

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the North Adelaide church; congregation, elders and Chris ten Broeke.
- Pray that your own, neighbouring and all Presbyterian churches will be focused on mission to a dying world and not just maintenance of our institutions.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Tony Abbott; Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten, that they will be guided by Christian principles and stand firm in their belief.
- Pray for the Presbytery of Penola, clerk Gary Ware.
- Pray for the towns and cities of South Australia, for the people in them who do not know Christ, including unsaved family members, friends and work colleagues.
- Pray for Christians to be instruments of truth and grace in the midst of skepticism and increasing opposition to the Christian faith.
- Pray for Gary Ware South Australian Moderator, Brian Johnson clerk, all convenors and committees as they implement the decisions of the state Assembly held during May at Norwood and thank God for the ministry of the Moderator General, David Cook in the state.
- Pray for hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers.
- Cry out to the Lord for the girls who were taken by Boko Haram. Pray for the release of those who are still being held, and ask the Lord to draw near to them and comfort them in their ordeal. Ask Him also to comfort all those who have lost loved ones to anti-Christian violence in Nigeria.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier church, congregation, elders, Gary and Margaret Ware, Ian and Heather Touzel.
- Pray that the Lord will protect vulnerable Egyptian Christians both in Egypt and in Libya; that His faithfulness will be their shield and rampart (Psalm 91:4). Pray also that the Holy Spirit will enable the grieving family and friends of those who have been killed to forgive and love those responsible.
- Pray for the Presbytery of Torrens, clerk John Prattis.
- Pray for the young pregnant Christian woman and her family, in Sudan, who has been sentenced to death by hanging.
- Pray for many people to become and grow as Christians through PIM patrols

Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News they are all very much appreciated. Contributions for the September 2014 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 11th August 2014.**

Email: pcsanews@bigpond.com

SA News is a publication of the Theological & Christian Education Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia Inc.



SA NEWS



Can you answer His Questions?

Don't you just love the way Jesus talked to people? He didn't push them to conform. He didn't have a lot of small talk. He sometimes let people just walk away! He sometimes responded with a question rather than an answer. Why do you think He did that? Was it to get people to think? He said, *'Wisdom is made right by her children.'* (Luke 7:31-35) What did he mean? Be good to ask Him: *'What of the future of this Church?'* He might respond as He did for the woman at the well. *'Who do you worship? Do you really worship God in spirit and in truth?'* So you ask Him another question. *'Why do some Christians disagree about some issues such as politics, religious duties or right teaching and practice?'* He may say *'Haven't you read in the Scriptures of that account of David? 'Go learn what this means 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'* He may even say – *'What does one do to deal with something lodged in your eye before attempting to see what is wrong in other eyes.'*

Speaking of a different view, David Jones, the past Moderator General had a view. He said *'We first need to give up the Presbyterian Church in order to get it back.'* Wow! Sell the furniture then sell the building and maybe not have a minister? Then you can start again! What do you think? Is that is what He meant? Maybe it would force us to ask *'What role do I have now as one of God's people? 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick',* said Jesus. The sick? Like those with compulsive behaviour, addiction, abuse, dependency and co-dependency. Could you talk to them of faith and repentance in Christ? What of the drug addicts, prostitutes and those locked up in prisons? It is a challenge! Do we actually talk about God and Jesus to our nearest and dearest? All who are spiritually adrift and many other lost people in the mainstream of our society. Jesus is asking YOU now! "What is your answer?" Do you think Christians today are too fixed on Christian institutions and programs to the detriment of a focus on equipping every believer for the ministry of revealing Christ to the people around him or her? Jesus said *'If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me. Where I am, there My servant also will be.'* (John 12:26.) To serve Him and to follow Him surely we need to listen to Him in order to speak of Him to others? Every Christian is His ambassador. *'Yes I know,'* you may say. Jesus keeps talking to us. This is from Matthew 11:16-19 (or Luke 7:31-35). I have put it in my words to help me emphasise the truth.

'Look at all the people around today. They work and whinge about life. They want to party but suffer from hangovers. They want to have the

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best that life can give but are too busy to talk about really important matters in life. They don't like John the Baptist, a crazy do-gooder. They don't like me said Jesus. Think I am another crazy person who gets mixed up with the wrong bunch of bad people. Opinion polls are unhelpful in seeking what is right. The proof of good ministry will be changed lives. Changed people who repent and live for God and go on to reveal Him and His work to others. They stop swearing and being self-centred. They become transformed to give of themselves, time and talents to follow Me.'

'Come follow me' said Jesus. The question is "Are we really following Him?"

Robert Finster

"A saint without a good knowledge of the gospel is as vulnerable as an army without ammunition."

—William Gurnall

The Christian in Complete Armour

<http://firstimportant.ce.org/arm-yourself-with-a-knowledge-of-the-gospel/>

Ladies Weekend 2014

On the weekend of Friday 14th to Sunday 16th March, a group of ladies stayed at Karnkendi at Nelson for the annual Ladies Weekender. Women came from South Australia and Victoria (places being Naracoorte, Penola, Millicent, Mount Gambier, Geelong, Melbourne, Skipton) with additional ladies coming from Mount Gambier on the Saturday for the day.



Laura Maddock (left) and Judy Rowlands (right)

Our main speaker was Judy Rowlands, from Sydney. Judy is very knowledgeable about reaching people from different language and cultural backgrounds, and she gave 3 talks entitled "Strangers in the Bible and in our own world"; "God's people as refugees"; and "Jesus, the Stranger

from Heaven". The talks and subsequent small group study sessions were thought provoking for many of us there. Our Mission spot speaker on Saturday afternoon was Laura Maddock, who is also Una Kuhl's granddaughter. Laura is a staff worker with Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) to female students on Adelaide's North Terrace campuses and spoke of her work and ministry amongst students, as well as what the AFES does. It was an insight for many.

There was plenty of time to fellowship together over meals and during free time and thank you to all who came and participated, especially to our two speakers, Judy and Laura.

Heather Touzel

The AGM was held on 4 March followed by the Board Annual and ordinary meetings and 4 ladies attended the ladies camp at Karnkendi.

Ladies from the Penola Presbytery came to our place for the annual social day on 6 March, for a day of relaxation, fun, food and fellowship. Although numbers were down from previous years, there were ladies from all the Churches present.

Several ladies attended the World Day of Prayer in the Anglican Church on 7 March, with Fay and Barbara taking the Presbyterians' part in the service.

Shedmen was held at our place on the Thursday before Easter, with 13 men attending.

Don came back from Melbourne with the flu', so was unable to take the Easter services including Palm Sunday, so Elders Brendan and Neil filled the gap. Our sick list is extensive, so please keep them in your prayers.

PWA ran a street stall on 2 May. The weather was very cold, but almost \$600 was raised for missions.

Barbara Provis

Seacliff

What a blessing it was to 'celebrate' the death of Jesus on Good Friday and to be reminded, by Rev. Dr. Reg Mathews, of 10 wonderful blessings brought to us by Christ's sacrifice. It was a joyous service and the more so as we were joined by several visitors who stayed to share hot cross buns in the hall.

The worship life of the church has been enhanced with a wide and developing range of hymns prepared (downloaded) by our elder Graham Edwards and available to the congregation in the 'cloud' on the Box website. This facilitates the singing on Sunday as hymns can be practiced at home prior to the service. We have been encouraged by the preaching of Rev Drs Reg Mathews and John Calvert, Mr Case de Bruyn, Mr Luke Watts and Dr. John Hughes. Each man brings insights to the gospel which are thought provoking and a challenge to us in our walk of faith with Christ. Regular bible studies continue at the home of a member of the congregation under the leadership of Rev. Raymond Brewer who also does pastoral work in the parish.

In April we welcomed back into membership Kay and Graham Pemberton who had previously been in the congregation. They are an encouragement and a blessing to us all. We also look forward to Mr Mark Wilson joining us as an associate member.

Heather Blunt



Wattle Range

Millicent

Greetings to all other Church members from the Millicent congregation.

Thankfully the heat has gone and we have had some rain to give the gardens a chance to recover.

Our sympathies went out to all who suffered during the bushfires and our thanks to all of the Emergency service people.

Sadly we have now sold the Rendelsham Church, but it was fortunate that it sold quickly instead of deteriorating while empty.

Some of our ladies attended World Day of Prayer in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, with 35-40 Ladies present. Thelma took part, and remembers when up to 70-80 ladies attended.

Harvest Thanksgiving was well attended, and from the sale of goods and a special collection, \$600 was raised, plus an anonymous donation of \$1000. This amount went to The Presbyterian Church Drought Appeal to help land owners in Queensland drought areas.

We are praying for the recovery of Rosslyn Davies who was badly injured in a vehicle crash along with her husband Steve. Ros and Steve are faithful members of St Andrew's and we miss them both, and wish them well for the future.

The Good Friday service was held when we enjoyed the fellowship of the Penola people for this most important day.

Unfortunately Don was away ill, but the service was conducted by our Elders, and the address was by Elder Brendon Provis from Penola.

REMEMBER: With God All things are possible

Thelma Thomas

Penola

Nominations were called for the Board in early February. John Lambert and Eric Hutchesson were appointed by Session for a two year term.



It was truly amazing that the Harvest Thanksgiving Auction at the end of February was so successful with only 23 people present. \$954 was raised, plus more donations in the weeks after. Half the proceeds were given to PresAid for Timor Leste and the other half to a Mount Gambier Presbyterian Timor Leste project. Communion was held on 2 March and a shared lunch followed the service. It was wonderful news that the PresAid Christmas

Appeal raised \$52,000 for Ugandan projects.

Mount Barker

This year is proving to be a testing year in the life of the church as we seek to sow the gospel and trust the Lord for an increase. We lost one long term member at the start of the year in Bob Carr (93). The service at the Carr and Kleeman Funeral Chapel attracted a crowd of over 300 people on the 8/1/14. Bob, having grown up in Mount Barker, was very well known and active in the community. He served in the RAN and ran, at various times, a bus service and a family funeral business. We are also saddened by the fast onset of dementia for Jean Bond. Jean a past member, is now in care at Daw House Hospice in Adelaide. On another note, we are so pleased to see baby James White regularly amidst our meetings. He must enjoy our singing as occasionally we hear him sing too! A son of Jason and Sharon White, brother to Grace, Serene and Abigail, born on 6 February, 2014.

Encouragements continue in seeing our facilities being used by various community groups. The Church/Hall facilities have progressively been improved over the last five years. The two major projects undertaken did consume a lot of time and effort. But we can now look forward to some reaping for both the Church and the local community. PWA meetings have now resumed using the Hall. The kitchen is used by three separate cooking groups at present along with others for meetings. One of these groups, CLASS – (Community Living And Support Services) have a cooking session each Wednesday. CLASS help people with disabilities and their families to have opportunities to live, work and recreate in a supportive community environment. In recent days our Board has been pleased to have some new tenants – Hills Community Options using the old Manse next to the Church in addition to their Hall use.



*Preparing a meal from CLASS (L to R)
- Cathy, Sophie, Bec and George.*

We have recently been given an insight into our local mission field and the challenge we face to make disciples. The District Council of Mount Barker published projections of population for Mount Barker. The average growth per annum to 2036 is predicted to be 856 people (2.6%) but this may vary up to 1100 persons per year from 2032. Current population in 2014 is 31,887 and this compares to the estimate in 2036 of 50,719 people – (A 59.06% change). We encourage all you Presbyterians and fellow believers to pray for Mt. Barker Presbyterian Church as we know we face some difficult transitions for this year and beyond.

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Our Breakfast for Blokes continues to attract men mainly from the Christian community. The speaker for April was Ray Bell Pastor from Coromandel Baptist Church. In May we will have heard Bishop Michael Musale from Christ Victory Gospel Ministries in Kenya. Michael and his wife Emily have come to Australia to seek help to build the nation of Kenya for Christ particularly through Christian schooling. Michael and Emily have spent many years teaching and have three adult children. As stated in one of his nation building messages:- "Christian education is a means of raising up believers who eventually may be used to help transform nations."

Robert Finster.

"There is no idea more foolish or pernicious than this — that a person who is not sanctified, not made holy in this life, should afterwards be taken into the blessedness that consists in the enjoyment of God. Such a person cannot enjoy God, nor would God be a reward to them. Holiness is perfected in heaven, but it is always begun in this world."

— John Owen (1616-1683)

<http://firstimportance.org/holiness-is-always-begun-in-this-world/>

Naracoorte

Naracoorte Parish has been busy again this year with 2 Bible study groups and a Sunday evening casual worship service being held in the hall. Stefan also leads worship services at Longridge Aged Care Centre and at Morton Bay Nursing Home.

Stefan preached on the letter of James in February and March and is now preaching from Genesis on the life of Abram

Conversation English classes are going well with students attending from Taiwan and Korea. The students are divided into 2 groups, beginners and pre/intermediate and numbers average 15 per week. Not only the students learn, but also the teachers as we learn about their culture and lifestyle. For example in Taiwan they celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day as we do but in Korea they celebrate Parent's Day and Children's Day.

Many of the Korean students attend the Worship Service in St Andrews, for worship with Korean Pastor Andrew Jung, following the English classes.

In March a morning tea was held to raise money for missions. Members of other church guilds in Naracoorte were invited and Jan Boord spoke and showed pictures of her trip to Fiji with CWA.

On 12th April we held a successful garage sale on the veranda of the manse with an auction of split firewood at 10 am. This is a great opportunity to fellowship with the townspeople.

At the time of writing this report, the congregation is looking forward to the breakfast on the 24th May that will be attended by Bishop Michael Musale, who will update us about his ministry in Kenya and in particular the Victory Christian School that he has established in Turbo, Kenya.

Pat Leitch

Whyalla

On the 23 March Whyalla held its Annual General Congregation Meeting. This was done with the permission of the Moderator. The preceding year was a very busy period for the Whyalla church and the reports reflected this.

The year has seen a large number of visitors and we are overjoyed that some of them continue to worship with us.

On the 12 & 13 April we were blessed by a visit from the Rev. Don Brookes. Mr Brookes was our Moderator shortly after the Rev. James Harris returned to Scotland. Both he and Betty, were frequent visitors to Whyalla. He was met by Session at Whyalla airport in the morning then taken out to lunch by Session in the afternoon. In the evening I collected him from the hotel and took him to the church where we had a light supper and he spoke to members of the congregation about his time in various parts of Asia, teaching and preaching. He also told us how he met a young lady – Betty Nichols – who subsequently became Betty Brookes. On the Sunday, I had the rare privilege of sharing the Service with Mr Brookes who spoke on the theme of "Serving the Lord". During the lunch Mr Brookes spent some time talking to David and Gae McDonald of the PIM, regarding his time in Singapore and other places. Mr Brookes expressed a desire to return and visit us again at some future date and should that happen, we would be pleased to spend time with him again.

The Easter Services, Friday and Sunday, were both well attended by congregation and adherents with the services being shared by the elders. It was very pleasing to see and welcome so many people at both services

On 16 April Whyalla became 100 years old and celebrations, organised by Whyalla City Council, took place at Wilson Park. The inaugural speech was presented by the new Member for Giles, the Hon. Eddie Hughes with the blessing given by Norma Matters of the Uniting Church.

The 25 April saw the Dawn Service. The ANZACs were remembered as part of the Service of worship on Sunday 27 April.

At the first meeting of the Board of Management, since the election took place on Sunday 27 April, Mrs Mashford welcomed the new member of the Board of Management, Mrs Jeanette Gibbins. Generally we plan activities, fundraising and outreach lunches and, of course, the Church Fete as soon as practicable after the AGM. This time these things were deferred until such time as we have an inspection of the concrete slab of the church. It is showing some signs of wear and if it has to be repaired we may have to hold church services in the James Harris hall until repairs are carried out.

Apart from colds and flu, common at this time of year, the congregation faces the future with confidence. Bearing in mind the words of Our Lord as written in Luke 8:15 - ***But that which fell in good ground, are they which with an honest and good heart hear the word, and keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.***



John McVey

Mount Gambier

Harvest Thanksgiving and Sale of Gifts was again well supported this year.

At the Sale of Gifts there was the usual enthusiastic bidding for a diverse range of goods, including fruit, vegetables, baked goods, sweets and ice cream.

The gourmet ice cream produced by Brian Johnson attracted frantic bidding with one container selling for \$30!

Total proceeds from the night were \$2,017.00 which will go towards mercy ministries in Timor Leste.

Thanks to all who contributed as well as Jean Bowman and Heather Touzel who set up the Harvest Thanksgiving display in the chapel.

On Saturday 12 April at the chapel of Immanuel College, Adelaide, over 120 students from across South Australia received the TAFE Certificate III in Christian Theology and Ministry as part of the Year 11 Vetamorphous programme. Amongst them was one of our members, Roland Touzel, who was one of the 2013 Vetamorphous group at St Martin's College.



Left to Right: Roland Touzel, Peter Eckerman (SA Co-ordinator for Vetamorphous), and Adrian Bleikensop (Bible Society SA)

God's Double Agent I Bob Fu

Tens of millions of Christians live in China today, many of them leading double lives or in hiding from a government that relentlessly persecutes them. Bob Fu, whom the *Wall Street Journal* called "The pastor of China's underground railroad," is fighting to protect his fellow believers from persecution, imprisonment, and even death. *God's Double Agent* is his fascinating and riveting story. Bob Fu is indeed God's double agent. By day Fu worked as a full-time lecturer in a communist school; by night he pastored a house church and led an underground Bible school. This can't-put-it-down book chronicles Fu's conversion to Christianity, his arrest and imprisonment for starting an illegal house church, his harrowing escape, and his



subsequent rise to prominence in the United States as an advocate for his brethren. *God's Double Agent* will inspire readers even as it challenges them to boldly proclaim and live out their faith in a world that is at times indifferent, and at other times

murderously hostile, to those who spread the gospel.

Bob Fu currently runs ChinaAid, a non-profit organization that tirelessly advocates for the underground church in China and for political dissidents, as well as the lawyers and activists who place their lives on the line to defend them. Bob is a distinguished professor on religion and public policy at Midwest University.

Available from Koorong Books for \$14.99 plus p+p.



GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY: MOUNT MAGNET, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SUPPORT REQUESTED FOR OUTBACK WORK

Mount Magnet, Western Australia, is a mining town located 6 hours drive north-west of Perth. It is a regional centre with a population of around 500 people.

The Mid West Patrol is based in Mount Magnet. The current Patrol Padre, Bert Pierce, together with his wife Penny is due to retire sometime this year. They have served the people of the patrol and community with great distinction over many years and will be greatly missed. The PIM has a church building and manse in Mount Magnet.

Who will reach the people of the Patrol and community with the gospel after the Pierces leave?

The town and patrol has a significant Aboriginal population and for this reason the Australian Presbyterian World Mission has entered into a partnership with PIM to help fund the cost of the new Patrol Padre for the Mid West Patrol and Mount Magnet PIM church.

Late last year APWM & PIM interviewed Surendra and May'an Wesley in relation to the upcoming vacancy at Mount Magnet. Surendra was born in India and May'an in New Zealand. Both have lived in Australia for extended periods and have experience in rural and outback environments. Surendra has just completed his theological studies in India.

The mission field is clear. The new potential workers have appeared. The next step is to raise the needed support for this ministry. APWM has set the goal of raising \$30 000 a year in team support for Surendra and May'an. APWM is looking for people to become prayer and financial partners in this gospel initiative to the people of outback Western Australia. Will you consider becoming a partner?

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please use the REPOSE FORM on the LAST page of ON TRACK.



Surendra, May'an and Gabriella Wesley

ALSOPS SENT OUT

PIM PRESENCE IN DROUGHT AFFECTED CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

The Superintendent with some members of the Central Queensland Presbytery and David and Kathy Alsop the day after their commissioning service to the work of the Central Patrol



JOIN US IN JUNE IN BELTANA

STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We are asking for help to proclaim the gospel clearly in one of the remote areas of Australia.

Offered is a chance to be part of a team to "make disciples of all nations" Matt 28:18-19 and to have a taste of what it is like to work for the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

Why: to reach the residents in Beltana and the small surrounding towns, stations and travellers with the message of God's love and saving grace through Jesus' death and resurrection.

When: June long weekend every year, while we are the PIM team in SA.

Where: Beltana (small township at the northern end of the Flinders Rangers)

How: provide dinner, entertainment (we may have a Christian bush poet, looking for other entertainers) and a short evangelistic talk on Saturday night, Church service and lunch on Sunday morning in Beltana's Smith of Dunesk Mission building. Details will be finalised when we know who is coming and what gifts they bring.

Accommodation: Beltana Station (they cater for tourism as well as being a working sheep station – with a few cattle, camels and alpacas). Please check them out on Facebook or website. Accommodation types: motel room type (men's quarters), bunk room (shearers quarters) and facilities for campers. It also has a huge communal area and a homestyle restaurant / cafe. Award winning.

FAQ

Do I need a 4WD to get there?

No. The roads are sealed until the last approx. 10km. The dirt road is routinely used by the local school bus so is usually in very good order.

How do I get there?

Mostly participants drive. One family flew to Adelaide and drove to Beltana in a rented car. One couple used it to launch their grey nomad sojourn around parts of Australia.

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION www.pim.org.au

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RESPONSE FORM

Name _____ Phone () _____ email _____

Address _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Donation – PIM general funds	
Donation – PIM Mid West/Surendra Wesley	
Total	

Payment details:

Cheque enclosed (Payable to Presbyterian Inland Mission)

Charge my Credit Card Visa Mastercard

Card No. Expiry date ___ / ___

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Return with payment to:

PIM, PO Box 4014, Croydon Hills Vic
3136 Ph: (03) 9005 8256 • Fax: (03) 9876
1941 [email: admin@pim.org.au](mailto:admin@pim.org.au)

couple of hours. We always give the "Challenge" and a word of testimony of how God has helped us through hard times on the land. In such situations we have always been invited back and ... "Camp here whenever you want" and ... "No-one like you has called in for a long time".

PIM, as the main agency of the Presbyterian Church of Australia working in these areas, asks you to pray for us, and consider how you may be able to support the great financial needs of ministry in these remote areas? You can give to the Moderator's appeal or direct to PIM.

With warmest Christian greetings, and deep thanks for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus our Lord,

Rob Duncanson | Convener, Presbyterian Inland Mission Mob 0413 021 716 •

[Email: convener@pim.org.au](mailto:convener@pim.org.au)

FROM ROGER CRANE

QUIET ENCOURAGEMENT

FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND

Great news from here is that a scan yesterday showed no sign of lymphoma after four sessions, session five concludes tomorrow and only six will be needed. We are in Praise mode in a big way (Feb 25th).

'Thanks for your prayers, please keep going friends' – Roger and Margaret Crane PIM

North Queensland Patrol.



NT PRESBYTERIANS

"THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM"

Alice Springs:

Sunday 10am 20 Parke Crescent,
The Gap Keith Bell 08 8953 7748

Darwin:

Sunday 10am Kormilda College,
Berrimah Sunday 5pm Palmerston
Library Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

WWW.PIM.ORG.AU



What else is there to do out there?

Photography / painting / sketching – brilliant scenes and the ancient ruins at Puttapa springs and Beltana township make great subjects.

4WDing – on the station and in the Flinders

Experience a different way of life – check out station life or the local small towns in the area. Recommend Copley bakery award winning quondong pies. Blinman for arts and crafts. Check www.beltanastation.com.au, www.arkaroola.com.au, www.igawarta.com (excellent Aboriginal cultural experience) & www.flindersranges.com

Saturday morning us used for letterbox dropping and a working bee on the Beltana Mission Church building (over 130 yrs old) and grounds.

Sunday afternoon is open to whatever the group wants to do. Last year, the people who were interested in outreach to local aboriginals were taken to some settlements and David introduced them to Christian workers doing just that, some went to Puttapa Springs/ ruins of the original homestead and some stayed and put their feet up.

There is more that we can tell you. Please contact us for further information.

David and Gae McDonald, John Flynn Patrol, SA

NEW LOOK FOR PIM

CLEAR EMPHASIS ON REMOTE MINISTRY REINFORCED

The PIM has begun its second hundred years of ministry with a newly designed logo and a revamped corporate look.

Reflected in the new logo and colour scheme are both the ministry, and the remote localities that the PIM serves in.

The new logo is shaped like a road sign.

The intersecting circles and Southern Cross represent PIM's unique Christian mission. The colour scheme was specifically chosen to represent the aridness of much of Australia's landscape.

The Superintendent of the PIM, Stuart Bonnington, said the design of the new logo was just what PIM was looking for. 'It is fantastic' he said.

The new look for the PIM will be phased in over the next three months. The new logo was officially launched at the PIM Rally held at Donvale Presbyterian Church in Melbourne on the 30th of January. It was approved by the Full Committee of the PIM when it met in Sydney the day before.

It was designed by Hilary Bruce a friend and supporter of the PIM.



GETTING READY FOR THE MUNGO PATROL

FURTHER STEPS ON THE JOURNEY TO THE OUTBACK

The first PIM vehicle to receive the new PIM logo is that of the Mungo Patrol based out of Mildura. Colin and Alison Morrow will use this vehicle in their work.

Colin said 'PIM appreciates greatly the support of Gary Fulton of Metro Signs (www.metro signs.com.au), Ash, Vaughan, Dan and the other members of the 'team' who worked so hard to get the artwork, printing and applying of the signs done so quickly and with such great professionalism



DROUGHT RELIEF APPEAL

THE WORST DROUGHT EVER IN SOME AREAS OF THE OUTBACK

The PIM is delighted at the interest and support shown by our Moderator General, Rev David Cook, for the needs of a large part of our country which suffers under severe drought conditions at this time. We write to add our support to his appeal and to let you know something of our approach to the issues involved.

The PIM has been working in these areas and has been the Presbyterian Church's main organisation for ministering in the ups and downs of Outback life for over 100 years. We have been particularly presenting the needs of these areas due to their severe drought conditions for the last 18 months.

Our regulations appoint us to do various things including *"the provision of relief from suffering and hardship, conducive to the advancement of religion"*.

At our last PIM committee meeting in Sydney PIM Superintendent, Stuart Bonnington, confronted us with graphic pictures of the desolation of these desperate areas.

Our approach is to provide:

1. Diaconal aid, through our funds given for this purpose or set aside by us for this purpose. These funds are always stretched beyond their limits. In the past we have helped people with grocery bills, education and health expenses, and many other needs that overwhelm them.

2. Ministry to the spiritual and emotional needs of suffering people.

Our funding, whether we talk of PIM or the PCA as a whole, is minuscule compared to the funding of some other aid agencies, and the Prime Minister has said that he will announce a drought relief package next week, which we expect will be in the order of millions of dollars.

The one thing that governments and most other aid agencies cannot and will not do, is provide funding for the greatest need that these sufferers have – the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In my first year of PIM ministry in WA, I learnt a very important lesson. I visited an area which had been hit by severe drought conditions. The area was not only a physical desert, but was overwhelmingly arid in spiritual terms. As I headed home after one particular patrol I remember feeling extremely discouraged and helpless. The problem was not that people were presenting me with issues that I could not cope with, it was that no-one was presenting me with any issues at all! They were closed towards, and defensive against any outsider coming along to 'solve their problems' before disappearing back to the city. Of course I did not know that this was their attitude at the time – I just thought I was an ineffective evangelist and hopeless padre! After the season broke and the dry land drank its fill, I found myself visiting again in the same area. When I went to properties and commented "whoa, it looks so much better than it did 6 months ago!" they then opened up and were happy to speak to me as a friend. Some commented, about how they had so many 'experts' coming when times were tough, but that they had all gone back to the city now, patting themselves on the back for the good job they had done, and yet had no concept of the struggles that continued as people tried to put their lives back together.

Forgive the length of the story, but I think that it illustrates the point that the best way to help our drought suffering people is to provide them with regular ministry. PIM attempts to do that, along with bringing diaconal aid and often simple and small gifts (toiletries etc) to show the love of the Presbyterian Church for people in the bush. The above story illustrates, I think, that ministry in crisis is tough, and sometimes of limited effect. What we need to do, is to develop ongoing relationships which will be the foundation of much more effective ministry.

The areas most affected by drought, are areas where there are no Presbyterian Churches (and few other churches as well).

In recent correspondence from David and Kathy Alsop, one of our Queensland Patrol teams, they said:

"On the 2 patrols we have done in drought stricken areas, graziers have not shown any need of monetary handouts in the quantities we could give (they need mega bucks) BUT they just want to talk, and talk without us

PIM THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS AND BEYOND

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looking at our watches. They bandy about different ideas they have to "drought-proof" their properties and are grateful to talk to people who know about cattle farming and the industry. Often it starts with the wife giving us a cuppa, then the husband turning up for a "quick" break and he stays talking for a