

# On track

Winter 2007

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

WWW.PIM.ORG.AU "I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE" LUKE 2:10

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## News from Charleville

### Andrew and Kerri Purcell, SW Queensland Patrol

**D**ear Family & Friends,  
Hope this newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to the cooler winter season. This is our first newsletter for the year, and we thank you for your patience in waiting for news from us!!

#### Life with baby John Robert!

John was 5 months old on the 21st of April and has been keeping us both busy (Kerri more than Andrew!). He was very pleased with a visit from his Nanny and Grandpa Ted for Easter, and impressed us all with many smiles and lots of laughing. Kerri and John are going along to mothers group every week in Charleville. Not only do they get time out of the house, but it's also a great time to catch up with other people from around town who also have young families.

We have had John out on patrol with us twice now. Once in March for an overnight trip to a rodeo north of Mitchell, and in April we had a 5-day trip west to the isolated town of Betoota where Andrew helped out with the local Gymkhana. John travels well in the vehicle which is a real blessing for us. As long as we respect his feed times and keep total travel time down to less than 5 hours per day John is literally a happy camper!!



Kerri, Andrew and John Purcell

At Betoota we did encounter lots of bugs, flies and mosquitos, but these were more of a problem for us than for John!

At this stage we hope to travel as a family for one week a month on patrol. The rest of the time Andrew will travel 'solo' and return home on weekends.

#### Patrol Highlights for March & April

##### *Tooloombilla Rodeo*

This March we had the opportunity to take John to his first rodeo, and catch up with many property owners that we hadn't seen since last year. It was a good day

out for us and gave us a way to gauge how John would fare on the longer trip we had planned for the next fortnight. We made many valuable contacts with people from the Carnarvon Gorge area, and people were very pleased to meet John for the first time.

**Betoota Gymkhana**

The Betoota gymkhana is an annual event which we have attended the last couple of years. This year Kerri and John spent much of the time in the shade of the seating area, while Andrew helped out with judging and timing the different events. It was a great weekend for us and we look forward to catching up with all the people in that part of the patrol again soon.

**Cameron's Corner Padre's Get together**

On the 19th and 20th of April, a number of the PIM Padres met at Cameron's



**Kerri and John in front of the patrol vehicle.**

Corner for a two-day catch up session. It was a good time spent talking about patrol work this year and going through some of the issues we each faced. A special thanks to Mike Willsmore who brought up several boxes of oranges from Mildura to share with the people of SW QLD!! These were warmly received by those people I called on in the next couple of days.

**Green pasture in the far west**

A big highlight of the trip to Cameron's Corner was to see that many of the places in the far South West of the state had received good rain since Christmas. Some properties in the area were still in need of rain, while others had acres and acres of green feed. On one road I had to detour around a lake which had cut the road and was covered in all manner of water birds. It continues to amaze me how diverse the SW QLD patrol area can be, and how much of a difference rain can make.

**Work in the Charleville Presbyterian Church**

This year it was agreed between the PIM and the Presbyterian Church of QLD, that Andrew works for 1 week per month in the Charleville charge. So far this arrangement has worked well and it has meant that he has an extra week in Charleville while still being able to go on patrol. Having the week in town has meant that he's been able to be involved in ministry at the local nursing home, be



**One of the small lakes that has filled with water recently in far SW Qld.**

involved in school chaplaincy, and to take up a more active role in the church with preaching and Sunday school/Bible Studies.

**Praise & Prayer Points**

- Praise God for the recent rains in the west of the state, and pray that there will be follow up rain, for these stations. Pray particularly for property owners who have not yet received rain this year.
- Pray that God will continue to use us as His servants in SW QLD.
- Pray for our church here in Charleville that we will remain faithful and committed to the gospel and to serving God in the town.

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# PIM padre visits Redcliffe

Parishioners at Scarborough and Woody Point Presbyterian churches were pleased to welcome David Rodgers to their Sunday morning services on 21 January. David had not yet returned to his PIM patrol in North Queensland because of the monsoon rains in the Gulf Country. Redcliffe folk were pleased to hear a brief history of the AIM and its successor the PIM, as well as the work that the patrol padres are involved in today across Australia. One member of the congregation, Jackie Weymouth, was able to show reminiscences from her mother-in-law, Olive Barrett from Warwick, who was an AIM nurse at Hall's Creek from 1923-5.

David mentioned his background in country NSW, and practical skills which enable him to "muck in" and assist if needed on outback properties. Redcliffe people were impressed with his new slide-on camper and 4x4 patrol vehicle.

David suggested that prayer support and finance to purchase Christian materials would be most welcome as he can leave the material and discuss it on a subsequent visit.

Many people enjoyed an informal chat with David over morning tea after the service. The Redcliffe congregations will now consider ways to support PIM work and look forward to further visits from PIM padres.



**Pictured L to R: Rev. Peter and Katrina Whitney, David Rogers, and Sharon and Phillip Webster, assistant to Peter Whitney at Redcliffe Presbyterian Church.**

# Cameron and Carmel McKenzie

**G**reetings to our dear Friends and Family,

We do hope this letter finds you well and keeping in our Lord.

To date this year, we have been on 3 x 3 week patrols and we are embarking on a 6 week patrol in May/June.

Some areas of SA have had great rain but still require follow up rain, while other areas have not had any rain at all!

Our patrols are going well. We are both more relaxed when visiting people... possibly because we have met most of them now and they too are more familiar with us.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful camper. Flies multiply exponentially in the outback and for some reason they must have a trumpet call whenever someone exits their vehicle! But we got the better of them and escaped to our camper. It is a wonderful privilege to cook inside and to have an oven, which enables Carmel to cook little treats. We get a big smile when we take a cake or slice in with us for a cuppa... especially from the men who are baching!

We have also had the pleasure of spending the night at various stations and sharing a meal with them. We continue to be amazed at God's incredible timing in

putting us in the right place at the right time.

A few of us Padre's met at Cameron's Corner and camped together. It was a blessed time of fellowship and mutual encouragement. We certainly spurred each other on in the ministry and had a lot of laughs.

In the middle of our last two patrols we drove to Manilla for Carmel's sister, Tanya's wedding to David Willoughby. It was a wonderful occasion of celebration for their marriage as well as Easter. We were blessed with the time with all our family and then catching up with Cam's parents in Gilgandra on our way back to SA. We also enjoyed the pleasure of Cameron's brother Duncan visiting us in SA for a week.

**Prayer Points:**

- Thank God for the rain that has fallen in different parts of Australia
- Thank God for continued development in friendship with the country folk
- Continue to pray for rain in Australia
- Pray for Gospel opportunities

Thanks again for all of your love and support of us in our ministry with PIM.



**Padres at Cameron's Corner**

Thank you also to those of you who have supported PIM financially through donations and gifts.

May this verse below spur each of you on in your faith as we pray for others to turn and repent and eagerly await the return of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promises, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:8-9

Peace and Grace

*Cameron & Carmel Mackenzie* 

## 2007 Christmas Cards



\$5.00 per pack of 10 cards  
(with Envelopes)

Order on the Web at  
[www.pim.org.au/merchandise.htm](http://www.pim.org.au/merchandise.htm)

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Postage (Free for 3 or more otherwise \$1.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Send cards to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# Beyond the Fr



**DARWIN**  
Rob & Jeanette Duncanson

**KIMBERLEY WEST NT**  
*Vacant*



**MID WEST WA PATROL**  
*Bert & Penny Pierce*

**CENTRAL SOUTH**  
*Vacant*



**ROVING PATROL**  
*Terry & Judy Sadler*

**SOUTH EAST WA PATROL**  
*Vacant*

**PRESBYTERIAN COUNTRY  
MINISTRIES WA**



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# Presb

# Farthest Fences

**WESTERN TABLELANDS**  
*Dennis & Glenys Tranter*



**NORTH QUEENSLAND**  
*David Rodgers*



**CENTRAL & WESTERN NT**  
*Grant*

**EXPLORATORY area**  
*Henk & Henny Tiemens*



**LEICHHARDT**  
*Laurie & Gwen Peake*

**LYNN PATROL**  
*Neil Mackenzie*

**SOUTH WEST QUEENSLAND**  
*Andrew & Kerri Purcell*



**NORTH WEST NSW**  
*Dennis & Janelle Howard*

**SOUTH WEST NSW**  
*Mike & Yvonne Willsmore  
Calum & Bethany*



**MACKERSEY REGIONAL  
MINISTRY**



# Methodist Inland Mission

[pim.org.au](http://pim.org.au)

march 2007

# From the Padres

## Mid West Patrol

**T**he Mid West April Patrol was of the interior and Northern Goldfields where there are generally vast distances between stations. We were welcomed in all of our visits and had some opportunities of speaking about the Lord Jesus and in praying with the people.

I also had a wonderful opportunity to speak with primary school students in the outback towns of Wiluna, Laverton and Cosmo Newberry on the topic of communication using cartoon drawing and also gave a Christian children's talk at Mount Magnet Anglican Church.

Since arriving home we are pleased to report that we have been blessed with the birth of our grand son James Andrew Robinson to Kathleen and Andrew.

*Padre Bert Pierce  
Mid West Patrol*

## Terry Sadler

**A**nother summer garden season has come to a close but it has been another one of blessing even though we only planted half the garden and watered sparingly. Again Judy has made many batches of pickles and sweet & sour zucchini and we have given away many bags of veggies to people and businesses that support our ministry. We

had the injectors serviced on our Nissan patrol and rego inspections free of charge again. PIM is becoming well known in Narrabri and good will and encouragement is growing. It's wonderful to be greeted in the street and asked about our ministry and where it is taking place. It is now a form of deputation on the run and on the spot. May God continue to grow these opportunities for us.

Through family involvement with CWA our ministry to the real outback became known and resulted in an interesting event. While in Newcastle Judy and I had a visit from members of the Belmont Branch of CWA to find out what our ministry was about and to enquire if we could distribute funds to help people in need because of the drought. They wanted to help supply the needs such as food for people who were not receiving sufficient help. We soon received a cheque for \$3,000.00 which has gone to pay food accounts at outback stores. This \$3,000.00 in effect becomes some \$7,000.00 to that local community from the roll-on effect.

Earlier this year Judy and I attended their Craft group meeting and did deputation and again at their regular meeting the next day. They were very enthusiastic about what we did with their donation and began to collect parcels to distribute. One lady sent us a personal cheque for \$1,000.00 to help needy families. This week we took delivery of about half a ton of food and toiletries for Dennis and Janelle Howard to take out. We came home via the Golden Highway and delivered them to Dennis and Janelle. This is a partnership that we did not expect but it is a good one for both the CWA and PIM with PIM benefiting from the personal contact and ministry to these families.

## Mike Willsmore

**M**arch was a pretty ordinary month patrol wise. For two days I was rained out. It only rained for half a day on the Sunday but it was sufficient to close the roads for two days. I filled in that time going over the vehicle and also catching up on some parish paper work, including our annual budget and grant applications from the Maintenance of Ministry and Healthy Churches Committee. We also installed a computer phone that allows us

to make 10 cent calls to anywhere in Australia using the Internet.

It was good to go back and catch up with some people I hadn't seen for a while. Whilst at one property I learnt of a tragic story and was asked for advice from the property owners. A local beekeeper had been staying on the place with his bees and in conversation with the owners it came out that his baby girl had been killed in a car accident just before Christmas. His wife had been driving the vehicle when the front of the drive shaft broke, dropping down into the road surface and acting like a pole vault catapulting the vehicle end on end. The wife was injured but okay, the baby died. It was their only child. The husband was not coping well and the owners were concerned about him. So I talked to them about the situation for a while before leaving them with some contact details for various health professionals in Mildura who are specifically trained to deal with this kind of thing.

I was also asked by the property owners in the area to write a letter of concern to the local State MP (Nationals John Williams) about the state of the Arumpo Road. This is the main road from Mildura out to Mungo National Park. I was glad to do so as it is by far the worst road in my patrol area with some potholes big enough to hide a car in. Each year there are several accidents on this road, usually tourists, and there is no communication out of the area unless you have a HF Radio, which most don't. One woman and her daughter from Germany rolled their car and were not found for half a day, and only then because a property owner happened to cross the road near where the accident happened and saw the damaged car.



## Letters

*To PIM office  
PO Box 375 KILSYTH 3137*

*PO BOX  
A town in country Queensland  
5-4-07*

## Donation for Darwin Church

Please accept this small donation toward the Darwin Presbyterian Church (Rob Duncanson).

So pleased that Darwin has finally got a Presbyterian Church.

How about Broome, Kununurra, Nhulumbly etc?

God Willing

Yours faithfully

A FRIEND OF THE PIM

## Church drought help

**C**hristian volunteers are planning to do their bit to aid farmers struggling in the drought.

Members of the Sunraysia and Finley Presbyterian churches are travelling to Bunnerungee to help station owners

# Bunnerungie Station Work Party Project Report

**T**he initial aim was to provide assistance to Phil and Chris in the construction of a machinery shed that Phil had been struggling to complete on his own over the past 12 months and so model in a practical way the love of Christ.

## Practical Outcomes

**O**n the practical side my desire was to get as much work completed on the shed as we could within the time we had available. Phil had started to build it probably two years ago on weekends and holidays with his son, but then his son went off to University and got a job. They couldn't afford to pay anyone to help because of the drought and so the work had stalled. So our primary aim was to help Phil get that job out of the way. But it all came together so well that we were able to let the two carpenters and another man who had experience in house renovations get to work on the homestead bathroom. This was another project that had been on the go for several years but not completed because of the drought.

Meanwhile I went with some of the others who weren't working on the shed to do the fencing. The fencing became necessary with the opening of a sand mine about 50km up the road. This brought about an increase in traffic along that particular road. Up until then the fence was not required. But with the additional traffic more and more stock were getting hit and killed and that means a loss of profit and income for the owners. So the fence became a necessity.

This kind of work on your own would have to rate as the most boring job in the world (seriously!). It is hot, hard, tedious work and painful on the fingers and hands too! Yet with several of you working on it together it wasn't that bad and once we got the hang of using the fencing tools we covered some ground. One of the Finley men was able to weld up two additional tools and this allowed four people to work on the fence at a time.

Attaching strainers to a fence might not seem like much but we saved Hayden about five weeks of work if he had to do it on his own.

## Ministry Blessings

**W**hen we began to plan this project I had one goal in mind as far as Christian ministry went. That was to

demonstrate Christian love to people in need in terms of the words of 1 John 3:16 and 17: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." From this I had hoped we would be able to talk more about the gospel itself at a later date or as opportunity arose. We certainly achieved this goal.

It is interesting to consider several things that happened over the course of that week involving Phil and Chris. On the Monday afternoon when we arrived I took a photo of the shed with just the frame. If you look at that photo you will see a very anxious looking Chris and Phil standing there. If you then listen to the radio interview of Phil you will hear him exclaim at the end of his interview, almost in disbelief, that the shed is finished. Then on the Friday morning as they were leaving the people from Finley dropped back in to say goodbye to Phil and Chris and they tell me Phil was outside gazing up at the shed, again with a sense of disbelief. To me this speaks volumes about the impact we made on them.

I was asked to prepare some devotional studies for the week and I chose Nehemiah because of the obvious connection to what we were doing (us building a shed and Nehemiah building a wall). So the focus was on building and teamwork. As the week went on I began to see the practical outworking in what we were doing of the very principles Nehemiah applied to his task in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

But there were some additional ministry blessings I had not considered.

First there was the excellent coverage of what we were doing by ABC Radio. Initially this was just through the local ABC Radio in Mildura and Swan Hill. But then The Victorian Country Hour ran the story as well. Then Radio National included it in one of their weekly programs that is aired nationally. ABC Radio also interviewed the minister from Finley shortly after he returned home and that has led to an increased awareness of the Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Inland Mission across Australia. The local paper also ran the story prior to us going

and that too generated some interest locally and indirectly brought one new person along to our church.

Then there was the blessing gained by the folk from Finley who came along. They were blessed as they gave of their time to assist Phil and Chris, Hayden and Fiona. They also got to know each other that much better and I believe relationships between individuals were only strengthened as a result.

The other outcome that arose from the project was the blessing it brought to those folk from Finley who have their own problems with the drought. One thing that tends to happen when you are facing problems or becoming depressed because of those problems is that you become inward looking, and feel as if you are the only person in the world who is struggling with those things. One way to combat that is to help take that person's mind off their problems by getting them involved in something else. Getting them to mix with others facing the same or similar problems also helps. You can pick something of this up when you listen to Gary Fischer's comments when he was interviewed. The reporter asked him why he came. Gary answered, to have a break and because I'm not the only farmer in trouble.

By the end of the week word had spread to the neighbours about what was going on and a number of them dropped in. Again the long-term effect this will have on them spiritually should not be underestimated. I know, because I overheard, but more than one could not believe a church would get in and do something like this and at least one person was heard to say it was enough to get him thinking about his own relationship with God.

## Summary

**I** was extremely pleased with the way everything came together and ran so smoothly. This no doubt was the result of much prayer and careful planning and lots of communication.

I estimate that it took up at least 3 weeks of my time immediately prior to us going. So it was very time consuming. At the same time it was well worth the effort.

I would be happy to undertake a project like this once a year in my patrol area. I would like to see another project done somewhere else in NSW each year as well.

*Michael Willsmore*

*The PIM is the successor ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Australia to the Australian Inland Mission founded in 1912 with the Rev. Dr John Flynn as its organising agent and First Superintendent.*

*The PIM is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. The PIM has an expanding network of patrol ministries in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. The PIM Committee is actively moving toward the establishment of work in the Northern Territory, is discussing new work in Victoria and seeking the reviving/expansion of its ministry in Tasmania. The PIM is also involved in a growing range of car-*

*ing/philanthropic/community assistance activities - including the provision of relief to assist with the impact of drought, isolation, suffering and medical emergencies. These ministries and activities are offered freely to all and any of the people of the great Outback and Inland of the Commonwealth of Australia, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. For many who live within the ever expanding ministry areas of the PIM, life is very hard indeed. This makes the labour of the patrol teams of the PIM more and more demanding but also increasingly important, as by the power of the Holy Spirit they touch a growing number of people with Christian love.*

## PIM Highlights

**W**e are thankful to the Lord to be able to bring the some of the highlights of PIM ministry since 2004 to the attention of the readers of *On Track*:

1. Multitudes of pastoral visits by PIM Padres in which the love of the Lord Jesus Christ has been demonstrated by word and deed and more and more of the people of the Outback helped and encouraged.
2. Active and planned PIM ministry in every State and in the Northern Territory for the first time since before 1977.
3. Widespread and growing support base for the work of PIM through the Presbyterian Church of Australia and beyond.
4. Many churches, the PWMU, PWA's,

Presbyteries and other church organisations have held PIM deputation meetings and "Good News for the Bush" events.

5. The highly effective ministry of the 'Roving Padre', our travelling PIM deputationalists, the Rev. Terry and Mrs. Judy Sadler.
6. PIM Advocates have been appointed in nearly every Presbytery in Australia.
7. Finance: Donations up by 150.52%. Investment income up by 133.7%.
8. Patrol areas (Full Time Equivalent Positions) up by 93% including vacancies - excluding vacancies up by 101%. Field workers up by 71%
9. Remote community PIM mission church recommenced at Darwin after a break of over 10 years.
10. Outstanding safety record given

the thousands and thousands of kilometres travelled.

11. Growing numbers of families and children helped during the dreadful drought through very generous donations received for PIM diaconal funds/drought relief activities.
  12. The very evident warmth and deep bond shared between Padres and the wider Presbyterian Church of Australia.
  13. The establishment of VISION 21 which aims to further advance the social mission of PIM.
  14. The adoption of an active policy of the preservation of the capital of the PIM with \$124 000 being set aside for this purpose in 2006
- This is the LORD'S doing and it is marvellous in our eyes! ot

# Your response

**YES!** I want to help the PIM take Christ beyond the furthest fences!

- I WILL PRAY with thanks for past blessings to the PIM:
- That the Lord will keep the PIM patrol teams safe and fruitful in their ministries
  - That the Lord would supply everything necessary for the opening of new patrols and ministries
  - That the Lord give wisdom to those who seek to lead and administer the PIM
  - That the Lord increase the knowledge of and support for the PIM in the Church
  - That the Lord will help the PIM to be gospel-focussed and ministry-minded

I WILL GIVE so please use my donation where it will be most needed in PIM gospel work.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION.

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 How I can donate shares to the PIM

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