

Off the bitumen newsletter

NTH. WEST N.S.W PATROL

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MAY-JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 08

TO ALL OUR Family & Friends who support us in Prayer, Finance, Letters & Emails, Calls & Donations we thank you once again. Whenever we head off on patrol or head out in our bee truck we always plan ahead with packing enough food to last us at least for a week or more till we can buy more supplies. Sometimes after a hectic morning of packing we don't get very far before our first cuppa. The New Testament tells us how 5000 people traveled from nearby towns to hear Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Didn't they plan ahead. Had they forgotten all about food in their excitement to hear Jesus. It was getting late & the Disciples wanted to send them away. Were the crowd surprised when hunger pangs arrived? We do not know. But we do know that one boy had with him 5 Loaves & 2 Fishes. This tells me one mother prepared for her boy & it became enough to feed thousands when Blessed by the Lord. Try as we might to prepare for life's needs, we do not always succeed. The unexpected happens. Phillipians 4:19 reassures us, "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus."

□ In May we headed off on patrol with Dennis's mum, heading nth through Bourke and followed the Cutterburra channels across to Hungerford & up to Charleville visiting stations as we traveled. We spent a few days with Padores Andrew & Kerri Purcell & young son John. (who was a delight) The Presy church @ Charleville held their first shed night for men. It was held at the local fishing club & about 20 men turned up. Dennis took his Axes, cradles (to hold Logs in not to sleep babies in) crosscut saws (Janelle calls it the Diamond Cut Saw as it took priority over a new DIAMOND RING) & chopping logs. We certainly were loaded. Luckily mum in law got in the back seat with the dog. All we needed was grandma rocking chair on the roof rack & we looked like the Clampets on the tv show Beverly Hillbillies. Dennis showed the guys how they cut off logs in wood chopping competition & why they do some of the things the way they do. Dennis cut through a log racing the chainsaw & won in 22seconds. A terrific night was had by all. Sat. saw us @ a gymkhana with the Purcell's yarning to the locals & Sun spoke about our lives as beekeepers, axeman & padres @ morning service with morning tea & lunch afterwards. We enjoyed our time in Charleville immensely. After leaving Charleville we thought Townsville was so close (what's another 1000k in the scheme of things) that we would visit our daughter Wendy & her fiancée Michael. This was a terrific time together but far too short.

□ June & July were patrolled together & we headed more or less through the centre of the Nth West catching up with friends on stations & eventually making our way to Tibooburra for the Tib Rock festival being the PIM representatives, catching up with local station owners, helping where needed & talking to others in the caravan park.

Leaving Tib. we made our way to Nocundra to meet up with Padres Laurie & Gwen Peake & their tag along tour. We caught up with them for a meal around bonfire & breaky next morn. (great fishing spot ... Talk to Dennis or Andrew. Even has normal showers) A great time had with Dennis talking about patrol life & giving devotion @ night. They headed West & we headed East back home. We guess they're wandering in the desert somewhere. We haven't heard from them since. If you see a group of 4 wheel drives being led by a PIM padre please contact Dennis on

..dhoward@pim.org.au

□ Also thru June/July Janelle flew to syd for wedding planning & Dennis drove to Narrabri to help with another men's shed night held @ Terry & Judy Saddlers. Again Dennis did cross cut sawing & forging & they cooked for 50 men on fri. night & family bonfire night Sat with 120 plus in attendance. Phill Spears minister Narrabri & many other helped out on the weekend. Once again a great night & it is evident Gods hand is at work with these Men's shed times. Dennis loves doing these men's night & his vision is that men will see the benefit & set the example in the home towards leadership.

□ August .. Gilgandra presy were in charge of the combined churches w/end early in the mth. Fri. night was Men's shed night & an excellent night with 70 men being fed by the women with hot casseroles & again Cross Cut Sawing, Forging, & wood working demo with Lathes & Routers. Women's m/tea. Janelle involved with this on Sat. morn. Sat night was a bush dance for the families & Sun morn a combined church service for all denominations with over 300 joining together. Great spiritual time was had all w.end. Each event had guest speakers. Wow what a great patrol Dennis had this time. He took Rev Keok Jung with him. Keok is the minister of the Strathfield Korean Presy. Church. They had a great time of Spiritual Blessing with each other & with station owners often talking into the early hours of the morn. Dennis enjoyed showing Keok the outback & the ways of the outback. While out, Keok got an understanding of how hard it is for Christians to go to church & bible studies due to the distances, & the everyday practicalities of life such as getting the Papers delivered on the same day they are printed. Rain again is needed in patrol area.

Prayer points* rain (thanks for what we have had) *safety
God Bless till next newsletter D&J



John Bunter ...the next local woodchopper to take over when Dennis is too old.....