off with a training and orientation event at New Dunesk. The week is a great opportunity to connect with other Nomads, encourage each other in Gospel work, and share opportunities to serve whilst on the road.

Peter Currie will present a series of talks and workshops throughout the week on "Following Jesus: Finding our Way Home in Anxious Times". David Hawken (PIM Convener) and Mitch Salafia will also present a series of talks on "Rooted in Christ – Perseverance".

For more information and to register, visit pim.org.au/event/gospel-nomads-orientation-week/ or email gospelnomads@pim.org.au. Registrations for the Orientation Week close 18 March 2025.

Easter in Bombala

18-21 April 2025

Celebrate Easter with Noah and Neroli of the Snowy Mountains Patrol, with a weekend of camping and community activities in Bombala.

The weekend will include campfires and catchups, a series of talks on "Covenant, How does God relate to man?", as well as many opportunities to explore the town of Bombala and serve the locals of the area.

Easter Sunday will see the church opened for a service followed by a BBQ lunch. This is a great time to meet and encourage locals. Last year, a young man came along having never been part of a church. In a conversation over lunch he was encouraged to seek God and find him. He has been a regular member of the Sunday morning Bible study ever since.

If you have any questions or would like to come along, please contact Noah directly on noahvasiliades@pim.org.au or call 0492 960 223.

ANZAC Day in Beltana

25 April 2025

Beltana could be mistaken for an insignificant town in outback South Australia, but for PIM it has great significance. It was there that the Rev. John Flynn captured the vision for ministry to Inland Australia. The church where he pastored remains the property of the PIM.

Every year on ANZAC Day, locals from Beltana and the surrounding properties gather near the church for a dawn service, run by a member of PIM. If you are traveling in South Australia this year, we encourage you to make a stop at Beltana on the 25th of April. It will be a great way to support gospel witness to this small community.

No registration is required for this event, but we would love to know if you plan to attend. Please email us at events@pim.org.au.

Farewell to the Chais



Alvin and Narelle Chai have served with PIM for a number of years, both in Mount Magnet where Alvin pastored the Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church, and at New Dunesk where Alvin took on the role of Ministry Director.

Alvin has decided to leave his role as Ministry Director at New Dunesk as he and Narelle seek to return to the mission field in Indonesia.

We thank Alvin and Narelle for their service and wish them well.

Please pray for Alvin and his family as they plan for their future service in God's kingdom and thank God for their time with PIM.

✚ Convener's message

From the Convener

Every year the PIM committee gathers in the Presbyterian Church of NSW Church offices in Surry Hills, Sydney for our annual face to fac meeting.

As we are a federal committee with members across the country, this in-person meeting is important. It provides a good opportunity for fellowship with one another and growing in our relationships. Throughout the year, our regular meetings are conducted via teleconference, but seeing someone on a computer screen isn't the same as seeing them in the flesh! And so while most of us have to travel long distances to get to Sydney, the annual meeting there provides a central meeting place for the committee to both do business and fellowship together. Ministry is best done in person, Jesus came in the flesh after all, and that's why it's good to be together even if only once per year.

Additionally, this year we undertook a strategic review of PIM. We spent two days considering how we best fulfil our mandate to advance the gospel in remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia. This was invaluable and allowed us the time and space to think about all areas of PIM from committee and governance through to our patrol teams and our spiritual home at New Dunesk. We have identified the two most important aspects of the PIM committee's work. The first area is governance, the way the committee governs or oversees the ministry, and the second is our personnel. Whether they be the superintendent, patrols or other employees who support the work with administration, each and every person contributes to our mission. It's the job of the committee to best enable, equip and encourage the ministry actually conducted by our personnel. When the two are working well together great gospel outcomes are achieved! Our committee's efforts may be behind the scenes but are invaluable to the work of PIM.

Please commit to praying for the committee regularly as we work together in unity and continue the search for a new superintendent.

Rev. David Hawken, Convener

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