



Into a New Millennium

THE HISTORY OF PWMU: 1990-2020

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Preface

In a world that has seen unprecedented changes in the last thirty years, the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) has persevered and continues to fulfil its mission. From its humble beginnings in 1890, the organisation has survived two World Wars, the Depression years of the 1930s, the Cold War era of the 1950s, the turbulent years of social upheaval in the 1960s, Church Union of 1977 and has moved into a new millennium in the year 2000.

Previous histories of PWMU extensively cover the background of the organisation and my intention is not to repeat these comprehensive narratives. The most recent publication *There Were Many Women: United In A Century Of Service, 1890 – 1900* by Alexe Talsma is a thorough documentation of the history. My aim is to move on from there to unfold the organisation's progression into the 21st Century and the challenges faced in today's world. I recommend the previous publications: *After Fifty Years: A Record of the Work of the P.W.M.U of Victoria* by Elizabeth M. Campbell; *The Changing Years, 1940 – 1950* by Elizabeth M. Campbell; and *Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union 1950 – 1977* by Maisie Paton.

A statement from the Annual Report and Financial Statements of December 1989 is worth reiterating here: *"The purpose of PWMU is the support of all mission enterprises for which the Presbyterian Church of Victoria [PCV] has given approval. Those serving overseas, whether with [Australian Presbyterian World Mission] APWM or with other agencies, Home Mission and Church Extension work, ethnic ministries, the [Presbyterian Inland Mission] PIM, the Presbyterian and Scots' Church Joint Mission, our social services, the Theological College and the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship [AEF] all have a place in the concern of members, a concern which results in financial, prayer and practical support."* It is heartening to see PWMU maintaining this focus as we move into a new century.

Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations used in this publication

AEF	Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIM	Australian Indigenous Ministries
APWM	Australian Presbyterian World Mission
HMWA	Home Mission Workers Association
MAF	Missionary Aviation Fellowship
MTI	Missionary Training Institute (South Korea)
PA	Presbyterial Association
PC	Presbyterian Church
PCA	Presbyterian Church of Australia
PCV	Presbyterian Church of Victoria
PIM	Presbyterian Inland Mission
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PTC	Presbyterian Theological College
PWMU	Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union
PYV	Presbyterian Youth of Victoria

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Introduction

Industrial Revolution continues?

I recently heard the question asked: Is the Industrial Revolution still going? The changes that began in the 18th and 19th centuries, that brought radical improvements to industry and eventually an improved quality of life, in some form have never ceased. New inventions led to a better understanding of our environment and particularly of our health. So, in a sense, this revolution has never stopped.

That is certainly the case with technology. The history of the computer can be traced back as far as the 1800s with Charles Babbage (1791 – 1871), the commonly acknowledged father of the computer, and Ada Lovelace (1815 – 1852) who has sometimes been called the first computer programmer.

Fast forward to the 1980s when personal computers became a reality. Now available to anyone, they certainly have changed the way we do business, for instance recording minutes of meetings, as well as communicating. All these changes make life easier for organisations such as PWMU, especially for corresponding with workers overseas. Satellite technology means it is no longer necessary to wait for letters to arrive by sea or air; commonplace messaging is instantaneous and mobile phones have made calls to remote places possible. The Annual Report of December 1989 notes that there were some who had a special letter writing ministry to workers overseas, a task now carried out by email. The first mention of a computer obtained by PWMU is recorded in the Annual Report of 1995 and a new one was purchased in 1996. Since then there has been no turning back.

The impact of technology has not all been positive for PWMU. The number of stamps being received dropped significantly from 1994, according to the annual reports of that year. As of 2020, some stamps are still being sold to a local stamp collector, but the income generated has certainly passed its heyday.

Finances

From humble beginnings in 1890, with individuals paying one shilling per annum to support the work of PWMU, the financial records of today show significant growth. For a long time finances came from various fundraising efforts, individual donations and PWMU membership subscriptions. In more recent times several sizeable bequests from past members has increased funds to support our work. These funds have been invested and the interest received has been the main source of income, which the Council distributes to current workers. One such fund was inadvertently overlooked for a long time and the Council found that the interest had compounded substantially. This money is being wisely spent on Trust Fund Distributions at the end of each financial year. The distribution of these funds is for personal needs and projects of all PWMU cross-cultural workers and is not used for adding to their support budget.

As time passed, the amalgamation of several funds streamlined the financial processes. Monies from several of these funds are used to support students from overseas, preferably an indigenous person from a developing country, to allow them to travel to Australia and study at the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) in Box Hill, enhancing the person's usefulness to their home congregation and church. This has been one of the focuses of PWMU since 1981 when the Council received a cookbook royalty of \$5,000 and established the Bursary Fund. The Deaconess Trainees Fund became the JN Plane Bursary Fund in 1995, with the permission of the donors, and was added to later by the Thompson Bequest and the Cookbook Capital, both \$50,000. A second Deaconess Fund (Deaconess

Training Fund) was changed in 1995 to provide for a Second Bursary Fund. The interest from this is now paid into the current Bursary Fund.

Since 1980 there have been thirteen students that have been sponsored by PWMU and have travelled to Australia to study, plus another student who was already studying at the PTC. A list of these students can be found in Appendix B at the end of this publication. In 2019, the Council decided to extend help to eight Southern Sudanese refugee student pastors and evangelists in Gambella in Ethiopia and sent money so they could study at Theological colleges in that country (Home Region Bursaries). Some years no bursary students are sponsored so that the interest from the funds can be replenished.

The Todd and Campbell Fund was set up in 1950 to honour two ladies, Miss Annie Todd and Miss Elizabeth Campbell, who had given sterling service to PWMU. Primarily for women workers, in 1996 it was decided to widen the use of the funds to include more general missions' purposes. A small amount from another bequest (Matheson Comfort Fund) resulted in a name change. In 2018, a bequest from Margaret Miller was added to this trust and it is now known as the Matheson, Todd and Campbell and Miller Trust. The interest on this account is disbursed annually for general outreach purposes and for training workers. Young women within the PCV with a desire to study for evangelistic or cross-cultural related roles to support the life of the church can apply for a grant from this fund.

The Elizabeth Notman Bequest was established in February 1996 when Council placed \$15,000 in the Perpetual Trusts so the interest could be used within the terms of the bequest. The original terms were that the funds be used for disadvantaged children, but this was amended in 2003 to read: *For the provision of religious instruction to young people and children in the City of Melbourne or elsewhere in the State of Victoria.* Funds are available for allowing young people within the PCV congregations to attend Presbyterian Youth of Victoria (PYV) camps, or their own parish camps. Funds can be used to assist with Sunday schools in Home Missions stations or to pay the expenses of Christian Religious Education teachers. Monies from this fund are also used to fund the Dayspring Magazine (published 3 times a year) and Dayspring Day, held in a city location and a country location once each year. Grants are also available to churches that are running children's holiday programs and after school clubs.

In 2006 the PCV Trusts Corporation took over the role of banker and accountant for PWMU. This does not mean PWMU lost control of its money but the PCV office make and receive all payments on its behalf.

Interest rates during 2020 have fallen significantly and the Council is working to manage the finances within this limitation. PWMU is grateful for the way PCV has cared for our money and the interest they pay is still well above commercial rates.

Celebrations

1990 – PWMU's Centenary Year

1990 marked the 100th anniversary of PWMU. Throughout the year there were opportunities for everyone to give thanks to God. It was a time not only to reflect on the past but also look to the future. Two historical convenorships were established for the centenary. Mrs Sylvia Schultz encouraged branches to research their own histories and collate them into booklets. Copies of all these Branch Histories can be found in the PCV Archives at South Yarra Presbyterian Church and also at the PWMU Office. Mrs Alexe Talsma had been researching the wider history of the PWMU for six years, resulting in the publication mentioned in the preface.

The country rally that year was held at St George's, Geelong, on Thursday 26th July where Mrs Alexe Talsma spoke on 'Glimpses of Early PWMU in Geelong' during the morning session, which was a Service of Praise. In the afternoon, a Service of Challenge was held and Dr Barbara Mills (a former worker in Thailand) spoke on 'The Need at Home' where she challenged the listeners that 'we are all called to serve but not all to the same service.' Mrs Janet Prenter was presented with an orchid for being a long serving member of PWMU (50 + years). Two other members had reached their 50-year milestone, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Tilson. Mrs Maxwell sang a beautiful rendition of 'I Need Thee Every Hour' accompanied by Mrs Owen Manser (a Rolland House Graduate) on the organ.

The Annual Thanksgiving Service was held in The Scots' Church, Melbourne on Thursday 23rd August. Despite the challenges of the day (an overnight break-in and confusion with the caterers), the service proceeded, conducted by the Moderator, Professor Allan Harman and The Scots' Church, Melbourne Minister, Rev. Neil Pritchard. The service commenced with Psalm 100 and concluded with the hymn 'Jesus Shall Reign Wherever the Sun.' Rev. J. Graham Miller preached the sermon 'The Lord will do great things' with references to the ministry of women in the PWMU. After the service, three hundred members and their guests attended a luncheon held at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, where many reminiscences were shared and a time of fellowship was enjoyed as friendships were renewed. The lunch guests included several past workers including Deaconess Cath Ritchie, Dr Helen and Sister Cath McKenzie, Miss B. McNabb, Mrs Prenter, Miss Mary Brister, Mrs Winifred Allen and Miss Mary Gillan. Serving workers who attended were Miss Joan Campbell and Mrs Margaret Stephens. Several long-standing members received flowers and Mrs Fairservice cut the cake.

The 100th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Thursday 11th October in The Scots' Church, Melbourne. At this service, Rev. Graham Lyman, Convener of the Social Service Committee, was handed a cheque totalling \$16,231.46. This money had been raised by PWMU as a special thanksgiving fund and the proceeds were directed to purchasing equipment for the Physiotherapy and Craft room at Kirkbrae. These funds provided the following items: a tilt table and accessories, a wax bath, a Guthrie Smith Frame and accessories, weighted cuffs for wrists and ankles, a shoulder exercising wheel, a pedal exerciser (chair fixing type), an equipment trolley, a physio stool and castors, and a rehabilitator (multi-purpose exerciser). Rev. Lyman thanked the Committee and gave a report on the plans and changes proposed for Kirkbrae. Mrs Maxwell gave a beautiful solo rendition of 'Beyond the Sunset' and this was followed by Mr Ron Wong Loy giving the address entitled 'The story of the Chinese Church.' He traced the history of the Gospel coming to Chinese immigrants from 1860 when the General Assembly of the PCV resolved to begin a mission to the Chinese in Ballarat that continued through to 1990 with the appointment of Mr Stephen Tay, an exit student, to the Ballarat

congregation. Rev. David Innes brought greetings from the Assembly and dedicated the incoming members of the Council of 1990-1991.

After lunch, Miss Gwen Gibson was the speaker and told of the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea (PNG). She likened the PWMU to a mother and urged members to continue to uphold workers in the field in prayer. The prize winners in the Children's Competition were announced and books prizes were collected by members from the appropriate congregations.

PWMU Branch and PA Centenary Celebrations in 1990

Melbourne West Presbyterial Association (PA) held its centenary service on March 21st at Gisborne, which, incidentally, was the oldest branch in the Melbourne West PA. The minister of Gisborne, Rev. R. Taylor, conducted the service and the former Moderator, Rev. R.W. Traill, gave the address. There were representatives from every branch within the PA, PWMU Council, Presbytery and local ministers and friends. The PWMU ladies formed a small choir and The Lord's Supper was celebrated at the end of the service. Lunch was served outside and during this time Rev. Traill made a presentation to the longest serving member of the Melbourne West PA, Miss Jean Benson of Gisborne, who had been a member since 1926.

On May 2nd a Centenary Celebration was held at St Andrew's Gardenvale East for the Melbourne East PA. Refreshments were served before the Communion Service, which was conducted by the Minister, Rev. E. Pearsons. The guest speaker at the afternoon service was Mr Ron Wong-Loy of the Chinese Church in Malvern. He spoke of the early days of the work among the Chinese in Victoria some 130 years earlier. He particularly paid tribute to the Godly women from PWMU who cared for the spiritual and physical needs of Chinese mothers and children in the years following the formation of PWMU in 1890.

Sunday July 8th was the day chosen to hold a Centenary Thanksgiving Service for the Geelong PA in St George's Church, Geelong. The service was attended by 120 people, including many visitors from the Uniting Church. Miss Wendy Venters gave a beautiful solo rendition of 'To God be the Glory.' The guest speaker was Rev. Len Pearce, from Ringwood/Heathmont PC. He gave an overview of the early days of 1890 and then proceeded to preach from Matthew 28:18-20, entitled 'Our Commission, Our Guarantee and Our Confidence.' After the service, hot soup was provided and there was a display of memorabilia.

Ballarat PA held its Centenary Thanksgiving Celebration on July 17th at Scots' Church, Ballarat. Eighty people attended to hear Rev. Keith Allen speak about realities of Christian service in past PWMU endeavours and how they might apply in the future. After lunch, former PA Presidents were presented with a history of the Ballarat PA and Mrs Bena McNabb, a former worker to Korea, told of the early work in Korea. Memorabilia and treasures from Korea were on display. Mrs Margaret Miller, State President of PWMU, gave a talk outlining the motive behind PWMU and the challenges of the time in aiding national churches in other lands.

Tuesday 31st July was the day the Flinders PA met together for its Centenary Thanksgiving Service. This was held at the Pioneers Memorial Church, Park Road, Cheltenham. The service was led by the President, Mrs M. McDermid, and the guest speaker was Mrs Margaret Miller. She spoke of the early beginnings of PWMU in Victoria and the workers that were supported. She also read from Proverbs 24:11-12 and challenged all present as to whether these words still apply and are as relevant today as they were to the ladies who pioneered PWMU. After lunch, everyone enjoyed the duets sung by Mrs Aileen Murray and Mrs Thelma Mickelson. Sister Cath Mackenzie, who had served in Korea, spoke

about the early workers to that country, including her own mother. She included some excerpts from her mother's diary reflecting on her first few days in Korea.

Flemington PWMU held a praise and thanksgiving service on August 1st where other PWMU groups and members of local churches joined in 'making a joyful noise unto the Lord.' Mrs Abadi, the minister's wife, spoke of her chaplaincy appointment to the Royal Women's Hospital, her studies at theological college and her welfare work.

St Andrew's PWMU, Hamilton, hosted sixty guests for a luncheon on August 15th as part of their Centenary Celebrations. This was held at Hamilton's Peace Memorial Hall and the President, Mary Young, welcomed three former ministers and their wives. Secretary Ann Michael read a letter from the State President Margaret Miller and Vice President Linda Meadows read a history of PWMU. Rev. Fintelman dedicated a PWMU Centenary Plaque in the Peace Memorial meeting room.

August 29th was the day set aside for the Melbourne North PA to have its Centenary celebration which took the form of a luncheon held at Surrey Hills Church. In front of 109 attendees, the President, Mrs R. Sullivan, welcomed the Moderator of the PCV, who in turn brought greetings from the Assembly. Four members, Mrs J. Croll, Miss B. Young, Miss M. Brister and Miss M. Gillan, gave a 'Peeps from the Past' talk. Mrs Margaret Miller spoke of the future and more opportunities for service. Mrs L. Ansell thanked the speakers and the Ringwood/Heathmont Singers who had sung beautifully.

St John's Warrnambool was the venue for the Kilnoorat PA to have a three in one celebration: its Annual Conference, Centenary Celebration and History Book Launch. September 13th saw 103 attendees join in. The Branch President, Mrs Heather Bramich, chose to speak on 'Except the Lord build the house' and likened PWMU to a house – the foundations upon which alterations and repairs need to be constantly made. After lunch, Communion was conducted by Rev. Dr Tony Bird. Mrs M. Schrader gave an outstanding resume of the work of PWMU for 100 years. Afternoon tea was then served in the hall where their oldest serving member, Miss Bradshaw, cut the cake and the Mayor of Warrnambool, Mr J. McGrath, was one of the many people to extend congratulations to PWMU.

September 13th was also the day chosen by Benalla PWMU to hold its Centenary celebration of PWMU in Victoria. St Andrew's Hall was the venue for over forty guests who were welcomed by Mrs Matthews. Ray and Jenny Baker were the guest speakers who used slides to enhance their reflections of their work in Nigeria. They were thanked by the Committee and afternoon tea was then enjoyed by all.

That same day, Smeaton PWMU joined to host their Centenary celebrations. The church was full and 120 people signed the visitors' book. The President, Mrs P. Evans, welcomed everyone including Mrs Margaret Miller, Mrs F. Graham (State Council) and Miss J. Mitchell from Canterbury PC whose mother had been one of the first presidents of Smeaton PWMU. Mrs M. Wilson read the minutes of the first meeting in Smeaton, dated December 5th 1890. Margaret Miller gave an address based on Psalm 33 and the attendees enjoyed the singing of the Creswick Senior Citizens Choir accompanied by Miss H. Deppler on the organ. After lunch, Margaret Miller spoke on the work of the PWMU and presented the Plaque and History Book. The cake was cut and gifts and floral sprays were presented to the guests, followed by afternoon tea.

The Gippsland PA held its Centenary Celebration on Monday 17th September at St Andrew's Morwell. The usual half-yearly conference was held in the morning with a warm welcome from Mrs J. Morey. After lunch, communion was conducted by Rev. D. Morey and Margaret Miller gave an address entitled 'Looking backward and looking forward.' Afternoon tea was then enjoyed by all, the

Celebration cake being cut by Mrs J. Wilson, their longest serving member. The day ended by everyone singing 'Now unto Him.'

Moorabool PWMU had a wonderful afternoon on October 14th celebrating the Centenary. The service was held in Batesford church where Miss Helen Gillan reflected on her life as a child in Vanuatu where four generations of her family served over the course of 130 years. Rev. Stephen Sasdy dedicated the PWMU plaque which had been placed in the church. Afternoon tea was served in the Batesford Hall where Minute books and other memorabilia were on display. Miss Mary Gillan gave an entertaining talk about her work as a kindergarten teacher at Aurukun, North Queensland, and the celebrations concluded with the presentation of long service certificates and the cutting of a Centenary cake by two of the senior ladies.

'Ebenezer' PWMU, later renamed Ballarat South, was formed December 5th 1890. They celebrated the Centenary on October 23rd at the Ebenezer/St John's Church Ballarat. Margaret Miller gave an inspiring address, Mrs Winifred Allen (PA President) read the Scripture reading and Rev. R. Traill gave a devotional message. Mesdames Glynn, Harris and Brown sang 'The Stranger of Galilee.' Afternoon tea was served with Margaret Miller cutting the Centenary Cake.

The following day, October 24th, saw many assemble at St Andrew's Marnoo to celebrate the Centenary with the Wimmera PA. A piper, Mr L. McSwain, played, the plaque was unveiled, the Centennial Cake was cut and the guest speakers that followed were Miss J. Campbell and Miss T. Lang.

Stockyard Hill PA held a Centenary Thanksgiving service and its 70th birthday celebrations as a combined event. Mrs Flora Grylls from Eaglehawk gave the address. Her husband, Rev. Bert Grylls, was a former minister of Stockyard Hill PC (Skipton charge). Mrs Alma Charles, a former member of the PWMU of Stockyard Hill, read a poem she had written about the Australian Inland Mission. Several duets were sung by Mrs Elvia Nitschke and Mrs Janine Kerr. Janine also recited a piece entitled 'If Jesus Came to Your House.' After a delightful afternoon tea, Mrs M Bain (secretary) read the minutes of the first branch meeting held in 1920 and gave a brief history of the Stockyard Hill branch.

Other celebrations during the year included the 20-year anniversary of the AEF. The AEF held their first Conference/Convention in Port Augusta, South Australia in 1970. Early in 1990 they returned to the same place, 'the Crossroads to the North.' The Convention was a great encouragement to all who attended.

Not everything that occurred in 1990 was as happy a celebration as some. On Friday November 30th, a substantial number of people gathered at The Scots' Church, Melbourne for a Thanksgiving service for St Andrew's Hospital. This hospital was established in 1935 by the PCV and soon obtained a reputation for being one of the finest general surgical and maternity hospitals in Victoria. After Union it became the joint property of both the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches. During the 1980s, however, it became plagued by financial difficulties and the Victorian Government was forced to appoint a liquidator. The endowment funds are still property of the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches and are used to provide grants to hospitals, aged care facilities and community services run by either church.

The service at The Scots' Church, Melbourne had nine speakers to create a 'Tapestry of Recollections.' The service was conducted by Rev. Norman Pritchard, with the moderator of the Uniting Church, Rev. Kerrie Graham, offering the prayer of thanksgiving. Rev. David Innes presented a history of the hospital. Among those present were staff, past patients, and supporters and, despite the sadness of the event, many expressed much gratitude for the provision of this hospital for the duration of its life.

Later Centenary Celebrations

1990 was not the only year to see centenary celebrations. In March 1891, the ladies of St Cuthbert's Brighton held their first PWMU meeting. So, on 19th March 1991, a celebratory luncheon was held in the Memorial Hall to mark its centenary. Guests included past and present members of Council as well as Rev. and Mrs Edgar Johnston who had been the minister (and his wife) at Brighton at one time. The President of Brighton PWMU, Mrs Elizabeth Cutler, welcomed everyone and gave a short address. Mrs Hill-Murray read the minutes of the first meeting from 1891 and Rev. Johnston said a few words about women's work in the church. After lunch, the birthday cake was cut by Mesdames Bowden, Johnston and Hatten, which was then followed by an hour of entertainment and singing by the Barclay Singers.

Morwell PWMU held a celebration on Tuesday 30th April 1991 to mark 100 years. One hundred and twenty people attended to hear various histories recounted, a play reading performed and a choir singing. A banner (made by one of the members) commemorating the centenary was presented concluding a truly delightful afternoon.

Gisborne PWMU celebrated its centenary on 18th March 1992. St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Gisborne was the venue with Rev. Ian Barker (State Moderator), Rev. D. Griffin (Presbytery Moderator), Mr W. Wilson (Session Clerk) and Mr R. MacDonald (visiting elder from Sunshine PC) in attendance. Rev. Barker reminded the guests of The Great Commission and Rev. Griffin preached on how our knowledge of God is not academic but based on a personal relationship with Him. The service closed with the hymn 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and after lunch the birthday cake was cut by a direct descendant of the founding member in Gisborne.

The PWMU branch at Port Fairy celebrated its 100th birthday on 10th September 1992. The Rev. David Brown conducted the Thanksgiving service at St Andrew's Church, Port Fairy. The Moderator, Rev. Ian Barker of Warrnambool, brought greetings from the Assembly and Rev. D. Elliot brought greetings from Kilnoorat Presbytery. Other guests included the PWMU State President Mrs Winifred Allen, representatives from all the churches of the Kilnoorat Presbytery and members from other local churches of Port Fairy. Greetings and congratulations were conveyed from the Mayor and Councillors of Port Fairy Borough. Mrs Carmel Warwick gave a history of the Port Fairy branch and the guest speaker, Mrs M. Shrader, spoke about the life of Rev. John Flynn. After the service, a special birthday cake was cut by Mrs E. Sproul (a past president) and 'Happy Birthday' was played by Miss G. Howell.

October 18th 1992 was the date of a centenary service held at Malvern to celebrate 100 years of the Chinese Presbyterian Church. The guest speaker was Mr John Searle, Moderator of Melbourne East Presbytery and an elder at Surrey Hills PC. Malvern had kindly offered a place for the Chinese congregation to use in 1983 and for many years they met in the Sunday school hall in the afternoons. This arrangement led to some from these afternoon services also attending the morning services and vice versa.

Noorat PWMU celebrated its 100th birthday on 21st June 1995 with a church service in which one hundred people attended. Mrs B. Smith (President) welcomed everyone, the choir sang, and various Council members spoke both on the history of Noorat PWMU and the work carried out by the members. Afternoon tea followed, with a centenary cake which was cut by Mrs Both, wife of the minister at Noorat for many years.

Thoona PWMU celebrated their 100th birthday on 28th November 2005 with a gathering of former members and friends in Thoona Hall. The roll call was taken by using a box of texts, whereby each member would say her name and read a verse of scripture printed on a small card. All the cards were

stored in a box. This had been the method used for many years at meetings. Four ladies participated in the cake cutting ceremony.

Terang PWMU celebrated its centenary on 3rd June 1996. A light luncheon was served before the service began at 1pm. The church bell rang out one hundred times prior to the service, which was led by Rev. Paul Ridgewell. After the service the President, Mrs Heather Bramich, led the celebrations, which included a beautiful rendition of two well-loved hymns sung by Heather's daughter Ruth Panaccio. The State President, Mrs Anne Innes, was the guest speaker and several members of the Terang Council gave historical overviews of the group. Afternoon tea was served in the Sunday School hall with a large birthday cake being cut by the oldest member, Mrs Ethel Ralph.

The Inverleigh PWMU held its centenary service and celebration on Sunday September 15th 1996. Rev. Tony Parle led the services with Bible readings read by Mrs Isobel Wishart and Miss Rhondda Price. The Secretary of the Branch, Mrs Margaret McConachy, gave a historical overview and Rev. Ken Martin delivered the sermon 'The riches of the glory of the mystery among the Gentiles' based on Colossians 1:19-29. After lunch together, Rhondda Price spoke about her work in Kenya involving translation and her visits to refugee camps. A celebration cake was provided and was cut by Mrs Betty Wishart.

Moe PWMU celebrated its 100th birthday on Thursday 15th April 2010 by hosting the Country Rally. A marvellous morning tea awaited those arriving along with a well-stocked trading table. The morning service included lovely hymns, a history of Moe PWMU over the last 100 years and an encouraging sermon based on Mark chapter 6 from the minister at Drouin, Rev. Mark Smith. Over lunch, the centenary cake, made by Heather Grant, was cut by Lynette Seccombe and Margaret Waterson, two faithful Moe members. Guest speakers Andrew and Suzy Vines were well received after lunch, outlining their plans for work in the Middle East. The afternoon ended with a light-hearted 'Meet the Council', followed by another cup of tea.

2008 was the year that Drouin PWMU celebrated its 100th birthday on Tuesday 20th May by holding a special church service at 11.30am. Rev. Walter Zurrer was the guest speaker and lunch was provided for all the guests.

Rochester branch celebrated its 100th birthday on Sunday 16th October 2011 with a basket lunch following the 10.30am service. The morning service was led by Rev. Philip Burns. After lunch Mrs Sandra Burns spoke on the various challenges and the rewarding experiences of life as a worker when serving in cultures that are vastly different to our own. The candles on the centenary cake were lit by Mrs Gwen Macague and fanned out by Mrs Elizabeth Jenkins (Branch President). The cake was cut by the longest serving member Mrs Grace Haines, after which a commemorative booklet was distributed.

The Elwood Branch of PWMU held its centenary celebration in May 2015. The President, Betty Goodliffe, welcomed everyone who attended, including State President Esther Vayne. Mavis Price was the guest speaker who gave an informative talk. A delicious afternoon tea was then provided, the highlight of which was a special 100th birthday cake. Betty was also presented with a Long Service Certificate for 29 years in office.

2001 marked the Centenary of Federation and celebrations in our nation, but it was also the one hundredth year of the Australian Federal Presbyterian Church. PWMU ladies made a beautiful quilt for the celebrations in Sydney during the year. This quilt, which now resides in the PWMU office in Hawthorn, was designed by Carol Stewart (Ballarat South) and was quilted by Heather Bramich (Terang), Margaret Dimelow (Surrey Hills) and Fairlie Stewart (Geelong). Tuesday 24th July was the day set aside for this occasion and the venue was the Sydney Town Hall. Numbers were such that overflow

seating was provided in St Andrew's Cathedral next door. Scots' College pipes and drums greeted those who arrived and a large Korean choir sang in both their native language and in English. Other music was supplied by a youth band, as well as an organ with some more traditional hymns. A visual presentation outlining one hundred years of the Presbyterian Church in Australia (PCA) was appreciated by the 2000 attendees. Senator Alston read a message of appreciation from the then Prime Minister (Mr John Howard) and Johnny Naual from Vanuatu (a student at Presbyterian Theological Centre in Sydney) read the scripture reading. The Moderator General, Very Rev. Bruce Christian, was interviewed and Rev. Ian Smith (lecturer in New Testament at the Presbyterian Theological Centre) delivered a sermon on Hebrews 12:1-3, 'Moving Ahead.'

Other Noteworthy Celebrations

Benalla Evening PWMU Branch had its 50th Anniversary in 1995. April 5th saw a large crowd gather in the church hall, with special guests Rev. and Mrs Alister McLean, as well as Rev. and Mrs Ken Martin who had recently returned from the field in South Africa. A devotion was given, followed by Doreen Hair giving a short history of the Branch. Mrs McLean was the founder of the group and entertained the gathering with reminiscences of the early days when she and her husband served in Benalla for seventeen years. Mr McLean was pleased to be reunited with old acquaintances and graciously accepted a belated apology from a middle-aged gentleman who remembered playing up during Mr McLean's Religious Instruction class at Benalla High School many years previously. Musical items, poetry and a slide show were followed by supper which included a beautiful cake to mark the celebrations.

Whittlesea PWMU celebrated its 21st birthday on 18th September 1995 with a luncheon held at the Presbyterian Rooms. Forty-five ladies were welcomed by Bev Hawke and flowers were presented to two founding members, Mary McNees and Lois Taylor. Mrs Sadler gave an interesting review of some of the aims and activities of their group. Catering for a barn dance and at the Whittlesea show, slide shows, barbeque lunches, garage sales and trivia nights had all been done successfully. Visitors to this celebration were given a key bookmark and a fine piece of birthday cake.

Lunch together marked the start of the 50th anniversary celebration of Woolsthorpe PWMU on October 29th 1996. Following this, a history of PWMU work in the area was presented. A cake was cut by the two surviving foundation members, Mrs Milly Walker and Miss Gwen Jones. The choir sang the song 'Faithful God' and Rev. Allan Every (minister at Woolsthorpe) gave a short message based on the Old Testament theme of the 50th year being a Jubilee Year. Guest speaker Allan Bowes then gave a delightful presentation of an 'off the beaten track' tour of Northern Ireland, castles of Scotland and peaks of Switzerland.

Warrnambool Evening PWMU celebrated its 50th birthday on Thursday 18th September 1997. One hundred and twenty gathered to hear Mrs Margaret Conradi speak, as well as Mrs Ginny Every of Koroit as the guest artist. Four of the original members were also present and were all given buttonhole posies.

Mordialloc PWMU and Ladies Guild celebrated their 90th birthday on 27th November 2013 with a 'Dainty Afternoon Tea' as stated in the original minutes. Celebrations included a piper and reminiscences of what happened 90 years ago. A birthday cake was cut and this was followed by a sing-along of favourite Christmas carols which was enjoyed by all.

In years past, PWMU supported PIM and therefore were delighted to report about the Centenary celebrations. In September 2012 PIM celebrated one hundred years of outback service. A Thanksgiving

Service was held at The Scots' Church, Melbourne at 7pm on Saturday 22nd September. Rev. Rob Duncanson led the call to worship, Rev. Robert Benn gave an Historical Reflection on the past 100 years and Rev. Stuart Bonnington, PIM Superintendent, spoke on the PIM ministry today and the vision for the future. Mr Bert Pearce, PIM Padre (Mid-West WA Patrol) gave the Scripture Reading from Acts 3:1-10. Very Rev. David Jones, Moderator General of the PCA, gave the message emphasising Acts 3:6, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give to you.' Musical accompaniment was provided by the Athan family, on piano, guitar and trumpet. The book *Views Beyond the Furthest Fence* was launched and the evening concluded with supper served in the Werner Brodbeck Hall.

The Australian Inland Mission had been established by the General Assembly of Australia 26th September 1912 with the Rev. John Flynn as Superintendent. The name was subsequently changed to the Presbyterian Inland Mission after Union (1977). This mission had been born out of earlier work done by Rev. Robert Mitchell in the early 1900s. PIM relied on Presbyterians to support them as the General Assembly of Australia did not cover all their expenses. By 2007, PIM was operating Australia-wide, with a range of ministries across the continent.

Outreach at home

As well as overseas work, there has been plenty of outreach within our own borders and the following section is a summary of the endeavours that PWMU has supported both in finances and with prayer.

Barbara Brown, who came to Melbourne in 1983 to continue her work with Navigators, spent the next thirty years reaching out to university students with the Gospel. Although her official work has ended, she continues as staff emeritus.

Early in 1991, Rev. Stephen T. Young arrived in Melbourne with his wife Sarah and two children. They had travelled from Atlanta, Georgia, USA, in response to an invitation by the PCV. They had been sent by the Presbyterian Church of America for the purpose of ministering among the Japanese community in Melbourne. Their backgrounds were highly suited to this work and their initial aim was to provide English conversation classes. They established services at Canterbury PC beginning on Easter Sunday with about 28 people attending each week at the afternoon session. These services continue in 2020, although the service time is now 10.30am.

The Scots' Church, Melbourne street outreach, established back in 1881, continues to be supported. At that time, it was known as Scots' Church District Association and was in a building adjacent to the church in Russell Street. In 1924 it became the Presbyterian and Scots' Church Joint Mission. Over the next 70 years it moved from Russell Street to West Melbourne, to Carlton and then to St Kilda. Since 1994 it has been based in Flemington. The aim was to develop a community-based mission church providing outreach, community service, a day-care centre and a place to worship. In recent years PWMU's direct involvement has ceased although the programme at Flemington continues. The operating hours have changed but it is still a valuable source of comfort to locals who need extra care. In 2011, Mrs Margaret Conradi, who is our PWMU representative for this work, was acknowledged for 30 years of service with the mission.

Work amongst the Australian Indigenous communities came into clearer focus in 1991, with a closer involvement between APWM and AEF. Rev. Charles Green, then minister at Tenterfield, NSW, attended the annual conference of AEF and, as a result, made some recommendations to the Federal Missions Committee. Rev. Green was subsequently commissioned as Co-ordinator of Presbyterian Support of Work amongst the Aboriginal people with some time given to counselling.

November 1996 saw the first ever Aboriginal student, Rick Manton, graduate from the PTC in Melbourne. He and his wife Kayleen moved to Mt Druitt in Sydney to serve as APWM workers. They were very encouraged that a house became available quite quickly and there was a team of people ready to help as counsellors in their work. His induction service at Tregear, NSW, was held on Friday April 11th 1997. The church was full and the guest speakers were the Rev. Robert Benn and Professor Allan Harman who preached the sermon based on John 20:31, 'But these (miraculous signs) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.'

Dennis and Glenys Tranter were appointed as workers to serve among the Aboriginal people in 1997. Their commissioning service was held at Frankston PC on June 7 1998 and they left Melbourne a week later. Dennis worked with local Christian aboriginal people in Borroloola to help build up the church. The whole family aimed to help by offering to teach locals practical skills such as sewing, wood turning and hygiene. They also wanted to build up the sports centre to help keep people occupied. In 2006 Dennis changed direction slightly and began part time with PIM, creating a new inland patrol area,

and part time with Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM). They finished up their time in Borroloola in 2007 but saw great changes as they were leaving, with the local Christians stepping up and taking responsibility for the church. Visiting again in 2009, they were greatly encouraged to see how the church had grown in confidence and was no longer in need of a full-time worker. The Tranters, therefore, moved into translation work as well as Prison Ministry in New South Wales.

Rev. Cliff and Mrs Sue Letcher began ministry with AIM in 1994. As president, Cliff's duties included pastoral care of workers and church leaders. They served for almost 20 years before Sue became seriously ill and Cliff stepped down to care for her until her death in 2014. Janet Cowden served in Darwin for 25 years with Wycliffe in their Aborigines Branch Headquarters. She served as the librarian and supported those who were working as translators. The work amongst Aboriginal communities has been ongoing over many years including Graham and Sue Hammond and Aaron and Katie Rigg, with Matt and Katie Vinicombe being the most recent workers supported by PWMU.

Paul and Janae Denness were initially serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in the Northern Territory working with Australian Aborigines. After three years, they relocated to Cambodia for three years before serving in PNG until 2011, when they returned to Australia permanently.

Kirkbrae, well known for its facilities at the foot of the Dandenongs, extended its reach by establishing another Hostel in Whittington, Geelong, in 1995. This facility is both a retirement village and an aged-care facility. It eventually had one hundred and twenty cottages, with a community centre that housed a library, a craft room, a billiards room, a kitchen and a large lounge area. The centre at Kilsyth underwent expansion in 2013 adding another four free standing units, a cluster of eight units, a chapel that seats 100 and a redevelopment of the administration block. This would be a two-storey administration building with fifteen offices, as well as a maintenance building.

Home Mission Workers Association (HMWA) was founded in 1934 when a need was seen to aid Home Mission Stations and theological students whilst studying on half a stipend and often in less than satisfactory conditions. Many churches and manse buildings were in desperate need of improvement and therefore some of the assistance was to provide funds for maintenance, equipment and furniture costs. Some money was in the form of two grants, one to assist with the purchase of books and the other a Christmas gift. For a time the support was used to assist in debt reduction. Fund raising took many forms including fetes. After 1970, HMWA received a legacy which was able to be invested and the interest used for distribution. PWMU was conscious of the need to support HMWA particularly after 1977 when congregational numbers had reduced in size. This association was wound up in 2017 due mainly to financial constraints and the finances are now in the hands of the Ministry Development Committee.

1998 marked the centenary of the establishment of Deaconess work within the PCV, and while this ministry was phased out after 1977, a service was held on May 3rd to mark the occasion. (On this day in 1898 the General Assembly of the PCV had formally opened the Deaconess Training Institute, later known as Rolland House). The centenary celebration took place in St Andrew's Church, Gardiner (formerly Presbyterian and now Uniting). Several special guests included Nance Smith who trained at Rolland House and later served in Queensland and Vanuatu, and Dr Cath Ritchie former principal at Rolland House. Rev. Pamela Kerr, also a former principal, spoke of the work carried out by many graduates, some travelling to overseas fields such as Korea, India and China, while others worked with the Australian Inland Mission.

Many changes in technology have had a marked impact on the work of PWMU. As mentioned, with the advent of computers, using regular postal services is no longer widely practiced, which in turn made the collection of used stamps no longer viable. The income from this source is now recorded in

the financial statements under donations, although this only happened as recently as 2016. Old stamp albums donated to PWMU have been found to be quite valuable and were sold to a local stamp dealer.

Christmas cards and blank cards have suffered the same fate. The first Christmas cards had been printed in 1953 and sales peaked in 1973 with a total of 40,000 cards sold. All the old stock was recently sold off and no new ones have been ordered.

The cookbook, however, seems to keep flourishing. With the first edition appearing in 1904, a centenary edition was published in 2004. Tuesday 4th May 2004 was the day many gathered at St Michael's Centre in Melbourne to celebrate this event. Celebrity chef Gabriel Gaté was the guest speaker and spoke highly of the cookbook. He agreed not to charge an appearance fee and then delighted everyone by showing a cake he had 'made' following one of the recipes. The result looked fantastic but tasted terrible! He then confessed to using playdough and proceeded to produce from a nearby container a real cake that was enjoyed by everyone. He even signed numerous copies of the centenary edition of the cookbook. The proceeds from sales help support the Bursary Fund which is used to support overseas students coming to Australia to study at the PTC. The proceeds from a new book *From Suet to Saffron* published in 2012 also help support Bursary students.

The centenary of the cookbook was also celebrated in the General Assembly of 2004 when the PWMU ladies attended on the Thursday of their meetings. The President, Mrs Lorraine Phillips, presented her annual report which was followed by speeches from Mrs Sylvia Schultz and Mrs Mairi Harman. The Moderator of the Assembly, Professor Allan Harman, was very gracious in his kind words to the PWMU.

Children's ministry has been a constant focus of PWMU. The newsletters during the early 1990s had a page set aside known as 'Children's Corner.' The Dayspring Magazine took over from this part of the newsletter in 1997, becoming a separate publication for children. There was also a yearly Mission Challenge (later named Children's Challenge) which would focus on a specific missionary and would allow children to design posters or write letters. Over the years the number of participants declined until it ceased in 2010. Dayspring Day was the brainchild of Mrs Cassie Hood, who wrote to PWMU asking if she could run a day programme for children emphasising a missionary focus. The first of these days was in September 2005 and has continued every year since. The location of this day has been at Kangaroo Ground, although circumstances required a relocation to Donvale PC several times. The first Dayspring Day in country Victoria was planned for 2020, but due to the global pandemic had to be cancelled.

2013 saw the 30th celebrations of the opening of St Andrew's Christian College. Founded in 1983 as a primary school by Professor Allan Harman in Surrey Hills, Melbourne, it was relocated to Burwood in Melbourne in 1998 due to the growth of the student numbers. Here it was able to offer secondary classes from 2000. The school has always had a strong connection to the PCV. Many PWMU members have attended the school, as have children and grandchildren of Presbyterian workers. In 2010, the school relocated to its current campus in Wantirna South in Melbourne. The school established connections with Tata School on Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu in 2012 and has raised funds to buy water tanks and train teachers, as well as encouraging fellow believers in their walk with Christ. A celebration afternoon and evening were held on Saturday 31st August 2013 with one of the highlights being a rendition of Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus.' A ten-day mission's trip was taken by a team from the school to Vanuatu in July and August of 2013, which firmly established the relationship.

Outreach overseas

1990 saw both new workers venture overseas and some return home. Rev. Ken and Mrs Gillian Martin, with their young family, were commissioned to travel to South Africa to work with the Gereformeerde Kirk in the Republic of Venda. It was noted at their commissioning service in December 1989 that they were the first Presbyterian workers under the direct umbrella of APWM to be sent out since Walter and Rosemary Zurrer had gone to the New Hebrides in 1969. The Martin family returned at the end of 1994. Rhondda Price was recommissioned on January 3rd 1990 and subsequently travelled to Nairobi, Kenya, to continue her work there. Ray and Jenny Baker returned from Nigeria during the year, after being in the field for thirteen and a half years.

Space prevents a thorough documentation of every worker who has ventured overseas and many have served or are serving in countries where their names are best not mentioned for security reasons. This is particularly relevant to workers who served, or are still serving, in Central Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. For those who have been in security sensitive areas (40 years for one couple) we say thank you. It is encouraging to see that overseas work is continuing and the following paragraphs are just a few highlights from the past thirty years.

Korea

The work in Korea, begun in the early years of PWMU, suffered significant setbacks during the 1930s and World War 2. A total of eighty workers, thirty-three of whom were women sent out by PWMU, served in Korea until the Japanese occupation in 1941 brought that to a halt. The years of the 1950s, especially with the rise of a communist government in the north of the country and the Korean War between 1950 and 1953, seemed to be the 'nails in the coffin' for the work in that country. Despite these setbacks a handful of people continued during the 1960s and 1970s. The Korean Church has never forgotten the efforts of Australians and in 2019 there was a special service held to mark 130 years of partnership. It was noted that the women from the Presbyterian Church here in Australia sent to Korea in the 1890s were the first workers to specifically minister to the women in Korea.

Dr Rex F. Burns, former Convener of APWM, visited Pusan in 1989 as the representative of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take part in the Centenary Celebrations of the establishment of the Australian Presbyterian Mission to Korea. He was particularly encouraged to see posters on churches and banners across the street depicting the 100th Anniversary, with the Korean Emblem in one '0' of the 100 and a kangaroo in the other '0'. He comments that the visit was encouraging as the Presbyterian Church had lost its connection with the Korean Church in 1977 as all the workers joined the Uniting Church. He was able to connect with three large Presbyterian denominations and represent the PCA at the local General Assemblies, at which he was invited to speak. He could see the potential for renewed connection as the Korean Church had a great desire to work in other cultures.

February 16th 1998 saw a special graduation at Canterbury PC. Dr Sang Gyoo Lee had travelled from Kosin University in Pusan, Korea in 1987 to undertake his thesis for his Doctor of Theology at PTC in Melbourne. His thesis was entitled, "*A Study of the Australian Presbyterian Mission Work in Korea, 1889 -1941.*" Rev. Dr Charles Sherlock, who conferred the degree, stated that this thesis filled a gap in the history records and would be a valuable document. Dr Lee was given a rousing ovation. The PWMU Council was pleased to play their part by providing funding for him and his family as a bursary student for the three years he was in Australia. While he was in Melbourne, he was encouraged to establish a

Korean Presbyterian Church. This congregation, initially based at St Kilda PC before moving to Trinity PC, provided a link with the Korean Seaman's Mission in providing a place of worship for those seamen who so desired. The Korean Seaman's Mission was an outreach which operated in the Port of Melbourne. The work was carried out by Mr and Mrs Noyoun Park who provided hospitality to sailors (not only Korean but other nationalities as well) in their home, transporting them to church services and distributing Bibles and other literature. God met them in an extraordinary way when Mrs Park was miraculously cured of lupus. The Korean Presbyterian Church is now located in Balwyn North and is part of Melbourne East Presbytery.

Professor Allan Harman and his wife Mairi travelled to Korea, once in 1997 and again in 1998. The visit in 1997 was primarily a holiday but they did attend The International Conference of Reformed Churches, where they were able to reconnect with past friends from their student days. One of these was the first bursary student PWMU had sponsored to come to Australia in 1980, Gabriel Oragbe. Another was the bursary student Dr Sang Goo Lee who had been in Australia ten years previously. The visit in 1998 included attending a ceremony where Professor Harman was involved with the baptism of 6,500 Korean soldiers who had professed faith in Christ. It was an amazing sight to see and there were two separate ladies' choirs, a military band and a sermon from an 82-year-old former chaplain general. When the time came for the baptisms, they quickly realized that there was a shortage of chaplains to do the baptisms, so Professor Harman was asked to help. He donned white gloves and went up and down the rows baptising about 200 soldiers. They then returned to the Headquarters Chapel for a meal that was accompanied by a ladies' choir performance.

In 2020, PWMU celebrated its 130th year. Due to the global pandemic (see Conclusion) the AGM and Annual Thanksgiving Service was combined into one online event. The guest preacher, Rev. Michael Lee who at the time was pastoring at Clarinda PC in Melbourne, was born in Busan, South Korea. He spoke briefly about the first workers to Korea and it was a fitting tribute.

Korean Christians have long felt the burden to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An unknown missiologist has stated, *'Korean Christians are like tigers in a cage, and the key that will unlock it is English. Give it to them, and they will roam the world as great witnesses for the Lord.'* In 1982, the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of Korea established the Missionary Training Institute (MTI) in Yeosu, South Korea. The aim is to train Korean workers to be 'biblically sound, culturally flexible, and linguistically effective.' To date, over 2,600 Koreans have been trained at this institute. More recent ventures by Australians to Korea have been involved in this ministry in teaching English. Darryl Jackson served in Korea in this capacity for a several years before marrying a local girl in 2012 and returning to Australia to complete his Master of Divinity at PTC. They returned to Korea a few years later but not as APWM or PWMU supported workers. Hannah Davies began her work at MTI early in 2021.

Vanuatu

At the formation of PWMU, several mission fields were considered and while Korea was the first place that women workers were sent, the New Hebrides (now known as Vanuatu) was always in the back of the minds of the Council. This resolve from the earliest days of PWMU, was strengthened by the inclusion of Charlotte Geddie who was a founding member in 1890. Charlotte was the wife of Rev. John Geddie, who was born in Scotland 1815 and migrated with his family to Nova Scotia, Canada, a year later. Charlotte was born in Nova Scotia in 1822. Their subsequent marriage was in 1839. They set sail for the New Hebrides in 1846 and began work there in 1848. Over the following years a

connection with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria was established, with Charlotte becoming the first Vice President of PWMU in 1890.

So, while the desire to minister in the New Hebrides was evident from the outset, it was not until 1945 that PWMU sent Amy Skinner and Cath Ritchie to the New Hebrides to see if the Presbyterian Church there needed any help. Amy Skinner stayed and as a result the PWMU of the New Hebrides was established. Since then, the New Hebrides (renamed Vanuatu in 1980) has been a particular focus for workers from Victoria.

Bill and Sue Campden were stationed in the New Hebrides from 1957. They had translated the Gospels into the Bislama language by 1967 and completed the New Testament by 1977. In 1993, the Old Testament was in the final stages of revision. In these later years they both had health issues, but the work was completed by 1994, including a revision of the New Testament. Sue organised the celebrations of this work in 1998 (Bill had died in 1994). Twenty-eight people travelled from Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney to attend, including a former deaconess Nance Smith who had been involved with the translation work. It was a joy for her to renew old acquaintances. Two dedication services were held, the first on Santos where 4,000 people attended. On the following day, the second was held on Efate at Independence Park, opposite Paton Memorial Church, Vila. There were 7,000 attendees at this celebration. Many officials attended and medals were awarded to fifteen people who had played a part in supporting the translation.

Walter and Rosemary Zurrer went as workers to the New Hebrides from 1969 to 1979, and in 1991 they returned to attend the Annual Conference of PWMU Vanuatu held in May. Rosemary's highlight of this time was the Bible Studies held every morning for an hour and a half. She also noted how the Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu had matured from the 'colonial' days where the workers would make decisions for the people. She did notice, however, that the influx of other denominations was causing some to question their own theology. They travelled again to Vanuatu in 1994, using their long service leave to have a working holiday. They visited sixteen villages, staying one or two nights in each. Village Bible studies, PWMU Bible studies, elders training and refresher courses and worship times made for a very fruitful although somewhat exhausting five weeks. The time spent there was significant as other denominations were attempting to undermine the faith of the people living in Vanuatu. Rosemary wrote down all the questions put to them and, upon returning to Australia, typed up all the responses and sent it back. The PC Vanuatu used these notes as the study material at their next Assembly.

1991 was also the year that Professor Allan Harman and his wife Mairi travelled to Vanuatu and spent two weeks visiting the Talua Ministry Training Centre. They stayed with Ian and Jenni Smith, who were serving at Talua at that time. They shared in the training sessions, as well as reconnecting with Pastor Nippy Aiong who had been a bursary student at the PTC from 1981 to 1983.

Another trip made by Walter and Rosemary in 1997 to help celebrate the Centenary of the Presbyterian work at Hog Harbour on Santo Island showed that this previous issue seemed to have been overcome and they were overjoyed to see a church that was surer of its teaching and was growing in confidence as well as increasing in numbers. On this trip they discovered a memorial church had been built with Walter's name on it. He had the privilege of preaching there to about one hundred people. This celebration was also attended by Mrs Janet Prenter who had returned from the field in the New Hebrides in 1959. She was delighted to make the trip and was overwhelmed by the amount of food supplied for this joyous occasion.

In March 1995, there was a celebration of the centenary of the Teachers and Pastors Training College at Tagoa (now known as Talua Ministry Training Centre). Helen Gillan was privileged to travel to the area and stay with Philip and Sandra Burns who were serving there at the time. She was able to

reconnect with friends from 50 years ago from the time her father had been the principal of the college.

1995 also marked the 50th anniversary of the PWMU movement in Vanuatu. Although the PWMU Council Victoria was unable to be represented, they were certainly supportive in other ways. The celebrations in Vanuatu included a march from Independence Park past Parliament House to Nakamal. They were escorted by police with blue and red flashing lights, and the Vanuatu Military Force Band. Each of the PWMU districts corporately wrote their own songs (both words and music) and performed them during the ceremony. There were prayers, greetings, speeches and art/craft displays before everyone enjoyed a sumptuous feast. It was particularly gratifying to note how the women involved in the PWMU in Vanuatu had grown in their faith and conviction of their identity in Christ and were able to speak up on community matters.

Pastor Nippy Aiong from Vanuatu, who had trained at PTC in Box Hill as a PWMU bursary student, travelled with his wife Aitonga and 66 ladies and 8 children from the tiny island of Ifira in the Port of Vila to Australia in November of 1996. Many of these ladies had saved for over three years to be able to make the journey and it was a delight for PWMU members to meet these travellers and even have them stay in their homes. The week was spent doing some sightseeing, attending church services and being part of the General Committee Meeting on 21st November.

1998 marked the jubilee year since the mission field became an independent church. Mrs Winifred Allen and her husband, Rev. Keith Allen, had the privilege of attending the celebrations held in August of that year. Keith and Winifred had served as workers in the New Hebrides between 1962 and 1970 where Keith had been the Vice Principal at the Tangoa Training Institute. Keith had the opportunity to preach during this visit warning against shallow witness in the Christian life. Festivities included a re-enactment of the first landing in the New Hebrides, a march from Vila Harbour through the town centre to Independence Park, a Sunday service, multiple occasions with choir and dance performances, meetings of the General Assembly and the PWMU National Annual Conference where Winifred was able to bring a greeting, read from the Bislama Bible and remind the ladies that the name PWMU originated in Victoria. Presentations of medals, certificates and plaques, a flag raising ceremony and sumptuous feast made it a joyful occasion.

In November 2011, a delegation of PWMU ladies from Vanuatu came to Melbourne to renew ties with the Presbyterian Church in the city, South Gippsland, Bendigo, Melton, and Geelong. They included a visit to the graves of Charlotte Geddie, Amy Skinner and Cath Ritchie. Rosemary Zurrer again returned to Vanuatu in 2012 to attend their Annual Conference. This trip inspired her to write a history of Charlotte Leonora Geddie. 2019 marked the celebration of 50 years since Walter and Rosemary had gone to Vanuatu.

Vanuatu is still supported by workers from Australia, although none currently from Victoria. Up to about 1970, the focus was on evangelical outreach. Since then, the focus has changed in training the Indigenous Church. As a result, workers from Australia have spent time in Vanuatu at Talua Theological Training Institute, assisting with lecturing. Workers who have served there include Ian and Jenni Smith, Darrell and Margaret Thatcher, Philip and Sandra Burns, and John and Kara Dekker. PWMU has sponsored five bursary students from Vanuatu over the past 30 years to come and study at PTC. July 2020 saw the country celebrating 40 years of independence.

Asia

Asia spreads across a great expanse from Japan all the way to the Middle East. Many countries have been served by our workers including Cambodia, India, PNG and Japan. Japan is a difficult country as historically it shut itself off from much of the world and early Christian workers were severely persecuted.

In the same month (August 1990) that PWMU celebrated 100 years, Alan Belcher celebrated 50 years of his going to Borneo. At the time, there were four churches in the area where the Borneo Evangelical Mission had commenced working and in 1990 there were 550 churches. Alan and Madge had tried to retire in 1984 but responded to a fresh call from those in their chosen country and for the next seven or so years travelled back and forth to East Malaysia. These trips were for shorter time slots, five or six months per visit. As holders of permanent residency visas, they were able to travel to places where many would not have been able to. Their permanent residency status could only be sustained if they were not out of the country for more than a year.

In 1991, Hugh Price visited Japan and Korea for the purpose of investigating a possible field of service. He subsequently became a worker to Japan with the aim of completing two years of language study, followed by church planting with an experienced worker. A report in 1992 stated that even though Protestant evangelism in Japan had been ongoing since 1859, only 1% of the population identify as Christian. This percentage is still true today, despite the efforts of workers both from Australia and elsewhere investing considerable time and efforts to increase that number. Hugh had his commissioning service on 7th February 1993 at Reservoir PC and was thanking God that he had obtained a three-year unrestricted visa. He returned to Australia in June 1995 to take up a temporary position at the Japanese Church in Melbourne while Stephen Young was back in America. As a result of this position, he met and married a member of the congregation, Mamiyu (Hannah) Oshima in 1996. She came from a Japanese Christian family who served in Jamaica as well as Japan and Australia. They set up house in Japan after their wedding in July 1996. In 1999, Stephen Young returned to America and Hugh and Hannah came back to Australia to take over the work at Canterbury. Hugh and Hannah relocated to Castlemaine in 2002. Japan is still a focus for some workers from Australia, including Sue Poynter who served there for nearly 20 years and Andrew Adams who is currently based there.

PNG is a country where some of our longest serving workers have been stationed. Gwen Gibson started her service there in 1958 and finished in 2003, a solid 45 years. Alan and Faye Canavan began their term of service in PNG in 1987 and, while their role morphed into consultancy after 2008 and they are now based in Australia (Cairns), they still have an active role in 2020. Douglas and Jeanette Bennett spent 25 years in that country before relocating to Kangaroo Ground in 2008. Mavis Price has also served there for over 20 years as literacy facilitator in the Madang Province. Other workers who have been there include Graham and Sue Hammond. Andrew and Fleur Letcher had a brief stint there but returned to Australia and were based at Kangaroo Ground for eight years working in the office. Tumirin and Sheridan Indarto served in West Papua for a short time. Calvin and Ruth Mathys currently reside in PNG with their boys, working in aircraft maintenance and literacy.

Other workers include Carol Whipp whose travels encompassed Fiji, India, and the United Kingdom for 30 years. David and Lalit Clarke and Ros Gill worked in Cambodia. Joan Campbell spent 23 years in Indonesia before returning in 1997. Stephen and Wendy Moody spent eight years in South Asia based in a medical facility. Dr Heather Carmichael served for nearly twenty years, also in a medical hospital in Asia, retiring in 1996. Ken and Margaret Collier served in Irian Jaya from 1976 until 1987, before

being stationed at Kangaroo Ground until 1993. Susan Sandral was stationed in East Timor for two years. Chris and Julie Dean are currently based in Timor Leste.

India has always been on the hearts of PWMU and for a time, several workers have served there. One couple (Greg and Rosemary Braid) served for six years and another couple (John and Lynette Ellis) served for fifteen. There have also been several shorter visits by others. PWMU has sponsored two bursary students from this country. The Indian government in recent years has not been amenable to Christian influences and has expelled from the subcontinent most workers who are seen to be Christians. Not all the doors have been completely shut, though, and some endeavours are quietly continuing.

Africa

Following in the shoes those who ventured to Africa such as Robert Moffat (1795 – 1883) and David Livingstone (1813 – 1873), many of our own workers have served in this continent. David Livingstone's influence particularly on the nation of Malawi cannot be underestimated (even the commercial capital, Blantyre, is named after David's birthplace in Scotland) and therefore it is no coincidence that the PCV has strong ties with this part of the world. There have been two bursary students from Malawi, supplies from Victoria have been shipped at various times to the country and in 2007 the Orbus Centre was established. It was through contact with one of these bursary students, Rev. Colin Mbawa, that the vision for this Centre was born. The vision was to establish a small home and school for AIDS orphans in Malawi. This is a joint project between Orbus Australia, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Blantyre Synod. Craig and Jayni Manners work with Orbus Ministries Australia and, while currently unable to be stationed in Malawi, provide joint oversight. There have been many visits by Australians to the Centre, including several Moderators of the PCV (Rev. Dr John Wilson and Rev. David Brown), Kevin Murray (current Director of APWM) and several short-term mission trips from various congregations throughout the PCV and the PYV. The Centre has grown from humble beginnings with just a Nursery School in 2010, to establishing the Orbus Missions Secondary School in 2017.

Rhys Hall had arrived in Sudan in 1983 and Rhondda Price first travelled to Sudan in 1985. They both served for three years with their respective agencies but could not go back to Sudan after 1988 so Rhys based himself in Nairobi, Kenya, at that point. Rhondda returned to Africa in 1990 and was also based in Nairobi. The next twelve years were reasonably straight forward with regular trips to and from Australia for furlough individually, until God suddenly intervened and the marriage of these two ensued in 2003. The wedding was held in Castlemaine and was a joyous occasion. Now ministering as husband and wife, they are currently based in Australia and working remotely with the team in Uganda.

Elspeth Slater had responded to a need presented in 1973 which was only supposed to be for three months in Ethiopia. Thirty-four years later she finally retired from her service in 2008, which was by then based in Burkina Faso. She first worked as a nurse and midwife, before moving into a ministry of encouragement and teaching with pastors' wives.

Motor Isaac Yat came to Australia in 1988 as a refugee from Sudan. He felt the call of God to minister to his own people and returned to Sudan in 2008 as an APWM worker. He had to move from the country due to ongoing civil war and is currently based in Ethiopia with his new wife, Julia, ministering to the churches and young people in the refugee camps. He was particularly encouraged by the

delivery of 9,000 Nuer Bibles delivered in June 2020. The funds were supplied by the Presbyterian Churches in Australia and the Bibles were distributed to many congregations in the refugee camps.

1988 was the year Bronwyn Bennett began her work in Niger. She taught in a school for workers' children but endeavoured to share the Gospel with the local women she worked with. She returned to Australia permanently in 1997. West Africa is also where Warwick and Natalie Short and family have served.

Stephen Agnew travelled to Ethiopia in 1992 to work in water development programs. He used these times to share the Gospel to the local workers. He also became involved in outreach to street kids. He married a local Ethiopian girl, Wossen Amare, in 1996. They settled in New Zealand at the end of 1997.

Rob and Leoni Betts were stationed in East Africa helping with translation work from 1998 until 2006. Robert was particularly focussing on teaching Hebrew to the local language translators. They then took on a new role as Partnership Development Coordinators for APWM workers.

David Pearce, a pilot with MAF, was stationed in Kenya in 2002. In 2004 he married Lisa (from Canada) who was teaching in a local school and attended the same church. They moved to Chad in 2012 where they stayed for the next three years before returning to Australia in 2015.

Yousif Kunda and his wife Vivian Ajawin began as workers in 2013. They have a heart to translate the Scriptures into some of the tribal languages of South Sudan. Yousif travelled to that area of the world several times over recent years, but the unstable nature of the country has caused them to refocus their aim to serve in East Africa amongst the refugees there. In the interim, they spent some time serving in the Northern Territory using their skills to provide resources to Australian Aborigines.

Ross Maxwell serves in aviation work with organisations and individuals focussed on connecting with unreached people groups with the Gospel. He is currently based in Madagascar.

Europe

This part of the world is not normally thought of as needing evangelism, as some of the founding fathers of our faith lived there. Over the last fifty years, however, many people have seen the decline of Christian beliefs and have reached out. The United Kingdom (Carol Whipp, Rosie T), Bosnia, Hungary (Joy Hill, and Laslo and Eva Mihalyi) and France (Hannah Davies) are some of the countries that have been served by workers from Australia.

Is it getting harder to preach the Gospel in some countries? It sometimes seems as though opposition to God's word is becoming more evident. Some have had to leave their countries due to security concerns and not been able to return. Some have retired, some have not been able to overcome ill health. However, we remember the words from Isaiah 55: 8–11 where God promises that His word shall produce the outcome He ordains. So, we do not lose heart, and we continue to pray for those who are on the field and for those He wants to raise up to go there.

Further Happenings

In 1995 the PWMU decided to hold their AGM in Hamilton, as this was where the PCV would be holding its Assembly meetings that year. There was much discussion and planning, leading to the whole event being a blessing to all who attended. It was the Council's 105th Annual General Meeting and was held at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, on Thursday 12th October 11.30am. The guest speaker was Pastor Kalsav Brown from Vanuatu, who was the fifth recipient of the PWMU Bursary to the PTC in Victoria. He read from John 15:11-17 and spoke about Christ choosing us and not us choosing Christ, the power of effective prayer and the joy Christ has in us as believers. The year 2000 saw the AGM being held in Benalla as the PCV General Assembly met there as well.

As well as financial changes in recent years some of the roles at PWMU have also changed significantly. The social services convener is one example. This role, whilst still responsible for the Book of Remembrance, used to be a much larger role in the days when orphanages, old people's homes and an unmarried mother's home existed on a larger scale. Many of these have all but disappeared since 1977.

In 2008, the PCV sold Assembly Hall to The Scots' Church Properties Trust and, as a result, PWMU needed to find a new office. In October of that year, with financial help from the PCV Trusts Corporation, PWMU moved into an office space in Laburnum. This was a suitable space for the next decade until financial constraints gave rise to another move. The current PWMU office can now be found on the premises of Hawthorn Presbyterian Church.

The PWMU library, which can be accessed by members, has had several moves in the last few decades. It was housed in the PCV office in the city for a while and was then shipped to the PTC library. It is now located in the PWMU office in Hawthorn. In years past, it was run like a proper library and looking through some of these books, and it is quaint to see some of them with notices pasted into the front: 10 cents to borrow the book for a one-month loan period and 50 cents for overdue books. Library catalogues cost 30 cents plus postage. Members could also ask for books to be posted out.

The year 2020, as mentioned in the conclusion, saw a shutdown of events that meant the normal PWMU calendar year was completely changed. State meetings were done online, the Country Rally was cancelled, the Thanksgiving Rally morphed into a special newsletter and the AGM and Annual Thanksgiving Service was combined into one online event. Dayspring Day and the new venture of Dayspring in the Country were both cancelled.

Despite technology supposedly being able to make life easier, people seem to be busier than ever. More women have joined the workforce which in turn has made the number of women available to serve on committees such as PWMU decline. This is reflected in the closure of numerous PWMUs and Regional Associations. After 90 years of service Ballarat PA closed its doors in 2006. Elwood PWMU ceased its operations in 2019 after 104 years. When PWMU was first started in 1890, the membership was approximately 1,500. In 1950 the number was around 8,000. By 2013 that number had dropped to 339, with approximately 200 listed in 2020. In 1990 there were over 100 PWMU branches listed in the Annual Report, with 12 PAs. By 2020 that number had decreased to approximately 12 individual PWMU branches plus 8 affiliated groups. More churches are establishing missions' committees within their own congregations which replace the traditional PWMU branches. The very nature of missions seems to also be undergoing a change. With world events as they are, it is a very real possibility that more workers will be reaching out to their chosen people group within our own borders of Australia.

Constitution

Back in 1897, the newly formed organisation had to re-write its constitution after tensions overflowed between the new missionaries who had been sent to Korea.

In 1956, there were more changes. Presidents and Vice Presidents were to serve for 5 years, and the six elected executives were now to serve a three-year term. Several offices were combined, and one office had a name change. There was another revision in 1979.

Changes again occurred in 2000. In this edition all elected members could only hold office for three years and were required to have a year off before seeking re-election. Council members could co-opt casual members when the need arose and those co-opted could seek election to Council the following year if they so desired.

In 2016, after months of consultation, the constitution was again revised to adjust the rules and regulations about meetings and memberships. The details that mattered to a generation past were seen as too rigid and outdated in today's perspective. In this edition of the constitution, it is stated that the document needs to be revised every 10 years. Council terms of office are now five years, with the option of having a year off before being renominated.

It is interesting to note an important change to the Constitution of 2016. There is now a written procedure that is to be followed should it be deemed necessary to cease the operations of PWMU. While this is a safety net that every organisation should probably have, it is quite a change in perception for those involved. PWMU is the longest running organisation within the Presbyterian Church and, while it is necessary to adapt to change, there are still many opportunities for PWMU to serve.

The PWMU and APWM Relationship

The history of APWM can arguably be traced back to the Foreign Missions Committee which was established in 1887. This was only a year before the inspiration for PWMU began to form. At the time of Union in 1977, all the missionaries of the day, bar three, went with the Foreign Missions Committee into the Uniting Church. So, for about six months after union, these three missionaries had no home organisation. APWM was established soon after and the Presbyterian Church was refocusing.

Since then, the landscape of sending and caring for workers has changed significantly with APWM as the organisation that does the sending. There is overlap of the two groups but both committees work together. There are two representatives from PWMU on the APWM (Vic) Committee. This committee is a standing committee of the Assembly which is responsible for furtherance of the mission work of the Church. The Committee is responsible for interviewing prospective workers for service and using the funds at its disposal (mostly Trust funds) to assist in mission work, particularly in areas where a special need is identified. It is also encouraging to see how good relationships have developed over the years between PWMU and APWM National Office.

What then does the future hold for PWMU? The work done by its members is invaluable and should be resourced by others as much as possible. It is important, with new developments and technologies, that their core statement of intent as facilitator, encourager, educator and promoter remain intact. Even though it is no longer an organisation that sends out workers, as it was back in the 1890s, it still has a vital role to play in the support of those who have gone out to spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

The beginning of 2020 saw the outbreak of a new respiratory viral infection (a coronavirus – COVID 19) that has affected nearly every country in the world. At the time of writing, thousands had died as the world grappled with how to deal with this new pandemic. Countries closed their borders and overseas travel was reduced to a minimum. Scientists worked hard to try and find a workable vaccine and/or a cure. The overall impact of this will not be fully appreciated for a very long time. The effect of countries closing their international borders meant that those in the field needed to make a choice to stay or come home. Some, who were already due to return on furlough came home early but others chose to stay. Then there are some who were planning to serve overseas but could not and still others who began their deputation work but were unable to meet with churches and other groups to raise support due to social distancing restrictions.

Life in Australia has changed radically as well. We basically went into lockdown with all social gatherings, including all church services, prohibited for a time in an attempt to stop the infection exploding through our society. This meant churches and affiliated groups had to find new ways to minister to not only their congregations but also the communities around them. The amazing technologies that we have today are a great asset. Council and branches met online. There were reports of online services being watched by people who would normally not attend church and of people responding to the Gospel.

In these unsettling times, we need to be aware more than ever, that God is in total control and He knows what He is doing. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). And let us continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever we are and however we can for as long as we are able.

Appendix A – PWMU Executive Council Members 1990 -2020

1990 – President	Mrs Margaret Miller	1991 - President	Mrs Sylvia Schultz
Secretary	Mrs Joan Duncan	Secretary	Mrs Joan Duncan
Treasurer	Mrs Shirley Cooke	Treasurer	Mrs Shirley Cooke
1992 - President	Mrs Winifred Allen	1993 - President	Mrs Winifred Allen
Secretary	Mrs Marion Veal	Secretary	Mrs Marion Veal
Treasurer	Mrs Joan Duncan	Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Conradi
1994 - President	Mrs Winifred Allen	1995 - President	Mrs Rosemary Zurrer/ Mrs Kathy Giles
Secretary	Mrs Joan Duncan	Secretary	Mrs Joan Duncan
Treasurer	Mrs Margaret Conradi	Treasurer	Mrs Joan Milne
1996 - President	Mrs Anne Innes	1997 - President	Mrs Anne Innes
Secretary	Mrs Winifred Allen	Secretary	Mrs Winifred Allen
Treasurer	Mrs Joan Milne	Treasurer	Mrs Joan Milne
1998 - President	Mrs Lorraine Phillips	1999 - President	Mrs Margaret Dimelow
Secretary	Mrs Winifred Allen	Secretary	Mrs Margaret Conradi
Treasurer	Mrs Lois Berton	Treasurer	Mrs Joan Milne
2000 - President	Mrs Winifred Allen	2001 - President	Mrs Winifred Allen
Secretary	Mrs Sue Bartlett	Secretary	Mrs Sue Bartlett
Treasurer	Mrs Joan Milne	Treasurer	Mrs Joan Milne
2002 - President	Mrs Winifred Allen	2003 - President	Mrs Heather Reither
Secretary	Mrs Sue Bartlett	Secretary	Mrs Joan Milne
Treasurer	Mrs Rosemary Zurrer	Treasurer	Mrs Rosemary Zurrer
2004 - President	Mrs Lorraine Phillips	2005 - President	Mrs Lorraine Phillips
Secretary	Mrs Joan Milne	Secretary	Mrs Joan Milne
Treasurer	Mrs Rosemary Zurrer	Treasurer	Mrs Susan Garner
2006 - President	Mrs Lorraine Phillips	2007 - President	Mrs Esther Vayne
Secretary	Miss Janet Cowden	Secretary	Mrs Margaret Conradi
Treasurer	Mrs Rosemary Zurrer	Treasurer	Miss Janet Cowden
2008 - President	Mrs Esther Vayne	2009 - President	Mrs Lorraine Phillips
Secretary	Mrs Margaret Conradi	Secretary	Mrs Margaret Conradi
Treasurer	Miss Janet Cowden	Treasurer	Mrs Merle Elford
2010 - President	Mrs Lorraine Phillips	2011 - President	Mrs Lorraine Phillips
Secretary	Mrs Esther Vayne	Secretary	Mrs Esther Vayne
Treasurer	Miss Janet Cowden	Treasurer	Miss Janet Cowden
2012 - President	Mrs Eileen Blythe	2013 - President	Mrs Eileen Blythe
Secretary	Mrs Esther Vayne	Secretary	Mrs Fiona Bligh
Treasurer	Miss Janet Cowden	Treasurer	Mrs Gaye McKenzie

2014 - President Mrs Esther Vayne
Secretary Mrs Susan Garner/
Mrs Rosalie Fleming
Treasurer Mrs Gaye McKenzie

2015 - President Mrs Esther Vayne
Secretary Mrs Susan Garner/
Mrs Rosalie Fleming
Treasurer Mrs Gaye McKenzie

2016 - President Mrs Esther Vayne
Secretary Mrs Susan Garner/
Mrs Rosalie Fleming
Treasurer Miss Robyn Crocker

2017 - President Mrs Esther Vayne
Secretary Mrs Jenny Sharman
Treasurer Miss Robyn Crocker

2018 - President Mrs Esther Vayne
Secretary Mrs Jenny Sharman
Treasurer Miss Robyn Crocker

2019 - President Mrs Roslyn Brown
Secretary Mrs Jenny Sharman
Treasurer Miss Robyn Crocker

2020 – President Mrs Roslyn Brown
Secretary Mrs Gaye McKenzie/
Mrs Jenny Sharman
Treasurer Miss Robyn Crocker

Appendix B – Bursary Students supported by PWMU

1980 Rev. Gabriel Oragbe, Principal of the Benue Bible Institute in Nigeria. He went on to do a second year of study at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong but that was not as a PWMU bursary student. He returned to Nigeria and resumed his leadership role with greater responsibilities, teaching and training students for the Ministry. A few years later he travelled to the United States of America to do further study. He died in 2016.

1981 – 1983 Nippy Aiong from Vanuatu. He returned and became the Pastor at Mele Village. He lectured at Aulua Theological College (now known as Talua Theological Training Institute) and became coordinator for the Theological College and Bible College on Tangoa. He was the General Secretary of the Vanuatu Christian Council for a long time. He then returned to his home Island of Ifira to be the Pastor there. As of 2020 he is working for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu as CE director in Port Vila.

1984 – 1985 Pastor Mata Taviti from Vanuatu. He became chaplain at Onesua High School for a few years before returning to his home island and serving at Langilau Session on South Santo. He then went to Port Vila to do Parish work for about 10 years before returning to Malo in November 2020.

1986 Masia Nato from Vanuatu. He came with wife Helena and daughter Alisen. After completing a further three years of study in Fiji he returned to Vanuatu and was appointed Principal at Talua Ministry Training Centre (later renamed Talua Bible College). He has been lecturing in history for a long time and will retire in 2021. He is also the PCV Moderator's chaplain.

1987 – 1989 Sang Goo Lee of Korea. He came with his wife and two young children. His completed Doctoral Thesis was published as a book *To Korea With Love: Australian Presbyterian Mission Work in Korea, 1899 – 1941*. He is a professor, academic and theologian, and is currently (in 2020) at Baeksoek University, a private Christian institute of higher education located in Cheonan City.

1990 - 1993 Peter Namuli of Vanuatu. He returned to his home island of Tanna and became a pastor, as well as setting up a Bible College in North Tanna. He served as pastor of Lenemout. He became moderator of the Southern Islands Presbytery in 1997 as well as setting up a junior high school at Lenakel. He is now (in 2020) the Presbytery Clerk of the Southern Islands and is working with the Vanuatu Bible Translation.

1994 - 1997 Kalsav Brown from Vanuatu. He came with his wife Toumara and daughter Jessica. Upon his return to Vanuatu, he was appointed as a Christian Religious Education teacher at Onesua High School. As of 2020, he is working with one of the parish churches in his home presbytery on the Island of Efate.

1999 – 2002 Colin Mbawa from Malawi. His wife Shirley and daughters Edith, Loise and Miriam came with him. In 2020, after six years of serving in leadership of the General Assembly for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Church (CCAP Blantyre Synod), Colin and Shirley are delighted to be back in congregational ministry. Rev. Mbawa has been given charge of a new parish with four congregations, three that are in areas difficult to reach.

1999 – 2002 Pastor Kirk Al Importante from the Philippines. He came with his wife Eva and son Scot. Upon his return to the Philippines, he continued to serve with the indigenous church planting organisation operating in the area. This included running evangelism training courses. He is currently doing further studies in religious education for personal growth and leadership development.

2007 – 2009 Rev. Michael Ngaiyaye from Malawi. He served in the Republic of South Africa from 2016 to 2019. He and his family returned to Malawi in January 2020 and is now the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Programme Director at Chilema Ecumenical Training and Conference Centre (ETCC). He is the coordinator of the Leadership Training program. Other programs include a Women's Training Program and Early Childhood Learning.

2007 - 2010 Dr Suraj Chellaiah from India. His wife Hepzibah and children Lemuel and Charis travelled with him. His son Lemuel married an Australian girl and remained here. His daughter was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. PWMU initially provided some funding to access medication. Suraj in 2020 is teaching at a theological college in North India.

2010 Joel Mestry. Joel was a student from Mauritius who was already studying at the PTC. He was given a bursary for a year because Michael Ngaiyaye had finished his studies a year earlier than planned. He and his wife Michelle returned to Mauritius after graduation and served with the church there for several years before returning to Melbourne. Now (in 2020) he pastors the Presbyterian Church in Dandenong.

2012 – 2013 Mario Kasih from Indonesia. Mario currently works with the Timothy Initiative, training pastors in Java and Sumatra. They in turn equip their disciples to intentionally reach out to family, friends and neighbours with the Gospel, and disciple new believers so they may equip other new disciples.

2016 – 2020 Chanreiso Lungleng from India. During his tenure, he married an Indian girl Alice and they had a child in 2020, Jared. He returned to his home country to take up a lecturer position at a theological college focusing on Old Testament studies.

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