



# SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia Issue 63 September 2024



## The Dead People In My Phone

I am relieved to know that I am not the only person whose phone contains dead people. Quick online searches reveal many who are reluctant to delete the details of those who have died, from their electronic contact lists. I am one of those people.

Seeing those names is an incidental activity. Usually I want to call, message or email someone. As I scroll through names I am reminded of relationships that span decades, including a growing number of those who have departed this life. Later I'll revisit those memories; the circumstances in which we met, times we've shared together, their death.

From time to time I wonder why I don't delete these contacts. It's not because I'm a terrible administrator (though I am a terrible administrator). It's not because of some phobia. It's because I like them being there. I like these unplanned and random remembrances of friends departed.

Deleting their names would take these encounters away. And it would make them seem to be gone. But they're not really gone.

Jesus recalled that God spoke of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob saying 'I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob', not that he 'had been' their God. Jesus believed that God spoke that way because Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, along with all of the faithful, had not departed to non-existence but still existed in relationship with God.

It always makes me a bit sad when I attend funerals of folk who I know believe in a life beyond this one, but those gathered get told the only way they now exist is in memories. That's not the belief that sustained these Christians through life and comforted them as they faced the grave.

I don't keep their contacts in my phone because my memories of these friends are all that exists of them.

I keep them because each contact reminds me to live and die believing that through trust in Jesus who is the resurrection and the life, our lives continue in relationship with God beyond the grave. And each name reminds me that our contact, though interrupted, will one day resume.

Gary Ware

## Mount Gambier

This term our Growth Groups are studying chapters 8 -16 of Proverbs with the title "The Tree Of Life". Chapters 8 –16 are titled "Wisdom Calling". Gary Ware produces the Study Guides each term for us to study.

Christina and Jasper Murcott were both baptised on 30<sup>th</sup> June, Christina's was an adult baptism and Jasper's was an infant baptism. Helene Cooper was welcomed into membership on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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.

## Penola

Greetings from the Penola folk.

Since the last report, we have had services every Sunday, including a Communion Service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Brendan has been preaching from Nehemiah and John in the last few weeks.

We make a point of ringing the bell each Sunday morning, calling people to come to worship. Recently we had a Baptist Minister in our congregation. He was passing through Penola and hoped to join in with a Protestant Church Service on his way home! As ours was the only Protestant Church open in town, he joined in with us and stayed for a chat and morning tea after the service. God is so good to us! It is such a blessing to have visitors who join our services.

Several of our members are elderly and are now in full time care and we remember them in our prayers.

Barbara Provis

## Seacliff

The church at Seacliff continues to move forward in several ways. Under our new minister Jordan Brown, we undertook a two day process during which a large proportion of the congregation met at a nearby church to prayerfully consider who we are and what God has called us to be.

This process resulted in the formulation of statements under those headings which we believe are to guide our work as God's people over the next few years.

**Mission** — "Why do we exist?"

*To love, serve and proclaim Jesus Christ, to the glory of God*

**Values** — "What matters to us"

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*\*Growing together through Bible teaching and being transformed as disciples*

*\*Welcoming people of all backgrounds and ages*

*\*Adapting ourselves to pursue our church's mission*

*\*Praying fervently in humble dependence on God*

*\*Proclaiming Christ in Seacliff and to the ends of the earth*

**2027 Vision** — “What it could look like”

By 2027, we want to see:

*Multiple people being saved!*

*New people coming and feeling at home,*

*growing and joining us as prayerful disciples,*

*as we train godly leaders to multiply gospel ministry.*

At Seacliff we dearly cherish sound Bible teaching, and desire this to lead to spiritual growth. Also necessary for growth is learning together, and from each other, as “disciples” of Jesus, and so involvement in church Growth Groups is very important to us.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August we had a special time after the service when these Mission, Vision and Values statements were presented to all the congregation and received positive reception. The next steps to translate this vision into reality involve making strategic plans and taking action.

One of these actions will take the form of a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the Seacliff Hall, which begins its centennial year this October. We intend to hold a celebration in the new year, with an evangelistic focus, and a special ‘looking back, looking forward’ day to celebrate and present to the community a ‘new look’ Seacliff. This will involve much preparation and plans are being prepared for much needed preparation of the property, painting especially and advertising.

Our congregation has welcomed some new people over the past several months and all share in our after-service suppers. Several of the younger members of the congregation have become more involved in the everyday running of the church which has been of blessing to them and to all.

We have established a new children’s area in our old office area, with Song Ai Brown taking on the role of Children’s ministry coordinator.

As our church has only one local elder the presbytery has approved the establishment of a ‘Leadership Team’ who will meet regularly with the minister to support the work of the church. This group will work alongside the Session and the Committee of Management.

On the whole, many small steps are taking place to bring the church forward, and there is a firm sense of hope for the future. We pray, and trust, that under God, the gospel will go out from our church into our surrounding community and beyond for many more years.

Heather Blunt

The Lord has continued to bless us and direct us as part of His church. In July Rev Gary Ware conducted a Communion service and we are thankful for his spiritual support over recent years. We have been privileged to have Rev Rudi Schwartz back to preach for 3 weeks during the July / August period again. He has been returning every 2 months for a stint in the pulpit & assistance with visiting church members who are unable to come to church. However, this time Rudi has gone back to Bathurst to pack his belongings! He has been eager to return to Naracoorte and felt the call to follow through – Rudi is coming back to assist in the ministry of the church and will take up residence with his wife, Heila, at the beginning of September. (Rudi was our minister from 2000 – 2002.) He has indicated his willingness to give us the next 2 years of ministry. His Induction Service is to be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm with afternoon tea to follow. We are so grateful that the Lord has enabled this to happen, and welcome you to join us for his Induction Service.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> August Pat Leitch and myself headed to Bordertown to help Rachel Joyce celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Rachel is now resident in Aged Care at Charla Lodge. Rachel attended our church and was an enthusiastic starter for any activities arranged by our church family. The Lord has blessed her with 90 wonderful years.

Our Elders have upheld our congregation, church administration and the delivery of services while we have been without a minister for 9 years. Thank you for your commitment and support – a great effort in His service. We also thank Rev Gary Ware who has been Interim Moderator of the Naracoorte Parish over this time of vacancy.

As we write this news, we are looking forward to the CWCI Safari visiting Naracoorte on 29<sup>th</sup> August. There will be 2 events, one during the morning and one in the evening to cater for those who are unable to attend during the day. More about these events next time.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.....

Julie McLean & Pat Leitch



— *worth driving for* —

## Make a plan for Tracks: Outback Concert! 5 October 2024

The Presbyterian Inland Mission warmly invites you to make a plan with your friends, your family or your church to attend *Tracks: Outback Concert* at New Dunesk. Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from a fantastic lineup of Australian country singers, including *MayFair Lane*, *McQuoid's Offering* and *Zoe Tyne*.

**Registrations for *Tracks: Outback Concert* are now open.**

Tickets: \$60 per person - children under 18 attend for free!

Tickets include free camping onsite at New Dunesk from Friday 4th - Sunday 6th October.

To book: [www.pim.org.au/event/tracks/](http://www.pim.org.au/event/tracks/)

Other highlights of the weekend will include:

- A meet and greet with many of PIM's ministry teams to hear about the work they are doing across Australia.

- 4WD guided tours of New Dunesk, and self-guided bushwalks following the *Ridgeline Map* trail.

- A range of kids activities, including a colouring competition.

- Saturday and Sunday morning prayer meetings on the ridgeline.

- Launch of the PIM Anthem '*For the Inland*'.

- An informal campfire Open Mic on Saturday evening

- Onsite church service on Sunday morning.

**For more information and to book your tickets, visit [www.pim.org.au/event/tracks/](http://www.pim.org.au/event/tracks/)**

**Questions? Email [events@pim.org.au](mailto:events@pim.org.au) or call Superintendent Stuart on 0438 868 964.**

Presbyterian Inland Mission presents

# Tracks

## Outback Concert

*5 October 2024*

*New Dunesk, Ardlethan NSW*

Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from a fantastic lineup of Australian country and gospel singers.

**Tickets: \$60pp**

Children under 18 attend for free!

[pim.org.au/event/tracks](http://pim.org.au/event/tracks)  
[events@pim.org.au](mailto:events@pim.org.au)



At Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM), our vision is to see people living in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia become mature and faithful followers of Jesus.

New Dunesk is the home of PIM – a place for the whole church to be inspired, equipped and sent out for ministry across Australia.

Find out more at [pim.org.au](http://pim.org.au)



## Karnkendi Campsite

A sincere thank you to the many members of the PCSA for your constant prayers for Heather and I as we dealt with surgery in Geelong with a Stoma reversal on 8<sup>th</sup> August, recovery has been slow but giving things time to heal.

Winter is traditionally a quiet time at the camp with the exception of my Dad's regular Old time music weekend on 14-16<sup>th</sup> June, it was a lovely weekend enjoyed in stunning weather with folk coming from both SA and Vic. The Saturday afternoon concert saw 50 attend the big event which also saw my Mum Barbara and Dad Donald cut a cake to celebrate 60 blessed years together.

The following week saw a group of ministers from western Victoria stay over 3 days for a retreat, glowing reviews will hopefully see their church groups book the facility in the future.

Groups just kept on booking for July. This saw 3 more groups to finalise our camp year, the 6<sup>th</sup> had the new users of the Kingsley SES Cadets from the Port Mac Donnell / Allendale area which will see more usage of the camp as it was perfectly suited for their group.

From the 8-12<sup>th</sup> we had another new user group Students Explore Australia from the Adelaide area and this will definitely lead to more of their groups heading our way. The 26-28<sup>th</sup> a small group of ladies from western Victoria enjoyed a weekend of sewing and craft in the front lounge with the fire keeping them warm. They had a wonderful stay also celebrating Christmas in July, decorating the camp and fancy dress to match.

The last week of July saw the long awaited wet areas of the kitchen being pulled out. Looking a bit like a demolition site (photos on the next page), we now have the new plumbing set into the walls which has included getting a sink to the oven end of the room to reduce the risk of dropping boiling pots; cupboard bases have been installed with room for a purchased dishwasher and in the last few days the electrical supply and lighting have been upgraded.

The new stainless bench tops are being manufactured as I type, all of which will truly lift the quality of the facility. Hopefully all will be at least usable for the next group in on the 6-8<sup>th</sup> of September which is a smaller rerun of my Dad's Music mates followed by long time users of the camp the Branholme Craft ladies in from the 19-23<sup>rd</sup> then the month rounds off with the Bordertown Trinity Church family camp in from the 27-29<sup>th</sup>.

There are at this stage no bookings for October but November has 3 groups in over 17 nights which is a blessed return of groups.

Heather and I are so excited to be a part of the Kitchen upgrades that has seen funding being supplied in the Lord's grace.

Harvey and Heather McBain  
Karnkendi Caretakers.  
Nelson







**APWM**  
Australian Presbyterian  
World Mission

## 100 Bibles for 100 Villages

Christians in remote villages in the African country of Malawi have a deep need for Bibles. These are people who have little income and cannot afford a Bible.

Can you please help meet their need?

APWM is seeking to raise funds to buy 100 Bibles for each of 100 remote villages in Malawi. That's a total of 10,000 Chichewa-language Bibles!



The Rev John Wilson, APWM's Malawi representative presenting a Bible in 2023

In mid-2025, we're planning to send a small Australian team to work with our partners from the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, to distribute the Bibles and provide some training in Bible reading.

To watch a video about this project please go to <https://vimeo.com/994971825>

If you would like to make a donation, you can give:

### Online

Go to [www.apwm.org.au/finance/](http://www.apwm.org.au/finance/) where you can use one of the options.

The easiest option for many is direct deposit.

Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission

BSB: 032 260

Account Number: 151207

Please write 'Malawi Bibles' in the description box. If you'd like a receipt please send an email to [finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au) letting us know you've made the donation.

### Cheque

Send a cheque to:

APWM National 1 Clarence Street  
Burwood NSW 2134

Please make your cheque payable to 'APWM'.

Please note that donations are NOT tax-deductible.

If you have any inquiries about this, please contact Kevin Murray [kevinmurray@apwm.org.au](mailto:kevinmurray@apwm.org.au)



**APWM**  
Australian Presbyterian  
World Mission



The Rev Colin M'Bawa minister of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Blantyre Synod



A church choir singing about the return of the Lord Jesus

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#### Contact

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[www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au) [facebook.com/AustralianPresbyterianWorldMission/](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianPresbyterianWorldMission/)



**APWM**  
Australian Presbyterian  
World Mission

## Sue Camden: With Christ

**“The legacy of Bill and Sue's ministry is easy to see.”**

On Thursday 11th July, at the age of 92, Sue Camden went to be with Christ. Sue and her husband, the Rev Bill Camden, were very well known throughout the Church, particularly as APWM missionaries.

Throughout their 39 years of marriage, Bill and Sue shared the vision of seeing the people of Vanuatu come to know Christ, and then be able to read the Word of God in their heart language. Following the completion of Bill's theological studies, Bill and Sue commenced service in Vanuatu (then known as the New Hebrides) in 1957, where Bill served as a District Missionary for many years. In the 1960's, Bill embarked on one of the most significant ministries of his life as he led a team in the translation of the Bible into Vanuatu's national language, Bislama. Bill worked on this translation until its completion in



Bill and Sue Camden with their young family



Sue Camden with members of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union on Tangoa in 2011.

1994, not long before he went to be with Christ.

Sue continued ministering to many in Australia in her roles as a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, a high school teacher, a Bible Study leader and an ESL teacher at Epping Presbyterian Church. She showed love in many ministries including youth group, visiting children at Allowah Hospital, and supporting ministries in high schools and universities. She opened the Bible in her home to many of all ages, cultures and backgrounds including refugees, migrants and overseas visitors. Sue was a prayer warrior, and in her later years when she could no longer talk to people about God, she talked to God about people.

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We praise God for raising up Bill and Sue who were committed to spreading the knowledge of God at home and in some of the earth's most remote places.

In the preface to Bill and Sue's biography, *'God Speaks Our Language'* their son-in-law, the Rev Dr Ian Smith writes:

"The legacy of Bill and Sue's ministry is easy to see. Today, throughout the islands of Vanuatu, each Lord's Day morning, people hear God's word read and proclaimed in Bislama. Even today, the Bible is the most significant translation work in the national language. In a very real sense, this has united a linguistically diverse people not only around a common language, but also, for most of the population of Vanuatu, around a common belief.

For Bill and Sue, and many missionaries before them, their expectation was that the Gospel would transform not only individuals, but society. This can be seen today in churches, as well as in schools, hospitals, government, and the very fabric of society. Christianity has not replaced traditional culture, it has redeemed it, and those who would argue otherwise would be wise to appreciate this distinction."

"Long tingting blong mi, sipos mi mi stap laef, hemia bambae mi stap joen long Kraes, mi stap leftemap nem blong hem, mo sipos mi mi ded, bambae i gud moa." (Philippians 1:21 from the Niutestamen Long Bislama)

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21 NIV 2011)

"He who carefully reads and studies the Scriptures will consider nothing so trifling that it does not at least contribute to the improvement of his life and morals, since the Holy Spirit wanted to have it committed to writing."  
— Martin Luther (1483-1546)

**Editor's note:**  
It would really 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](mailto:pcsanews@bigpond.com)

## 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 our Defence force and all emergency services (Police, Ambulance, Fire & SES) that they will be preserved and kept safe as they serve the community.
- 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 North Adelaide Church; 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 the Whyalla Church; congregation and elders.
- Pray for the Karnkendi campsite. Harvey & Heather McBain; all those who stay there.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine that through their suffering they will look to Jesus.
- Pray for Jeroen and Diana as they serve in Papua New Guinea.
- Pray for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

### 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 2024 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

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