

the PRESBYTERIAN pulse



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COVER : Winter is a great time to sit with the Bible and grow in the comfort God offers when seasons are cold, hard and long.

PHOTO: Karen Forman, Charlotte Pass, NSW.



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Welcome to Winter!

By Karen Forman



WELCOME to the Winter 2026 edition of The Presbyterian Pulse magazine. This edition features a profile on the incoming Moderator, Peter Pallet, who is being inducted at General Assembly 2026 in July, some expected highlights of the meeting, a challenging article from the Child Protection Unit about the importance of speaking up when concerned about child protection, new bursaries to celebrate Scots Bathurst's 80th anniversary, joy at a new chaplain at Tomaree High School for SRE - and more!

How are you feeling about the season that is Winter? Are you someone who enjoys the cold, or are you wishing you could relocate to a warmer clime until September comes?

Living in the Snowy Mountains, I am definitely the former. I love the cool weather and find I feel more alive and in tune with nature when it is cold. I love a rainy, windy day or night, being able to snuggle into a big warm quilt on the sofa with a good book, enjoy comfort foods like soups and almost feel like I have permission to slow down from a too-busy life.

For many, Winter is often a time of challenge, with winter illnesses complicating work and family schedules and proving risky for older and immune compromised people. Then there is the need for heating which leads to soaring power bills, this year at a time where we are experiencing increased mortgage interest rates, increased fuel costs and a resulting higher cost of living.

The good news is, that even when faced with physical and emotional challenges, we can find comfort and warmth in a spiritual sense by turning to God and His Word. Winter can be a great time for contemplation.

In the Psalms, we find a message about God's provision and ability to create beauty in all things.

"He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast?" - Psalm 147:16-17

Also, the Psalms present Winter as being a time of reflection over our lives, our faith, our decisions and our desires:

"In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent." - Psalm 4:4

And then, in Isaiah:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater." - Isaiah 55:10

And my favorite, Job:

"For to the snow He says, 'Fall on the earth,' And to the downpour and the rain, 'Be strong.'" - Job 37:6

Even the singer Bette Midler had something to say about how, even when things look grim, the winter season leads to something great, in her song The Rose:

"Just remember in the winter, far beneath the bitter snows, lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose".

This Winter, check out what God has to say in the Bible about the cold months - and how the season ahead can be a fruitful one.

Peter's heart lies with country ministry

By Karen Forman



PETER Pallet had always 'kind of hoped" he would get the opportunity to serve the Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW/ACT as a moderator.

But despite putting his name forward a few times, the now-retired minister from Albury didn't progress through the process. Until 2026. The year he knows God chose for him to take the role.

"I had stood a couple of times but didn't think it would ever happen," he said.

"Then I was approached by a member of the business committee and asked to make myself available and I figured, God has called you into that, which He will equip you for."

Peter, who retired from his role at Moruya, Tuross Head and Narooma in 2024, said he was looking forward to both the General Assembly event and the year ahead, when he would visit some northern NSW presbyteries.

"Retirement has meant preaching in vacant pulpits, for ministers on holidays around the southern Riverina and northern Victoria," he said. "I did five weeks in Townsville in May.

"Retirement's a pretty cushy existence, but there is nothing cushy about being a moderator," he said.

"I am somewhat daunted but God is faithful and we will do our best.

I have no agenda, or barrow to push. Visiting the smaller outlying places will be wonderful. The country is where my heart lies with ministry."

Peter has chosen ex-Albury minister David Powell and David Brookes, senior minister at Tuggeranong in the ACT - two Davids - as his chaplains to assist

him during the General Assembly. Peter was born in Parramatta, lived in Merrylands until age seven then moved to Finley near Albury in Southern NSW where he remained until 1997.

"My parents were part of a church, quite committed Christians," he said. "Dad ran the local missionary fellowship and we had a lot of Christian family friends.

"I was happy to wander along with all of that until I left home and started drifting as you might say." At 16 Peter took an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner, but ended up working as an electrical linesman.

"I always believed it (God) was true, but I was not living it. It was a dangerous game to play. Some don't come out of it. I am the only one of three children in our family who is a Christian. "I think our parents did the best they could, but it's God's call in the end that counts."

Things changed when, in his mid-20s Peter became engaged to a girl, Sharon, who became a Christian and they attended the Presbyterian church "whenever mum made me feel guilty enough."

"I went to a Walk with the Bible seminar and picked up a study guide which takes you through the New Testament in a year and the call of God became more evident. It was time to start getting serious."

I submitted to His call. I started becoming more involved in church, working in the youth group for 10 years with another younger fellow, and at Finley Presbyterian Church with Bruce Meller.

After Bruce left, we had Graham Flick as the minister and under him I got involved in lay preaching and came onto the eldership and over time it was mentioned to me and I became

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convinced I should at least get better training for ministry.”

Meanwhile Peter married in 1984 and the couple welcomed their first child Felicity in 1987, followed by Matthew in 1990.

In 1996 he took a redundancy package, did a TAFE course to prepare him for tertiary study and candidated then in 1997 at the then-named Presbyterian Theological Centre in Burwood, Sydney.

“I exited to Corowa, between Albury and Finley and served there for eight years. It was a different church to what I had grown up with 100 km away, in some ways on different sides of the globe.

“I always thought you don’t go in demanding what you want but work with what you have got. We saw gradual changes.

“Then I was about to accept a call to Moruya, Tuross Head and Narooma, but Sharon became unwell in 2008 and was hospitalised for four

months. She was debilitated, but we went anyway. “A year later, Sharon died. I came to the conclusion God called us to that place and I stayed there, single, for 14 years. I retired in 2024 at the age of 66.

“We were looking at getting an assistant into the parish, and called Steve Soldatos. I was feeling less able to keep up with the demands of a parish of that sort and I decided to retire so we overlapped by a year and then I moved back home to the Albury region.”

Apart from fill-in ministry work, Peter enjoys spending time with his son and his wife and three children in Albury and daughter in Townsville with her husband and son.

“I enjoy Psalms and Proverbs, an integral part of my daily reading. I find great comfort in them.” A keen motorcyclist, Peter also enjoys riding in great motorcycling country around Albury, shooting and fishing.

Our Churches

Student visit bears fruit for Henty

By Rev Craig Nicholas, Minister Henty Presbyterian Church

We all know that life is tough on the land. Currently it is extra tough with diesel prices off the chart and fertilizer unavailable because of the war in the middle east. Not to mention a very dry summer. But how do you minister the Gospel to farmers? What does country ministry look like and how do you go about it?

In late March six students and one lecturer from Christ College came to Henty (half way between Wagga and Albury) in southern NSW to find out.

They spent a week doing mission with the local church, partnering with them to proclaim the Gospel in the Henty and surrounding towns. The students were from various backgrounds, some first year, some fourth year. Some who had never driven more than two hours out of Sydney in any direction!

The aim of the mission was to:

1. Provide students with experience in evangelism and assist Henty Presbyterian in their evangelism efforts;
2. To build community among students and to strengthen partnerships between Christ College and Henty Presbyterian; and
3. To expose students to ministry in different contexts by allowing them to observe, experience and reflect on ministry at Henty Presbyterian Church.

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The week started with Sunday church, where Rob the team leader reminded us from Haggai chapter 2 that God is building His church even in ways which we do not necessarily see. This proved to be prophetic as the week played out. The students conducted Hymn Fest where they shared the stories of some of the old hymns and then sang them with the congregation.

There were a few tears shed and people were reminded of the great hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus. The students visited three local primary schools and ran the SRE Easter service where more than 150 kids (many of whom have no church background) heard the Gospel. They then backed it up by running a kids club program on the Friday.

There was time for a visit to New Dunesk where the students learnt about Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) and visited a local farm and experienced sheep being fed.

They attended the Riverina Mighty Men Conference, where 350 men camped in a local farmer's paddock and enjoyed teaching, eating and fellowship.

There was much fruit from the mission. A non-Christian came to Hymn Fest and has since come to church and bible study. A mother brought her children to kids' club because the children brought home a flyer. She stayed for two hours and spoke to various team members.

One student prayed during our prayer meeting "I thank you Lord for the farmers who work hard, much harder than us." It was the same student who said "I used to see rain as an annoyance but not anymore."

Please pray for the students and the college. And please pray for more workers to come to the country. There is much need out here. Pray for the farmers as they endure difficult seasons, take on big risks and make sacrificial decisions to ensure their children are raised in the Lord.

Some of our churches are very small and struggling. Please pray for their strengthening, for growth and the ability to persevere in Christ.

And if you are ever heading to the country for a holiday or weekend, drop into the local church in town. You would be amazed at the encouragement that brings.



Joshua Burke appointed as Tomaree High chaplain

By Cooper Rispin

Six months ago, the Tomaree Board of Christian Education gathered with a shared vision: to see a stronger Christian witness and a clearer display of grace within our local community.

One member's formative experience with a high school chaplain prompted us to prayerfully explore the possibility of chaplaincy at Tomaree High School in Port Stephens—a school that has not had a chaplain for many years and where SRE has faced ongoing challenges.

With the support and guidance of GWFC (Gateway Presbyterian Church), we prayed earnestly that God would provide both the right applicant and the necessary funding. Throughout the process, there was a strong sense of God's blessing, along with growing unity among the local churches.

We are delighted that the principal and school are thrilled with the chaplain, Joshua Burke, who has been appointed, and we are eager to see what God will do through this partnership in 2026.

Joshua said he felt unmistakable joy and privilege to be placed within Tomaree High School.

"This opportunity consists of supporting young people spiritually, emotionally and physically. It involves formal mentoring and informal disclosures, all with the lens of God's truth and healing power," he said.

"To illustrate, a student approached me seeking to connect with God. I was able to chat with him and God gave me favour in regularly discipling him. In that week, he opened his life back up to God. In the next, he started attending church and by the end of the Term he reflected on how he is experiencing God's continuing pleasure.

"Additionally, God's guiding hand is on every turn. I sat down at what seemed to be a random classroom, interacting with a student and helping. It turned out that this would spark an ongoing rapport, translating into faith discussions, giving out my first bible and God delivering victories in an unbelieving household.

"Finally, I aim through faith that Jesus would be made known to both students and staff. I pray, that they would not only know just what a Christian is, but they may confidently say that Christ is in them - that they experience His life-giving power and peace. Additionally, for the community to recognise with joy their duty towards this coming generation and not to forget their part in prayer, discipleship and evangelism."

With a chaplain now engaged two days a week (and aspirations for a long-term, full-time role), new opportunities have opened for SRE, and even a lunchtime Christian group is being explored. Please pray for a fruitful ministry at our local state high school in 2026, and we thank God for Enoch and the GWFC team for their support in bringing this vision to life.

Cooper Rispin is Pastoral Assistant (Youth & Outreach) at Gateway Presbyterian Church

Child safety: The dangers of not speaking up

by Akos Balogh, Conduct Protocol Unit Training and Communications Manager.

Tom was eight when Mark started giving him rides home from kids' church.

Mark had been a faithful volunteer for years. The minister, parents and kids alike trusted and loved him. Tom especially, who had a poor relationship with his own dad.

Three adults at that church saw things that bothered them. None of them raised an alert.

The first was Sarah, a kids' ministry volunteer. She noticed Mark always seemed to find reasons to be alone with Tom. A craft project here, a "quick chat" there. She felt a twinge of unease occasionally, but Mark had been at the church longer than she had and she decided she was reading too much into it. Sarah left it.

The second was Tom's grandfather. He'd noticed Tom was getting little gifts from Mark. A pocketknife for his birthday. A book about cricket. Once he asked Tom's mum about it, "Oh, Mark's such a kind man, Tom needs male role models." was the response. He didn't enquire further.

The third was a young adult, Hannah, on the welcoming roster. One Sunday after church, she saw Mark take Tom into the back office and close the door. She remembers thinking, "that's weird." She also remembers thinking, "It's probably nothing."

The abuse went on for almost two years.

This is a fictitious story but the pattern is real. The Conduct Protocol Unit PCNSW/ACT hears reports of similar behaviour occurring.

Three adults each caught a flicker of doubt. Each one talked themselves out of it.

A child scared to speak up for himself.

Predators rarely show their hand. They show fragments of it, banking on the assumption that the fragments won't be joined: a few friendly chats, favouritism, blurred boundaries, closed doors. Each piece can be explained away on its own.

That's why breaking the silence matters so much in the Church.

Proverbs 31:8-9 says: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Jesus says soberly: "If anyone causes one of these little ones, those who believe in me, to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). Jesus is serious about protecting children. We need to be, too.

Tom was a child. He was groomed by a man twice his size, who'd told him this was their special secret. Three adults, each remaining silent for fear of jumping to conclusions.

That's the predator's strategy.

Churches are vulnerable to grooming. We extend trust generously. We want to see the best in fellow believers rather than be suspicious. Those are good intentions to have. But predators know how to exploit good intentions, which is why a healthy protective culture has to sit alongside our generous trust, not in place of it.

What might this look like in practice?

If something feels off about how an adult in

your church is interacting with a child or young person, that's enough. You don't need proof, a confession, or a direct disclosure. Say something to alert people whose role is to take it seriously.

How might "off" behaviour show itself? It might be an adult who consistently engineers one-on-one time with a particular child, or excessive gift-giving, or private messages sent outside agreed ministry channels, or a parent who feels uneasy and can't quite name why.

Raise it to the right place. Contact your pastor, BTS rep, or the Conduct Protocol Unit. Don't confront the person, or gather evidence on your own.

'Some people worry that reporting feels like gossip. There's a difference: Gossip moves sideways. Reporting moves upward, into a process designed to handle concerns safely and confidentially.'

If you're wrong, that's okay. The cost of speaking up and being mistaken is small. The cost of staying silent can have lifelong impacts.

Sarah, Tom's grandfather, and Hannah all had a part. Looking back, each wishes they'd said something to a church representative.

If you see something concerning, speak to a ministry leader, your BTS rep, or call the Conduct Protocol Unit on (02)9690 9325. The unit will be able to provide support and advice about the situation confidentially, mindful of any mandatory reporting obligations.

DISCLOSURE: This article was prepared with assistance of AI.



Bursaries to celebrate 80 years of Presbyterian in Bathurst

By Richard Ford, Head of College

Eighty years ago this year, a new school was in the process of being founded in Bathurst.

Throughout 1946, regular meetings of a Provisional Council were held at St Stephen's church hall on Howick St, Bathurst, to decide on the school's name, constitution, motto, crest and colours. Bank accounts had to be opened, delegations determined, furniture acquired, rents negotiated, a permanent site for the school agreed upon, fees set and the school's first prospectus published.

Among those excited at the prospect of a Presbyterian school in the region were past students of the Cooerwull Academy, the first Presbyterian school in NSW. The Academy, located at Bowenfels, just outside Lithgow, had opened in 1882; however, the enlistment of staff and students in the First World War had brought the Academy to a close in 1916.

During 1946, regular correspondence flowed between the Provisional Council and the Presbyterian Church's General Secretary who was keeping the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church regularly apprised of developments occurring at this new school. The new school had commenced on the same site as the Scots College Branch School where boys from Bellevue Hill had been since 1942 due to fears of a Japanese attack on Sydney Harbour.

Eighty years on, the Trustees and Provisional Council who founded the school would no doubt be in awe of the way in which the school campus has evolved over time to include extensive agricultural, arts and sport facilities.

As a school of only 30 students in 1946, all of whom were boys, it is likely that the founders would be equally taken by the number of students, both boys and girls, who have completed their schooling at the campus over the past 80 years.

As we look back in this 80th year with gratitude for the many people who have supported the College on its journey, we give thanks for God's work in the lives of students, staff and parents, and we continue to look for ways to strengthen the partnership that exists between the school and the Presbyterian Church.

The school's constitution in 1946 spoke of a desire for Bathurst to have a school that would "provide a thorough education for boarding and day scholars" that would be "in accordance with the tenets of the Presbyterian Church".

Today, the College's mission uses slightly different language while expressing a similar sentiment. Our mission today is "To develop learners for life who grow every day in every experience with purpose and courage grounded in Christ."

As part of the College's ongoing commitment to having a school which continues to be "grounded in Christ" and "in accordance with the tenets of the Presbyterian Church", the College has commenced,

in this anniversary year, to provide families who are part of the Presbyterian church with the opportunity to join the College community with the support of a Presbyterian Bursary.

The Presbyterian Bursary enables families who are part of the Presbyterian Church to access a Scots All Saints College education even if their financial means might prevent their child from enrolling at the College. This means-tested pathway is an avenue which the College encourages families to explore as they consider day and boarding education options for their child.

Eighty years on, St Stephen's Church is now known as Bathurst Presbyterian and The Scots School Bathurst is now known as Scots All Saints College. While on the surface the school campus has changed considerably and we are today a two-campus school, the foundations on which the school commenced remain in place and the school is firmly grounded in Christ.

Through God's work at the school and ongoing provision, countless young people have come to know and love Christ as part of the "thorough education" they have experienced. If you would like your child to be able to access a transformative Presbyterian education, please be in touch with the College's Registrar who can help you explore this possibility.





Bringing nations to our nation

By Elizabeth Brown

Years ago, I wrote an article for the Pulse magazine on God brings the nations to our land for a purpose. The question asked was are you making the most of the opportunities this brings for many to hear the gospel?

You would all agree our country has an even more diverse population than 10 years ago thanks to the government's immigration policy catering for various humanitarian crises around the world, the continued flow of overseas students, skilled migration, and visas for short term work placements. Each new arrival comes with their culture, their hopes, their pride and their fears. Many come with trauma. Wouldn't you if you have come from a war-torn environment? Some bring their ideologies that don't align well with our country's sense of security. They bring their religions which give them a place to belong. It is a challenge for all of them to integrate. Some want to more than others. Mostly there is a wealth of support. Are you on this list of support? Is your church?

Many have come from lands where there has been no opportunity to meet a Christian or to read a Bible. Others come from lands where to question your religion has serious consequences. Others have been persecuted for their faith. Some have experienced divisions in their own religion. I want to share the impact of Christian ministry on two people who came to Australia from diverse cultures and religious backgrounds.

One is from the major religion in Bangladesh. In the midst of his breaking point difficulties including financial he was referred to Mr Brown. What did Mr Brown say to him? "you don't need finances; you need the Gospel!"

The gentleman required many years of follow up. Exasperations were numerous as he latched onto addictions that kept him drowning in his own sin. Church attendance was spasmodic. Lying was second nature. He admits he went into 'hiding' at times to avoid contact with those in the church who had reached out to him. Blocking phone numbers, ignoring calls, making up excuses of why he couldn't meet or attend church.

His silence was broken only when he was in need. Sometimes it was a need for finances, legal advice, accommodation or a pickup when he was too 'out of it' to find his own way home. He lost his student visa, was often in debt and found it difficult to hold down a job.

Who did he reach out to?

His Muslim friends who didn't have the means to help him, or had run out of patience. It was then the Christians he knew.

He was given a Bible, attended church and Bible studies and lived in a Christian hostel responding to the Gospel. In 2008 he was baptized. After a time, the lure of his Muslim friends and a return to his

previous addictions took him away from the Gospel. The 'hiding' began again. He tried counselling and visits to doctors to help him overcome his addictions but nothing really helped. It is 22 years since his arrival in Sydney and his contact with the Church and Christians. In 2025 he came to a personal crisis within his soul. He reached out to God and God reached into his heart.

He reached out to his pastor who had been consistent in follow up and who never gave up praying. He is now a transformed person sharing his faith and challenging friends from the same religious background.

What were the influences that helped lead him to a life in Christ? Patience, perseverance and prayer. Acceptance and compassion in difficulties. An introduction to the Bible and an invitation to church. A Biblical explanation of the root causes of his difficulties. Practical help to sort through problems. Consistent follow up. The provision of a safe environment and ongoing contact with Christians. Those who were willing to be a listener, a mentor, or a teacher. Add in hospitality. Turn these into attributes and they are not beyond all of us. Step out and ask God's help to be a witness for His Kingdom.



Reflections on the experiences of a Defence Force Chaplain

By Martin de Pyle

Recently I had the opportunity to address theological students from Christ College Sydney to share insights into the distinctive calling of Defence Force chaplaincy. I received the following reflection from Michael, the son of a Defence Force chaplain:

"Sometimes it's the little things that stick. Waking up before dawn, hearing the early birds; to see the beauty of the sunrise. Standing under the shade of a eucalypt tree in the midday heat, marvelling at how God provides even this little measure of comfort. Performing a field service at short notice, saying a prayer to men and women who serve their country meaningfully and who seek to serve their God even more.

Sometimes it's the big things. Waking up at midnight, a soldier died this evening, and you need to be there when his Section is told... and to comfort the family experiencing unimaginable grief. The deployment overseas, experiencing God's mercy as you see new cultures and meet brothers and sisters in Christ across the world. Seeing how the Gospel impacts the lives and men and women who live with an ever-present threat to life. Standing with those who wish to re-dedicate their lives.

To be a chaplain, to serve in the armed forces, is to be an active member in the spiritual battles around us. Delivering encouragement to believers, counselling the weary in God's promises so they can continue to grow in faith and fellowship. Sharing the hope of His Word. It means facing down the darker nature of people, of faith in blackest experiences. Sowing seeds of faith.

Whether to bases locally or abroad, or ships

across the oceans, you are a source of spiritual strength in the community. You may travel to distant shores, where the gospel is needed, where natural disasters have left many in dire straits, where hearts are open and receptive. And through it all you, "...shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life." (Philippians 2:15-16)

The Presbyterian Church has full-time and part-time chaplains in the Navy, Army, and Air Force serving in Australia as well as deployed overseas.

Martin de Pyle is the Pastor of the West Footscray Presbyterian Church in Victoria, the Presbyterian Representative on the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services, and the Convener of the General Assembly of Australia Defence Force Chaplains Committee.



Lessons from PY Summer Camp

At PY Summer Camp 2025-26, campers benefited from a number of excellent topical seminars, designed to help them expand their understanding of God, his work in the world, and their identity as his children. Read on to find out how two of these seminars went!

Made in His image: Ethan Mills

With nearly 20 per cent of the global population being neurodivergent, how does this shape how we care for youth in our ministries?

At PY Summer Camp 2025, we hosted a Q&A seminar with Ethan Mills to explore his lived experience as a Christian on the autism spectrum. Ethan, a 32-year-old motor mechanic and member of St Mary's Presbyterian Community Church, has been a leader on camp for nine years, but 2025 marked his first time leading a seminar.

Ethan's faith became personal in his late teens. "I realised it's not about what you do, it's about what He's done," he shared. This gospel clarity shaped his seminar: if our identity is grounded in Christ, neurodivergence sits under that same grace.

The seminar featured an interview followed by open questions.

When asked about boundaries, Ethan noted that neurodiverse people are often seen as easy to take advantage of. "You need to set boundaries and stand up for yourself," he advised. "You are a child of God and you should be treated like one."

Ethan highlighted that neurodiversity carries strengths, like "an incredible attention to detail... being able to remember details, dates, events, faces." The seminar aimed to see neurodivergent people as gifted image-bearers. Tying into the camp theme of Identity, Ethan reminded campers, "God didn't make a mistake when making them."

Ethan hopes churches and youth groups will increasingly welcome neurodiverse kids, becoming spaces where they can express themselves without fear. He challenges ministry leaders: "Consider what kind of environment you are cultivating. Are you creating space for lived experience? Are you listening to the voices of those who have often been silenced?"

Raising eyes to the nations: Rob and El Falls

Rob and El Falls, APWM missionaries in Vanuatu, joined us at PY Summer Camp 2025, bringing their five children with them as they served as some of the camp's Missionaries in Residence. Rob and El are based at Talua Theological Training Institute where Rob is the Academic Dean and Deputy Principal.

Rob and El began their seminar with a short video their children had made: a "day in the life of a missionary kid." It showed school, ministry life, and even a makeshift basketball hoop nailed to a coconut tree.

From there, Rob shifted the focus from what they do, to why they do it. They shared about the strategic

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importance of Talua Theological Training Institute, the need for clear gospel teaching, and the fruit of the ministry seen in graduates.

The heart of the seminar, however, was an invitation from Rob: "Pray. Give. Go."

First, pray. "Youth you might feel like, 'What can I do?'... We wanted to really get across the point to please be prayerful for mission." He challenged campers to know their church's partner missionaries, read their updates, pray for them in youth group, and invite them along when they are back on deputation/home assignment.

Second, give. "Young people do have some money, whether from birthdays or casual work. If they give small now then they're more likely to give big later."

And finally, go. "We pushed pretty hard," Rob admits. "If you don't know what to do with your life, this could be it. Or no matter what you do with your life, could you take it somewhere that is in greater need of the gospel?"

While the seminar spoke directly to young people, Rob encouraged leaders to "embed global mission into the DNA of your youth ministry and kids' ministry." That might look like regular prayer, inviting missionaries to youth nights, supporting them financially, and helping young people see global mission as normal Christian discipleship.

"You want to hear about mission and see mission when you're a youth."

Seeing mission modelled in his own church "opened my heart and my life to the possibility of God sending me too."



PWA members tribute Rev Andrew Campbell

By Gwendoline Cowell on behalf of Glen Innes & Guyra church families

Presbyterian Women's Association members have paid tribute to their late member, former Moderator and Pulse columnist Rev Andrew Campbell, who was a keen supporter of the PWA and its projects.

Our Presbyterian Church, St Andrews in Glen Innes, was blessed to have had Rev Andrew Campbell as our minister for nearly eight years.

He not only inspired us with his knowledge and explanations, but his love and acceptance of each of us as his family; sharing time over coffee, and always with a prayer. Lunch was a time of much discussion and challenges to our faith.

Bible study nights were always meaningful, and lead us to a fuller appreciation of God's word. During COVID Andrew sent and delivered sermons on DVDs, which continue to be used when needs arise.

Andrew's practice was to always make a phone call to check on each church family member, giving much encouragement and comfort through his visitation chats and prayer.

Hospital visitation at Glen Innes and beyond was all part of his ministry, bringing strength and hope to both family and patient. That 'legacy' remains and continues to resonate through the church community and beyond.

To all of those who knew him he was first and foremost a 'mentor.' He always had time to empathise, to listen, to share and to care about each member, irrespective of their station in life.

...and Andrew's involvement with the Salt Shaker bus

By Dorothy Davis Grafton PWA

We said goodbye to a friend, Rev Andrew Campbell, at a service in Inverell, after Andrew was killed in an accident on his property.

Andrew was well loved by everyone he came into contact with and shared his faith.

He will be remembered for his time with the Salt Company bus in the Western suburbs of Sydney in the eighties, gathering the youth together travelling for camps and activities, teaching and sharing the Gospel truth while showing that Christians have fun and fellowship together. PWA Market helped purchase this bus to take the Youth Group out and share with other groups.

Andrew shared with the 2024 General Assembly in Sydney, that the Presbyterian Women's Association helped in purchasing the famous Salt Shaker bus by raising money from the market's project that was held in Sydney.

Elizabeth Chifley Presbyterian Preschool - Sharing God's love in the early years

In the heart of Bathurst sits a little preschool with a big impact.

Elizabeth Chifley Presbyterian Preschool (ECP) has a long, rich history of serving children and their families in the community of Bathurst. It was established as a ministry of Bathurst Presbyterian Church thanks in part to a significant bequest from Mrs Elizabeth Chifley, wife of the former Prime Minister, Ben Chifley.

Last year, we had the immense joy of celebrating our 50th anniversary. Because ECP holds a special place in the hearts of so many generations, we opened our doors wide for a community birthday party. Our playground echoed with live music and laughter, while our classrooms became galleries of precious memories, filled with archives and photos spanning half a century.

Caring for the Whole Child

Today, we welcome 80 children through our doors each week. We make it our mission to ensure that every child—and every family—experiences a true sense of belonging to our preschool community. Research tells us that the first 2000 days of a child's life are the most critical for their physical, cognitive, and emotional growth. As a team of early childhood professionals, we recognise how privileged we are to partner with families during these formative early years.

Let the Little Children Come

"Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" Matthew 19:13-14

It is beautifully profound to consider King Jesus-son of God- pausing to welcome and be present with a group of little children. Each week at

preschool we offer the children an invitation to pause and learn of a God who knows them and loves them personally.

** Rachel is the Christian Education Leader, Elizabeth Chifley Presbyterian Preschool, Bathurst*

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Meet METRO apprentice Emily

Emily Goncalves is a first year ministry apprentice at Bathurst Presbyterian with trainer Clare Merkel. Emily is one of 16 apprentices METRO is supporting this year.

1. **How did you come to begin a ministry apprenticeship with Bathurst?** A Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) apprenticeship is something that I had been talking with Clare about, praying over and considering for a few years, but for a while the timing wasn't right as my priority was being present with my children before they started school. Our littlest started school this year, and MTS suddenly seemed possible.
2. **What does a week in the life of an apprentice look like?** My MTS week begins with a study/meeting/ministry prep day on Monday and then Tuesday is Women's Bible study, occasional prayer meetings and one to one bible reading. Wednesday is my day off!
3. **What has been a joy and/or challenge?** It's been a joy to be saturated in the bible, opening it again and again not just on my own but with so many different people of all ages across the week. This has been growing my conviction of God's covenant faithfulness and holiness - and it brings me great joy to meditate on Him. It has been a challenge to see myself more clearly in light of God's perfection - my faults and failings; but I am grateful to rest in the righteousness of Christ. Family wise, we are also in an uncharted season with all our kids at school and me

working now along with my husband, so this continues to be an adjustment.

4. **How have you seen God at work in Bathurst?** I am grateful to have witnessed a hunger for God and his Word - from Year 1 kids in SRE who are just learning about the gospel for the first time to women who are returning to God after wandering away, to those have known Jesus their whole life and still want to grow in their knowledge and love for Him.
5. **How can we pray for you?** Please pray that Christ would be my highest affection and my greatest treasure. Pray that I would be equipped to serve the church with faithfulness and humility. Pray for our family as we continue to adjust to this new season. Thankyou!



Emily with husband Anton

Lineup announced for PIM's Outback concert

The Presbyterian Inland Mission has announced an impressive lineup of Christian folk artists for its Outback Concert at New Dunesk, Ardlethan NSW in October.

Sons of Korah is an Australian based band devoted to giving a fresh voice to the biblical Psalms. With their unique acoustic, multi-ethnic sound, they have given many of the Psalms a dynamic and emotive new musical expression.

Sons of Korah have recorded 11 studio albums, including two video/live DVDs. At one stage, four of its albums simultaneously charted in the top 10 best-sellers at the American Christian retail chain 'Family Christian Stores'.

The only returning artist is PIM's own **Zoë Tyne**. With a voice tender and strong, Zoë Tyne is a singer-songwriter known for her heartfelt blend of folk, country, and gospel music. Zoë Tyne will be back again to perform from her well-loved EP's and more.

Mountainkind is a dynamic seven-piece band from the Blue Mountains performing indie-folk Christian music with lyrics based on the scriptures. The band has a diverse sonic palette with guitars, banjos as well as effects and synths. It released a debut album 'Servant songs' in late 2024, and an Easter and a Christmas EP in 2025.

They also rework old hymns on a weekly basis under 'Mountainkind Hymnal' on YouTube.

Anna Waters has been a prolific emerging artist with her releases over the past six years reaching top 20 status on the Australian Christian Music Chart.

Her music is for everyone as Anna seamlessly combines professional musicianship and heartfelt songwriting that centre on themes of faith, hope, and love.

As a bonus for the weekend, Australia's leading clean comedian Ben Price is widely known as Australia's Best Impersonator, **Ben Price**, will be performing. Ben has more than 200 character voices ranging from world leaders to movie icons. Alongside his comedy, Ben shares his personal testimony, encourages evangelism, and encourages audiences through gospel-centred events across Australia and internationally.

Over the weekend, attendees are invited to camp for free onsite and enjoy a range of family-friendly activities including face painting, four wheel drive tours, a nail drive competition, evening campfires, and much more.

There will also be Barista coffee from Tilly's Bibles and Beans.

Don't miss the early bird pricing \$75pp, and children under 18 attend for free! For tickets and more information visit www.pim.org.au/event/tracks

Proverbs - the place of work

So much of our daily living is spent in sleeping and in working - which is an odd combination, but understandable after a little thought. Work and sleep in the wrong proportion prove to be detrimental to godly living. There is a rightful place for both. The sleep of the hard worker is sweet (Prov.3:24), but if he loves sleep too much, he will not prosper (20:13). All it takes is 'a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest', and the crops are not planted, and life becomes a trial that was avoidable (24:33-34).

In graphic language, we are told: 'Go to the ant, O sluggard, consider her ways, and be wise' (Prov.6:6). To many Australians, work is regarded as the curse of the drinking class, but even before the Fall, Adam was instructed to work in the Garden of Eden (Gen.2:15). After the Fall, work became labour (Gen.3:16-19) - as did the bearing of children - but, as Adam notes in Milton's Paradise Lost, idleness would be worse.

Work is associated with flourishing in this world (10:4-5; 12:27) whereas the sluggard is 'like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes' of his employer (10:26). There is profit in all lawful toil, but mere talk leads to nothing (14:23). This refers even to a deeper satisfaction with life. 'The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied' (13:4; see 20:4).

To the lazy person, the most basic of actions become too much. 'The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth' (19:24; 26:15).

The lazy person will manufacture all kinds of excuses not to work. 'There is a lion outside' (22:13; 26:13) is one, but perhaps not for Australia. 'The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly' (26:16). That is true for all sinners who seek to justify themselves. We may not be looking after lambs and goats, but



making a modern application of the advice in Proverbs should not be beyond us: 'Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds, for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations?' (27:23-24) For the ageing pastor, this might translate as: 'Keep working at your tasks, for we cannot live off accumulated spiritual capital.'

In *The House of the Dead*, Fedor Dostoevsky described how the way to crush a person completely was to allocate work that was meaningless and irrational. Filling in a plethora of forms for one bureaucracy or another might be a more familiar example.

At times doing nothing can be very tiring. Charles Spurgeon noted this: 'There is no fatigue so wearisome as that which comes from lack of work.' Work provides part of the rhythm of life here on earth, and we are the poorer without it. Yet God does not need our work, and Milton was reassured in his blindness: 'They also serve who only stand and wait.'

How refreshing to think and act with the motivation of George Herbert in his poem:

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything
To do it as for Thee.

...

All may of Thee partake:
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with his tincture—"for Thy sake"—
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine:
Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.

