

On Track



Hope of a new beginning

'There is truth, but God wouldn't want us to know it, because us humans are so screwed up!'

This was expressed by a local fellow during one of Alvin's street conversations. Mr R has been living by himself in Mount Magnet since the 1980s. Unemployed and constantly finding himself struggling with alcohol addiction, Mr R conveys one general outlook on life which is held by the majority of the people in our remote town – 'We are almost like the forgotten people – isolated – misconceived – left behind.' For Mr R, and perhaps many others, the giving up on life by resorting to alcohol and substance abuse sadly demonstrates a dire gospel urgency. God wants his people to know and discover His truth!

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. – Ephesians 1:7-10.

By God's grace, we were able to cross the VIC-WA border in July to begin the work of PIM and re-establish the church. We have been warmly received by the community and have promptly settled into remote living within a short, six-week period. Narelle was even admitted recently to the local 'GeoPark' committee, purposed to improve our town's parks and landscaping! This will provide us with ample opportunities as we seek to build bridges with the Indigenous elders and town residents.

Our first Sunday worship service was launched during the first week of August. Ten adults and five children attended. Since then, the number of attendees has grown slightly with the occasional visits from travellers and grey nomads. Two people are currently undergoing the church's



first communicant membership course, with another two more recently signed up for the next course. The weekly Bible Study and monthly prayer meeting are gaining great momentum, also averaging between eight to twelve people each session. In less than two months, God has raised up a small community willing to engage in Christian fellowship. A very encouraging start!

Praise God for a well-attended service during Alvin's commissioning on Sept 13. It was pleasing to witness the strong partnership between our small rural church and the wider network of the Presbytery of Western Australia (PWA), Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) and PIM. Many experienced a fresh sense of belonging and hope of a new beginning. Our prayer is that God will continue to raise up faithful disciples who will journey with us in proclaiming the truth about God – the mystery of salvation revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Narelle and Alvin, Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church



New Dunesk is for all the Church. It is one of the ways PIM aims to inspire, equip and send people out into remote and rural parts of our nation, carrying the Good News of Jesus Christ. In 2021, we will be launching our first set of programs for people just like you.

You are invited to become a Founding Partner of New Dunesk

If you would like to join with PIM on this momentous journey, we invite you to consider becoming a Founding Partner of New Dunesk. Through regular, monthly donations, you can help us bring Christ to inland Australia in a way never seen before.

Founding Partners receive ongoing benefits and exclusive access to New Dunesk facilities.

For more information, visit:
pim.org.au/foundingpartners

Gap Year

1 Feb-26 Nov 2021

Our Gap Year program has two places available for 18-20 year olds who are eager to develop vocational and ministry skills, to help obtain employment in the rural sector and make an effective contribution to the life of a small church in that community. AUSTUDY help is available.

Our Gappies will:

- Live on site at New Dunesk
- Grow in their love for and knowledge of the Lord
- Develop a useful range of workplace skills to help secure future employment
- Undertake introductory theological studies through the Timothy Partnership
- Learn to be an effective contributor in the life of a local church
- Develop and practise skills in evangelism and discipling
- Learn to work with people from a wide variety of backgrounds

Nomads Network

Begins 14-19 April 2021

The PIM Nomads Network is a community of people in a similar life stage, that provides training, community and useful opportunities to serve. The Nomads Network will begin with a training event in April 2021, and then continue throughout the year with opportunities to stay connected as you travel.

Country Elders Preaching Workshop

26-29 August 2021

Many remote and rural churches don't have the benefit of a full time trained preacher to teach them regularly. In many cases, elders are required to step up and preach much more regularly than their city cousins. In response, we have joined with Langham Partnership to offer this practical preaching workshop for elders.

Camper Trailer Muster

October School Holidays 2021

This family-orientated long weekend is a great way to experience New Dunesk and be inspired by what God is doing around our country. Make some new friends, hear from God's Word and learn more about the mission in our own backyard. Kids and adults alike will enjoy campfires, fishing in the dam and some of New Dunesk's wonderful sunsets. If you don't have a camper trailer, there is plenty of space to pitch a tent or roll out your swags.

Visit pim.org.au for updates and other events

📍 From the patrols

Two Morrows

Colin and Alison Morrow have now been serving with PIM in the Mungo Patrol for over 6 years. In that time, they have visited many stations and farms to share the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

As the years have gone by, they have made a number of long-term acquaintances among the people whom they visit regularly. These people have become like an outback parish. Before COVID-19 hit, Colin and Alison were trying to see them roughly once each month.

Some of the folk are older and alone, some are middle-age, while others are young families with children — a wide variety of people with many and various needs.



The COVID-19 crisis has drastically affected the Mungo patrol. With travel restrictions and border closures, Colin and Alison haven't been able to see people as they normally would. They are thankful for the age of technology which means they have been able to continue their patrol work via phone, email and social media. Whilst a phone call or an email is not the same as a face-to-face visit, Colin and Alison are certainly thankful for the Lord's provision in having a means to stay in contact with people during this crisis.

As with many other churches, they have been holding their church services and Bible studies online. This is a real blessing for many that has come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many of these people on remote properties would not normally be able to attend church or Bible study.

So, the work continues, although in a very different way to anything Colin and Alison could have imagined when they began their work with PIM. The Gospel continues to go out to those in remote and isolated places. Whilst things may be different for a time, we pray that Colin and Alison will be able to get back to face-to-face meetings with all of their patrol community very soon.

📡 News & updates

Freelance Graphic Designer

PIM is looking for a freelance Graphic Designer to undertake various design projects on an ad hoc basis. The Graphic Designer will work from well-established brand guidelines to produce both print and digital outcomes. Training and skills in graphic design, and strong competency in the Adobe Creative Suite are essential. Experience in web design and management is desirable.

If you are interested, please send your CV and folio to Andrew at ceo@pim.org.au, or contact Andrew if you would like to find out more information first.

My gift to show Jesus' love to Australians in the outback

I want to help share the Gospel with more people and communities in remote and isolated regions of Australia.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

I'd like to receive future On Track updates from PIM. Here are my details:

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Please detach and return with your gift.

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www.pim.org.au

 **CEO's corner**

From Andrew to you



My local mechanic rang me recently to check that I was alright. I usually drive so many kilometres each year that I am one of his frequent customers. But this year my PIM vehicle has largely sat idle, so he has not seen me since Christmas. These days my biggest adventure is a weekly trip to the bank!

Like many people, border closures have played havoc with my plans. They have also impacted those PIM Teams whose work routinely takes them across state borders. But, even as a Victorian, I am optimistic that this current challenging season will end, and so we press on with our long term plans.

Embarking on a big new initiative like New Dunesk in the middle of a pandemic has been a particularly frustrating experience. However, we are very encouraged by the enthusiastic response to our recent call for Founding Partners to join with us in this new journey. These Founding Partners will play a key role in helping to launch this brand new initiative that we hope will yield gospel fruits for decades to come. If you haven't signed up yet, we still have space for a few more Founding Partners. Visit our website to learn more about this unique opportunity to become involved.

We are also putting together plans for 2021, and already fielding enquiries from potential Gap Year participants and enthusiastic Grey Nomads. Lord willing, we will be able to start using New Dunesk in all the ways we intended. In this edition of On Track, you will read about some of the events we have already planned. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page as we announce other events and dates.

I look forward to seeing you at New Dunesk sometime next year. If it's been a while since you did much travelling within Australia, make it a part of your plans for 2021 by making New Dunesk one of your destinations! It is Worth Driving For.



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