



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia Issue 59 September 2023

Psalm 21:13 Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength; we will sing and praise your might.

We live in a society, so strongly influenced through public and social media, that refuses to acknowledge God as Creator and the One who continues to sustain his creation, and rule it for his own sovereign purposes. Our culture doesn't want there to be such a God because we don't want to think that we would have to stand before him one day to give account of how we have lived in his world! We insist on attributing all 'climate change' to human interference and we refuse to hear the voice of God speaking loudly and clearly to us through 'natural' disasters. We deny the reality of any super-natural interference in our purely 'natural', 'scientific' world. We have no room for 'God', the 'Creator-Ruler', in our completely 'man-centred' worldview.

But, this is the context in which we must sing with conviction, certainty and enthusiasm, "Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength", and to declare openly and confidently to a confused and sceptical world, "We will sing and praise your might." This is even more binding for us than it was for David because we have seen God's might and glory so powerfully displayed in the life and words of Jesus, his Incarnate Son. As the disciple John declares: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Can we truly say with the apostle Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:17), and, as a test, does every part of our lives demonstrate to our family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues, that we do really believe it? Let us not let silence or fear of contradiction prevent the world from hearing this important truth! God, the Holy Spirit can use it to bring about revival, as he has often done throughout human history. "Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength; we will sing and praise your might." Will we?

— Bruce Christian

<https://ap.org.au/2023/08/26/todays-quick-word-304/>

Vale Ian Robbie

Mr Ian Robbie, a founding congregation member of The Presbyterian Church in South Australia at Para Hills, a well-respected long term Church Elder and Treasurer, sadly passed away peacefully, surrounded within the love and care of his adored wife Ann and the beautiful staff of Dunbar Homes, on 14/7/23, at the Church's social outreach Residential Aged Care Facility located in Salisbury SA, Dunbar Homes Incorporated.



Ian was a Member of the Board of Management of Dunbar Homes Incorporated since 1978 when the facility was located in Unley SA, with Ian overseeing the move from Unley to Salisbury in 1990, where the Facility remains today. Ian was a driving force behind the renovations undertaken at the Salisbury site during 2004-2006, almost becoming the adopted Site Foreman due to his passion and immense pride! Ian was appointed as Chair of the Board in 2013 on the passing of the Late David Mailler. Ian's contribution and stewardship over the years has been exemplary. Ian also chose to volunteer at Dunbar Homes, supporting the residents with fun and games at the 'Men's Group' also enjoying chatting to the residents, learning about their lives and providing friendship and companionship. Ian took great pride in sharing his love and faith in the Lord with his Dunbar Family at the Church Service which is held every Thursday on site.

Ian will be sadly missed by all here at Dunbar Homes and will be fondly remembered as the 'quiet achiever' he was in his lifetime of Service.

Cathy Power
Chief Executive Officer
Dunbar Homes Incorporated
11 Mawson Road, Salisbury SA 5108
Ph: 0411 441 844
Office: 08 82823444

Words Worth Thinking About

"It doesn't matter how complicated, how desperate, perhaps even hopeless your life has become. No matter how overwhelmed you may feel by your problems, if your trust is in Jesus Christ, you can be sure that he is praying for you now and through that prayer he will provide for you the resources to bring you relief or enable you to carry on. The most important thing that you and I need to learn about prayer is this: first of all and ultimately, prayer is not something we do but what Jesus does for us."

Richard B. Gaffin
"Christ, Our High Priest in Heaven"
<http://firstimportance.org/the-prayer-of-our-high-priest/>

Naracoorte

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Many members of the congregation spent a great time of fellowship at the new café in Naracoorte, which is in the plant nursery and has a lovely outlook; it overlooks the plants, trees and roses etc. We had a table for the men so they could fellowship together and a table for the ladies. It was enjoyed by all who attended.



Men enjoying afternoon tea and fellowship



Ladies at afternoon tea

We were blessed to have Rev Rudi Schwartz with us for a month in June

and are very happy he is with us again until 17th September. Praise the Lord for His provision for our congregation. A congregation luncheon was held at the Caves Café on the 18th June, while Rudi was with us so he could fellowship with most of the congregation.

We celebrated Ross Bain's 90th birthday in early June with a delicious chocolate cake made by Julie McLean.

KYB is going strong with up to 10 -12 members meeting weekly, a few are from other churches in Naracoorte. Our study this term is "Finding Treasure – Christ in the Old Testament" and is very enlightening.



Ross Bain's 90th Birthday

Pat Leitch

Editor's note:

It would be appreciated if the churches who do not have anyone writing articles for SA News could please ask around and try and find someone to send in articles. The articles do not have to be very long and can even be short dot points letting everyone know what is happening in your church. An article can include special events such as weddings, baptisms, new members. Also anything special the congregation is doing or participating in or any events in the life of the church. Articles can be sent to me by the due date to: pcsanews@bigpond.com

Bonnington is back with PIM

The Presbyterian Inland Mission is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev Stuart Bonnington as our new, full-time Superintendent.



Stuart has served as a local church pastor in both Western Australia and Victoria since 1990 and will take up his appointment as Superintendent in January 2024.

Stuart has a long-standing love for Gospel ministry in remote and outback Australia. He served part-time as PIM Superintendent from 2005 - 2015, during which time he was involved in a wide range of new initiatives for PIM, including the establishment of the

Mount Magnet patrol, developing the initial vision for the Snowy Mountains Patrol and holding the memorable centenary celebrations of the Australian Inland Mission in 2012.

Stuart is greatly looking forward to helping PIM ministry teams to make disciples (Matthew 28), and in further developing New Dunesk to 'inspire, equip and send out' people for Gospel work in Australia.

He is eager to continue to grow support from the PCA and engage with people, organisations and congregations Australia wide, working together in partnership to reach into the regions beyond with the word of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:16).

Stuart will succeed Hugh Castleden who has been PIM's CEO since 2022. The PIM Committee wishes to extend their deepest thanks to Hugh for his service to the Mission, and especially for his help in navigating through these changes to our governance structure. The introduction of a Superintendent is the first step of this restructure that aims to strengthen PIM's ministry focus across all areas of the organisation.

For the remainder of 2023, Les Fowler will step into the role of Interim Superintendent as PIM transitions to this new governance structure and prepares for Stuart's commencement in 2024. Les is a long-term supporter of PIM, having served on the Committee in past years. The PIM committee extend their thanks to Les for assisting in this transition process.

Stuart will be attending the General Assembly of Australia (GAA) in Sydney in September and is eager to meet as many friends and supporters of the PIM as possible. If you would like to organise a time to meet, or to simply have a chat, please call him on 0400 012 865 or email superintendent@pim.org.au. He is eager to hear from you.



— *worth driving for* —

*The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.*

Narelle Chai has been nurturing an orange citrus tree down the side of the Mount Magnet church building. The leaves are green and beautiful oranges hang from the branches.

A growing tree bearing fragrant fruit forms an apt metaphor for the mission of Alvin and Narelle in the most remote and isolated ministry of the Presbyterian Church through the PIM. It is a vital work that needs to be further nurtured and strengthened. On the nearly thousand-kilometre journey along the Great Northern Highway from Dalwallinu in the WA Wheatbelt to Newman in the Pilbara, the *only* full-time resident Christian



The Orange Tree



Alvin and Narelle Chai

ministry you will encounter is the Mount Magnet Church/Mid West Patrol of the PIM.

Through intentional evangelism and discipleship among the Magnet community, station residents and those who travel up and down the Great Northern Highway, fruit is being borne for the Kingdom of God.

C., a local indigenous woman, has received the gospel in clarity and truth and seeks to minister among her people and school children. The Warramboe Christian Youth Group meets regularly to know Jesus and make Jesus known. A well-attended Bible study attracts a

membership eager to grow in the Christian faith. Sunday church attracts local

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solid support with a steady stream of children attending the Sunday school. In all this, Alvin and Narelle have a joint ministry of personal encouragement, pastoral support and Christian friendship to the community in general, exemplified by Narelle's work at the Regional Aboriginal Medical Service in Mount Magnet and in the even more remote town of Meekatharra, two hours to the north. The September holiday children's club, run with a ministry team from the Christian Reformed Church of Canning (Perth), greatly encourages the Church and community alike.

The ministry context in the Outback is challenging, confronting and discouraging, but despite it all, lives have been and are being changed through the grace of the Lord Jesus. The tree is planted and growing, producing good fruit at Mount Magnet.

Please pray for Alvin and Narelle as they seek to make Christ known in outback WA. For those planning a trip through Western Australia, put a visit to Mount Magnet on your to-do list – Alvin and Narelle and the local church family are always encouraged by the fellowship with other Christians that pass through. To subscribe to regular email updates or to financially support this Gospel work in Mount Magnet, visit pim.org.au.

Mount Gambier

This term our Growth Groups are studying the first seven chapters of Proverbs with the title "The Tree Of Life". Chapters 1-7 are titled "Counsel From Home". Gary Ware produces the Study Guides each term for us to study.

Coffee and Craft members have been busy this year making articles for the Christmas Boxes and are currently busy packing the Christmas Boxes to be sent away. They have also been busy knitting squares for rugs to be given to aged care residents. Coffee and Craft meet every week on Wednesday morning and the ladies work on knitting, crocheting and other crafts.

Recently, one of our dear members, Joan Ferguson, passed away at the age of 98. She had been working on clown toys for the Christmas Boxes and hadn't quite finished them. They still needed to be sewn up and this was undertaken by several ladies from Coffee and Craft so that these soft toys could be included in this year's boxes.

The photo on the right shows the soft clown toys along with some of the rugs that have been made during the year.

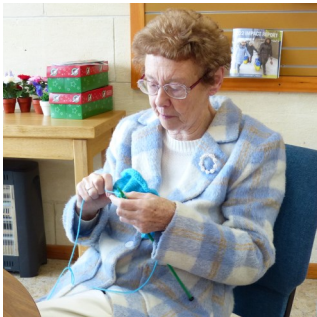


Mount Gambier cont.

Below are photos of Yvonne Cherryman, on the left, and Kerry Norman, on the right, packing Christmas Boxes.



Below are photos of the ladies at Coffee and Craft working on their craft work.



Timor Leste: Equipping the Leaders and Providing Resources



You may not realise it, but in terms of theological resources, Christians in Australia are incredibly blessed. We have access to thousands of books in English and other common languages. We have a relative wealth of excellent theological colleges from which to choose, in addition to all the resources and materials on the internet.

It's not like that in Timor Leste, and a number of other countries across the globe. The number of books in the Tetun language is probably around one thousand and a very small proportion of those books are for Christians. So what is being done to help our brothers and sisters in a country where the Protestant churches are a small minority in a culture that follows a mixture of Roman Catholicism and animism?

Training

As you may be aware, APWM Associate Missionary David Burke and Church Missionary Society Missionaries Chris and Grace Adams (Anglican) and Chris and Julie Dean (Presbyterian), together with local

church leaders, are piloting a local training scheme for pastors and other leaders.

A pilot training week took place in late August, aimed at equipping the church pastors who have the least training. It is planned that in 2024 this will develop into six one-week intensive courses. Participants won't receive any accredited recognition for this training but will be equipped to better teach the Bible and lead the people of God. This is an incredibly exciting development for the church and in the words of the Moderator Pastor Carlos Marcal this is training 'By Timor Leste, for Timor Leste'.

Resources

Scripture Union Timor Leste, plays a pivotal role in the production of Biblical teaching materials. A few years ago Scripture Union published a Tetun translation of the popular *The Big Picture Story Bible*. Scripture Union works very closely with our partner in Timor Leste, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

Through funding from a 2021 PresAID Appeal, Scripture Union produced a series of training resources that seek to equip Sunday School teachers across Timor Leste's protestant churches, in the use of *The Big Picture Story Bible*, thus sowing gospel seeds in the minds of young people as well as providing an overview of the Bible for adults.

Training days are also being conducted in the use of *The Big Picture Story Bible* curriculum for

children's ministry. In addition to these materials, there are approximately six other Bible resources in the pipeline.



Scripture Union Sunday School Materials

We are seeking to play our part in training local believers and providing them with the resources so that they can be equipped to carry out the ministry. These are exciting days!

Matt & Kate Vinicombe Update



Thank you very much for the individuals and congregations who gave so generously to the appeal for Matt and Kate Vinicombe. Our goal of \$800,000 was exceeded! Through gifts from members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Bundoora Presbyterian Church (their home congregation) and the Church Missionary Society, \$1,130,590 was given toward the purchase of a suitable house.

Kate has moved to the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Center meaning that she now has her own room and is spending a lot more time in an electric

wheelchair. This makes for more enjoyable family visits.

Matt and the children have moved into rental accommodation while they search for a suitable house to purchase and modify.

Please join us in praying that:

- There will be no further need for surgery.
- Kate will adapt well to using the electric wheelchair.
- The family would adapt to their new life and routines.

'Let's Light Up Talua' Target Exceeded!



Again, we praise God for the generosity of His people in supporting the project to install solar power at the Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu.

Rob Falls writes "Some time in the next twelve months, Talua will receive a huge solar farm that will give 24/7 power to the campus, and thus transform the living and learning at the Institute. THANK YOU to everyone who gave, and gave so generously." Gifts to the PresAID Easter Appeal exceeded the target and this has enabled the solar system to be upgraded with the provision of:

- additional solar panels

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Karnkendi Campsite

Once again it has been a busy season with bookings pushing into the colder months. Beaconhills Christian College from Melbourne witnessed some of the nastiest weather South West Victoria could dish up as they ran their outdoors programme into the Lower Glenelg National Park and Great South West Walk. This saw them pull out of town in coaches, mini buses and utes towing canoes and bikes in late May.

My Dad's Old Time Music Group with friends had a lovely time on the weekend of 16th-18th June, getting the home fires burning with BYO soups and casseroles etc, to keep them well fed as they jammed away. They have rebooked to have a smaller event planned for the 15th -17th of September.

The long awaited return of the Mount Gambier Tenison Woods Catholic College finally came off for the Junior Music camp on the 29th-30th June with 40 students and staff attending. Catering was provided by a couple from the Portland area who stayed at the Cottage. Lovely reports of the stay being well received by all who attended. It was good to hear as they filled the Nelson Church with music for the final time, with it being auctioned off on the 29th July.

Things are normally pretty quiet in July but we saw the return of the local Well Being Group from the Millicent / Mount Gambier area that had complete families staying for the 14th-15th July weekend which has "Siblings that care" now returning in the Sept/ Oct School holidays.

The 21st-25th Sept will see long time users – The Branhholme Craft ladies come back as they gather in the front room with all their craft activities. This being the main annual event for their little group.

October has the return of Big Heart Adventures from Adelaide with their group of seniors on guided tours of the Great South West walk on the 16th-17th followed by a Thai family group from Melbourne in on the 25th-27th.

November has Beyond limits (which focuses on the health and well being of children / young adults) from Adelaide who are in from the 7th-9th followed by the long waited return of the Limestone Coast Home schoolers with their varied range of families who were long time users of the camp. This is their first camp back post Covid. A big effort will be required from the cleaning department for this group.

Around the camp we have 2 new outside picnic tables. An inspection of the main roof has that holding up but with plans at foot to start looking to re-roof the two outer dorm cabins.

On Thursday 10th of August we had a meeting with the Glenelg Shire Health Officer Mr Aaron Kennett , Rev. Alan Clarkson and Rev Gary Ware to discuss the planned upgrades to the kitchen sink benches and what will be required in a mainly self catered area.

Tye's Plumbing from Mount Gambier is now booked to come down in the next week to install an instant gas water heater for the kitchen being stage 1 for the internal upgrades which will see the corner electric hot water service removed to get a lovely flowing corner area for a stainless washing up and preparation

bench top with an under bench dishwasher.

We now start cleaning up the grounds and getting ready for what will be another exciting year in providing the camp to assist in the Lord's work.

The cottage is vacant at this time but we have a Christian family (4) relocating from the west Wimmera town of Rainbow looking to settle in the area and buy a property but to rent initially. They stayed in the cottage for 4 days in mid June and are moving in on the 8th of September so we are busy getting window screens repaired, cleaning and painting in readiness for their arrival.

Thank you once again for all the support and prayer in providing this facility to enrich the lives of so many and if you wish to book for a stay in Nelson as the weather gets warmer please do not hesitate to call Heather on 0448 871 225 .

Harvey and Heather McBain
Caretakers



Karnkendi kitchen before the upgrade

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- additional batteries
- a lightning arrester
- electrical sub-boards

And money has also been set aside for ongoing maintenance of the system. The materials for the system are currently being ordered prior to shipping to Vanuatu.

Depending on the shipping times, it is hoped that the installation team from Australia will travel to Talua in late October/early November 2023 for an installation that could take up to two weeks.

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PRAYER POINTS

- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton; that they will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for Bible Studies being held; that people may come to a deeper knowledge of God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- Pray for all security forces around the world working to prevent violence and destruction, that our Lord will lead and guide them in their work, even though they may not know Him.
- Intercede for the Defence and Police forces and all emergency services.
- Uphold in prayer your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- Pray for people living in remote and rural parts of South Australia with little access to the Gospel. Pray for PIM and the churches in SA to find effective ways to make disciples amongst these people.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for 'M' serving in west Asia.
- Pray for the Naracoorte Church; congregation and elders.
- Pray for the Norwood Church; Davo & Megan Gunning; congregation and elders.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Moderator Davo Gunning; Clerk Gary Ware.
- Pray for the APWM office, Kevin Murray (Director)
- 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 hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers.
- Pray for Christian witness in primary and secondary schools (especially your local ones) through believing pupils, parents, staff and visiting teachers.
- Pray for Jeroen & Diana as they work in Papua New Guinea.
- Please be in prayer for pastors and leaders in Ukraine, that they would know how to best care for their flock.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier Church; Gary and Margaret Ware; congregation and elders.
- Pray for Pat Leitch as she serves in South Korea.

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 December 2023 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 20th November 2023.**

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SA News is a publication of the Presbytery of South Australia.