

On Track



Bush friendships

By Kim Jaeger, Tasmania Patrol

"You do a lot of miles" is what they say when I book the 4WD in for a service. This results in trying to explain the crazy life of a Patrol Padre.

Travelling long distances to see an individual or a family may seem like a lot of effort for just the one or a few, but the parable of the lost sheep tells us there is great rejoicing when the shepherd, with considerable effort, leaves the ninety-nine sheep to find the one. God values each individual person, and some of these valued individuals live in rural areas of Tasmania. Someone needs to go out to them and that is what the Patrol Padre does.



Pictured: Lou and Di with Kim (Real names used with permission)

Lou and Di are rural people who live at the end of a quiet country road. They are faithful Christians who love Jesus but have no church in their region. I visit fortnightly and together we do a Bible study, pray and share valuable fellowship time.

I thank God for these special bush friendships. It is a privilege getting to know wonderful country people like Lou and Di who live in a house in a clearing in the bush that most people will never see. Places like this are peaceful and beautiful, but are also isolated from any services, which becomes particularly difficult with illness or ageing when driving becomes problematic and there is no public transport or taxis.

People like Lou and Di appreciate someone making the effort to call on them, so perhaps the life of a Patrol Padre isn't that crazy after all.

Kim regularly visits isolated communities and families in the midlands area of Tasmania, while also preaching at Stanley Presbyterian Church in the state's North West. Maintaining this clear gospel witness is vital in the current landscape of country Tasmania, where rural and isolated churches continue to struggle for viability.

If you are interested in supporting Kim and his work through prayer or financial giving, please contact him directly on 0417 303 446 or email kjaeger@pim.org.au.



A rare opportunity

In late July, employees, committee members and friends of PIM had the rare opportunity to come together in person to give a final farewell to Andrew Letcher for his years of service as PIM's CEO.

It was also a great opportunity to introduce Hugh as our incoming CEO, and to catch up with one another after many years apart!

We extend our gratitude once again to Andrew, Fleur and the rest of the Letcher family for their service to the work of PIM over the past 7 years.



From the patrols

Introducing the Vasiliades



PIM is excited to introduce you to our newest Patrol Team, Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades, who will be beginning their work on the newly established Snowy Mountains Patrol in early 2023.

We recently sat down with Noah and Nerroli to get to know them a little better:

Tell us a bit about yourselves.

We both come from home schooling families and currently live in West Gippsland. Nerroli has spent the last few years studying and now works as a PA for a solicitor. Noah has been an Arborist for 10 years, working across the state in various roles within the trade.

We've both grown up in Christian families and are heavily involved in our church community - from serving at church on Sunday mornings to youth groups and camps. The community of God's people has been a big part of our lives so far and continues to be an important part of serving others and being built up and encouraged in God's word and relationships.

What drew you to want to work on the Snowy Mountains Patrol?

It's hard to know where to start! A love of the alpine country and the people that choose to live there. But it is also such a vast, beautiful land with no real Gospel presence or outreach. There are Christians there without a church, but also people who haven't heard of the hope that is available in Christ. This is something we really want and pray to see change.

What are you most looking forward to for the first few months on the job?

Getting to meet people and hear where they are at. We are keen to learn how we can get alongside them and be a help and encouragement. We want to build relationships and encourage those we meet to know and trust Jesus, either for the first time or by growing in their faith.

How can we be praying for you for the remainder of 2022 as you prepare to begin your work?

That God would be at work in the lives of the people out in the Snowy Mountains area. Pray also that we would be diligent in preparing for what God has called us to do. Colossians 4:2-4 is a great encouragement and at the heart of what and how you can be praying for us.

Noah and Nerroli are currently building up their supporter base for this new Patrol in the Snowy Mountains. If you are interested in supporting them financially or prayerfully, or hearing more about their work, please contact Hugh on ceo@pim.org.au.

Camper Trailer Muster

30th September - 3rd October

PIM's first ever Camper Trailer Muster is coming up in only a few short weeks, and it's not too late to make plans to come along!

A weekend of fellowship and fun, the Camper Trailer Muster is an opportunity for camping families to come together, meet other people, be encouraged by the Gospel and the work of PIM, and enjoy staying somewhere a little different. A number of family and children focused activities will run throughout the weekend.

Booking for the Camper Trailer Muster is essential. To secure your campsite, please contact Paul at New Dunesk directly, by emailing newdunesk@pim.org.au or call 0493 294 798.

New Dunesk Gap 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.

- Deepen your theological understanding through structured study as part of the Timothy Partnership course.
- Develop practical farm skills and explore a variety of rural employment options.
- Help run different events at New Dunesk throughout the year.
- Connect with rural churches where you can make a meaningful and long-term contribution while also gaining useful ministry skills.

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 February and July each year for 6-month or 12-month placements.

Applications are now open for our February 2023 intake. For more information or to apply, email gapyear@pim.org.au, or visit www.pim.org.au/gap-year.

The first few months

Hugh has hit the ground running his first few months on the job with plenty of travel around the country.



In July, friends and family of the Castledens and PIM were able to converge at New Dunesk for Hugh's official commissioning service. This was a fantastic opportunity to commit his work to God and mark the beginning of a new chapter for PIM.

Since then, Hugh has attended the NSW and QLD assemblies, begun visiting Patrol Teams across the country, and accepted deputations to churches across VIC and NSW to speak about current events and activities at PIM. Hugh's first deputation was at Scots' Presbyterian Church in Melbourne, where John Flynn was commissioned and sent out to the inland 110 years ago - what a fantastic circle of events that is!

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CEO's corner

From Hugh to you

Who is this new Rooster?!

In the many conversations I've held throughout VIC, NSW and QLD over recent weeks, people have been keen to know something of my background. So here it goes...

I grew up attending the Presbyterian Church in Inverell, NSW and became a Christian when I was about 19 and attending the University of Queensland in Gatton. In these university days I was encouraged by members of congregations at Forrest Hill near Gatton, and South Toowoomba where my brother attended.

It was in Richmond North Queensland in 1994 that I first came across PIM. At this time I was employed by the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC). I found Bob Whiting, his family and the faithful few who gathered in the Richmond CWA Hall a great encouragement to my wife Anna and I in our spiritual life and early marriage. I worked with QIDC from 1994 to the end of 1998 including transfers to both Emerald and Dalby in Queensland.

We then moved to Trangie in the NSW Central West where Anna's family held farming land and we attended the Warren Presbyterian Church. Rev Rudi Schwartz and his family faithfully served the congregation of Warren whilst also undertaking pastoral patrols for PIM in far west NSW. Following a 7 year term living in Wee Waa NSW we have resided at Tamworth since mid-2008. We own a small farm on the Peel River where we trade livestock. For the past decade, prior to my appointment with PIM, I was the Business Manager and Board Secretary for an Anglican independent day and boarding school in Tamworth.

In writing this article I want to affirm that PIM is not all about the CEO. PIM and its people are *your* mission and *your* extension of words and relationships in the remote and isolated areas of Australia. We are here to purposely evangelise those who need a Saviour and disciple believers to become mature in their faith (Rom 10: 14-15).

My role as CEO is to support and resource our teams. This is only possible with your assistance through prayer, financial support and physical involvement. It is worth driving for!

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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