

# On Track

## A reason to celebrate

Photo courtesy of Stephen Dyer

**After years of prayer, planning and preparing, New Dunesk was officially opened on Friday 18th of March 2022.**

Supporters of PIM came from all corners of the continent to help celebrate the occasion, and what a fantastic congregation of people it was - young and old, new and long-time supporters, city folk and country dwellers all coming together to praise God for his wonderful provision of the New Dunesk property and the Gospel work that will go out from it.

Attendees were invited to arrive in the early afternoon, providing time to set up their caravans, tents, and swags for the night, before heading off on a 4WD tour of the property in one of PIM's patrol vehicles. Each tour group came back with glowing reviews, having learned more about the property and the terrain that patrol workers travel on every day.

Despite the heat of the afternoon sun, New Dunesk managers Paul and Janae Denness worked hard to ensure everyone was having a great time, providing cooling refreshments and delicious treats throughout the day.



The chatter of voices throughout the campground during dinner soon turned to booming voices from the piggery singing hymns of praise. A setting sun over the paddocks of New Dunesk marked the beginning of the official proceedings for the night.

PIM Convener Vaughan Smith led a service of praise and celebration, with CEO Andrew Letcher providing an enlightening reflection on the history of PIM, and a look forward to the future at New Dunesk. The Rev Peter Barnes, Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, preached an encouraging reminder of the power of the Gospel from Acts 8, before officially marking the opening of the property.

The night concluded with dessert and a bonfire under the Southern Cross, a fitting backdrop for such a momentous occasion in both PIM's history and future for Gospel work in inland Australia.

A huge thank you to everyone that joined us for the occasion, prayed for us from afar, and contributed to making the day such a success.

We hope to see you all at New Dunesk sometime soon at one of our many training programs or social events. For more information on what's coming up at the property, visit [www.pim.org.au/new-dunesk](http://www.pim.org.au/new-dunesk).

# What's been happening at New Dunesk?

With the property officially opened, we have wasted no time in getting events underway at New Dunesk, starting with the Country Elders' Preaching Workshop and the launch of the Nomads' Network.

In April, the much-anticipated Country Elders' Preaching Workshop was held. Fifteen participants from a range of local (and not so local) churches spent three days at New Dunesk developing their preaching skills to better serve in their local congregations. Some of the participants have since formed a Riverina Preaching Club so that they can continue to develop their skills.



The Nomads' Network was also launched in April with four days spent at New Dunesk enjoying fellowship, undertaking training and thinking about how to put the nomad years to good use for the Kingdom.

The opportunity is still available to be a part of the PIM Nomads' Network. To find out more, email [ceo@pim.org.au](mailto:ceo@pim.org.au) or visit [pim.org.au/nomads-network](http://pim.org.au/nomads-network).

There's plenty still to come at New Dunesk for 2022. Plans are already underway for a Free Camp Week from 5-12 August, and our first Camper Trailer Muster from 30 Sep - 3 Oct. For more information on these events, visit [pim.org.au/new-dunesk](http://pim.org.au/new-dunesk).



## From the patrols

# On patrol with Laurie



*Laurie Peake recently spoke to PIM about his patrols in South West Queensland.*

A long serving worker for PIM, Laurie's stories are an insightful glimpse into just how hard the PIM Ministry Teams work to bring the Gospel to inland Australia.

On the particular patrol that Laurie recounted for us, he passed by five properties before finding someone to talk to. It's a tough gig that requires both fortitude and determination to press on. But somehow Laurie always does, stating "But there will be a next time and a few more after that also".

Despite these initial setbacks, Laurie had many positive encounters on his patrol with both new acquaintances and old friends.

He came across a Christian couple who were considering becoming caretakers of a property which, as Laurie put it, would "bring some saltiness into this wilderness". He was able to pray for a pregnant lady who he knew had waited a long time for a child. And finally, he came across a couple he had met only once before, but who were eager to pick up a previous conversation about God and learn more about what it means to be a Christian.

Laurie summed it up well when he said "Now that sort of visit is truly worth driving for." Praise God for our Ministry Teams and their commitment to the work of the Gospel.

To find out more about what these teams are doing across Australia and how you can pray for them, visit [www.pim.org.au/patrols](http://www.pim.org.au/patrols).



## Thank you to our Founding Partners



It was an immense blessing to have so many of our dedicated Founding Partners together in one place at the opening of New Dunesk.

The event was a fantastic opportunity to also celebrate their generosity toward the establishment of the property at which we congregated.

To all our Founding Partners we wish to say a very heartfelt thank you for your ongoing support, both through your financial contributions and your prayers for PIM and New Dunesk.

Limited places are still available to join the Founding Partners program and share in this momentous journey for PIM. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit [pim.org.au/foundingpartners](http://pim.org.au/foundingpartners) or email [ceo@pim.org.au](mailto:ceo@pim.org.au).

## New Dunesk Gap Year: mid-year applications now open



The New Dunesk Gap Year is an exciting opportunity for young people to grow in their faith while also building practical farm and ministry skills, allowing them to share in PIM's vision to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia.

The New Dunesk Gap Year is a full time, live-on program located on PIM's property in Ardlethan, NSW. The program accepts participants in early February and Early July each year for either a 6-month or 12-month placement.

Applications are now open for our mid-year intake, which begins in July. For further information, visit [www.pim.org.au/gap-year](http://www.pim.org.au/gap-year). To apply, email [gapyear@pim.org.au](mailto:gapyear@pim.org.au).

## Announcing our incoming CEO



*A message from the PIM  
Convener, Vaughan Smith*

The PIM Committee is thrilled to welcome our new CEO, Hugh Castleden, to the team. Hugh hails from Tamworth, NSW, where he lives on a small property with his family. He has worked for the last ten years as the business manager at Calrossy Anglican School, and now brings his considerable leadership skills to the mission field. He moves into the CEO role with a gospel-hearted warmth and a vision for discipleship that will benefit PIM for years to come.

Hugh will begin his role in July, learning the ropes from Andrew as he finishes up. While we'll be sad to see Andrew go, we're also convinced that the tiller is being entrusted into more than capable hands in Hugh.

## Interested in donating to the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission?

Please fill in and mail back to us the separate donation slip included with this issue, or visit [www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au) to donate electronically.

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## Thank you for your support

### CEO's corner

## From Andrew to you

What a tremendous privilege it has been for me to be part of the team who have been on this wonderful journey of reshaping PIM for a new season!

As my time in the CEO chair ends, I welcome our new CEO, Hugh Castleden, on board. I have no doubt that Hugh will enjoy the challenges and opportunities that come with this amazing role as he helps steer PIM into a new and fruitful season of service to our God.



In the places where our teams currently work, there is virtually no other Gospel witness. Whether it's meeting people on patrol, leading a small church service or running a Bible study on a back veranda, PIM Teams are often the only Christian witness and fellowship some people living in isolated places experience.

By embarking on the journey to launch New Dunesk, the PIM Committee decided that a bold and innovative approach was needed to overcome the many challenges we faced. Across the nation there are so many places where there is little or no Gospel witness. There is far more work than our PIM Teams can ever hope to accomplish. Recruitment of new teams has been very difficult for well over a decade, and in many areas churches have closed.

New Dunesk is not just a farm, and it is not just a home for PIM. New Dunesk is a clear marker that signifies, in a very practical way, that the Presbyterian Church of Australia is not giving up on remote and rural ministry. In fact, we are stepping up our commitment and investment in 'the Inland'.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to a new season myself, as I take a year out to embark on some full-time theological studies at SMBC in 2023.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing across the continent through PIM.

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