



Missions Focus Edition

SU news

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

Sensational Summer Camps!



Over the summer there were three great camps, including the new Gents Camp. Between the Senior and Junior CE-SU camps in Mt. Barker there were over 250 campers and 120 leaders and other volunteers. Travis Johnson spoke on the senior camp about the depth and breadth of God's grace that can be seen in the parable of the prodigal son.

The Junior camp's theme 'The Quest' was a perfect way to explore the kings of history and how Jesus is the ultimate King over all. On camp, eight campers said that they had made a decision to follow Christ for the first time or as a time of recommitment.

The week before school went back GENTS Camp kicked off in SA with 41 testosterone charged participants. Aside from paintballing, beach activities, Greenhills, and Tribal wars, there were some highly engaging and interactive faith sessions that had boys captivated. Where else can you smash a computer with a block splitter and learn about what it means to become a man! It was a fantastic first camp and will definitely be happening again next year.

Hamilton McNicol | Youth Coordinator



"To ask what were the three best things about GENTS camp is not fair. It was all amazing. I give it 28 3/4 stars out of 10!"
- Peter Wallace-Beach

"I wish I had a camp like this when I was a boy!"
- Josh Lines (Leader)

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New K.I.D.S. Program

Pt Vincent

This was a big year for our Teen's program with both Jnr and Snr Teen programs up and running. About 15 teens attended each day, which is a huge achievement and very rewarding, considering we started with nothing 6 years ago. We are now seeing children come up through the primary program and transition into the teen's program, which is very exciting!

Back at the children's program we were encouraged again this year to come across kids who could still remember memory verses from last year and even the year before!

It was also very encouraging to come out from a drama practice one morning to find 4 or 5 girls from our program standing in Pt Vincent's main drag, belting out yesterday's memory verse "Store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust can't destroy them and thieves can't break in and steal them" and one of their favourite songs "God loves me" for the whole street to hear!

We also had 3 boys from the 10-11's age group who learnt to tell the gospel story using 'gospel beads' they had just made. One boy took up the challenge of using it to tell the gospel to someone at home, choosing his mother and grandmother hear him retell the good news!

Finally, we were able to connect again with a mum whose son has been coming along to our program for some years. Sadly, she stopped attending church a long time ago. One of our team members had the opportunity to invite her to his church, which coincidentally, is not far from where she lives. We pray that she will take up this invitation and that both her and her son will be welcomed there with open arms!

Darren | SUFM Director, Pt Vincent

Mission Possible

I once heard someone say to me that if you are running the same program for more than ten years, you are out of date and, probably, ineffective. But if you continue to run a program which is dynamic, relational, committed to their gospel purpose (not just a format) and run by inspiring, enthusiastic volunteers, you don't look outdated; you show that you are completely committed to those people.

That was certainly the case as we saw 170(ish) volunteers on six teams at Pt McDonnell, Victor Harbor, Port Elliot, Port Vincent, Moonta and Tumbly Bay, sharing God's love, life and fun with over 1000 children, youth and their families this summer.

Of course, how things look is only part of the equation. Probably the key word is effective. Throughout this edition of SU News are some snapshots of some of the visible impact of God's work through SUSA missions over the summer.

As with an iceberg, this is just the tip of what God was doing through SU missions over the summer holidays. We are incredibly grateful to the team leaders and team members who made such a difference to over a thousand kids, youth and family members over that period.

Thanks for being part of such a significant time of mission in our state. For all of us, let's keep praying that all of the seeds and growth that occurred over the period will continue to bear fruit for the good news about Jesus - *It is possible!*

Mark Schultz

Pt Elliot

The Pt Elliot Family Mission has come and gone for another year. It is always such a blessing to spend time in Christian community, sharing what we have in common and shining the light of Jesus around a jam packed caravan park.

A lady who stayed in a nearby town attended the morning sessions each day with her daughter. As the week progressed, through watching our team work together in a Christ centred way and listening to the teaching in her daughters group time, she re-established her relationship with Jesus.

During our last lunch she came and shared an encouraging testimony of what she had witnessed and heard during the Mission and the impact that we had on her family.

One of our team members was then able to connect her to the ministers of her local church (in Victoria). Her husband (who is not a believer) came to our last event and was challenged by what he witnessed. God is good!



From the Director

Friends, a belated "Happy New Year!" to one and all. Here at Scripture Union we are believing for a BIG year in 2014 with lots of opportunities to make the Good News known amongst children, young people and their families.

We started the year off well with over 1000 children and young people attending our Scripture Union Family Missions (SUFM) programs held across six locations (Port MacDonald, Port Elliot, Victor Harbor, Port Vincent, Moonta and Tumby Bay). In this edition of SU News you'll come across testimonials contributed by SUFM directors...keep a look out. I'm sure you'll be encouraged by them.

More recently, SUSA held it's inaugural GENT's camp and was also involved with both CE Senior and CE Junior camps. Near 300 campers participated, and were impacted by these powerful, thought provoking and life changing events. With a further five camps planned for this year, we are expecting and anticipating that many more lives will be challenged and changed by the eternal message of 'life, love and hope' through Jesus Christ.

Looking forward, Scripture Union expects to interact with some 4,500 children through our Scripture Union Primary Age (SUPA) programs.

Nab This



SUSA is excited to announce that we have received our very first referral fee from the NAB for \$1200.00!!

We are proud of our ongoing partnership with the National Australia Bank.

For every new home loan, re-finance or consolidation for SUSA members and supporters, the NAB will pay a referral fee of 0.4% of the loan amount to SUSA, at no cost to the borrower. This is a great way to support the ministry and mission of SUSA and potentially get a better deal.

For a free consultation, please contact NAB mobile lender, **Anara Muggleton**: on 0457 505 849 or anara.x.muggleton@nab.com.au

It is important that Anara knows you were referred by SUSA for us to receive payment.

Testafy Sista!

Recently my church organised a whole group of students to serve and encourage our church on mission.

The students ran all the services including the children's ministry, a Christmas programme in 7 schools, sang Christmas Carols in nursing homes and held working bees at 2 schools.

At one of the services Moshe (Uni student) gave his testimony and said that one of the ways he had really grown in his faith and ability to serve was on Beach Mission in Tumby Bay - His family were invited to help, and it had been a great experience!

Praise God for the work of Beach Mission and the fruit we're seeing in the awesome students at Uni!

Julie-anne | SUFM Leader

Bridging the gap between primary and youth is our brand new Kids Intensive Discipleship School (K.I.D.S.). With this 12 week program we expect to extend our reach by engaging with kids who may not have interacted with Scripture Union previously.

Last but not least, our At Risk Kid's (A.R.K.) camps and programs department is set to expand. There are plenty of exciting developments underway. Children with special needs (autism), and indigenous youth are just two areas currently being explored. Included elsewhere in this edition of SU News, Lochy Cupit has elaborated.

Friends, I say all of the above for one reason; Scripture Union of South Australia is making a BIG impact amongst the lives of children, young people and their families. Many are hearing the gospel for the very first time; thousands more are being reminded of the love of God, expressed through His Son, Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU for making all of this possible by doing your part, by joining with us as volunteers, by partnering with us through prayer and through your finances. SU Needs You! Together we can make an eternal difference to a young generation!

Sincerely,
Marc Wheway | Executive Director

Youth & the Bible

Getting Youth Back into the Bible

I've seen the stats. It's dire. Young people outside the church aren't reading the Bible, and few young people in the church are reading it in ways that help their faith grow. Regular, age-appropriate Bible engagement is one very clear pre-cursor to a vibrant adult faith. The church must respond.

Currently Scripture Union SA is involved in developing groundbreaking new forms of youth bible engagement that will help turn this around, but it will take more than this. Following CRA's research into youth Bible engagement in Australia in 2010, The Bible Society have published a fantastic book called *The Bible According to Gen Z*. This guide takes the research and packages it concisely for people involved in youth ministry to help them understand the crisis. But, vitally, it gives case studies of some youth going against the trend, and gives clear principles of how and why it is working. This makes TBAGZ easy for youth ministry practitioners to apply straight away. This is a must read for anyone involved in youth ministry.

This can be purchased from the Bible Society shop online (\$10), or as an e-book from Amazon (\$4.70).



Hamilton McNicol | Youth Coordinator

Introducing...

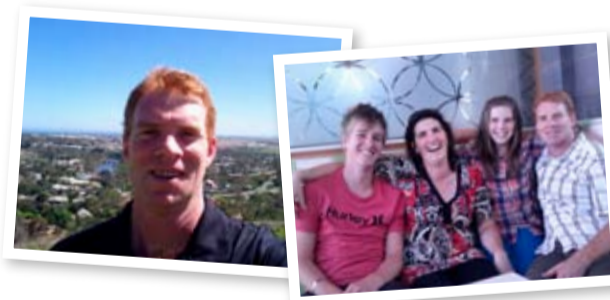
It's with great excitement we welcome SUSA's newest staff member, Chris Battistuzzi. Chris is no stranger to SU. Since he was a teenager he has been involved with beach missions, camps, ISCF, SUPA Clubs, School Seminars and has been volunteer member on the SUSA Promotions Committee...Phew!

Now Chris steps into the role of Children's Coordinator, overseeing all Primary school and children's related ministry, replacing Jenny Lanyon as her successor.

He is an ordained minister with both the Churches of Christ and Baptist denominations. He has worked as a school chaplain, Youth & Children's Pastor, Senior Pastor and held positions in secular management.

Chris has always held a strong passion for ministry to young people and he now brings that same passion, drive and energy to the ministry and mission of SUSA.

"...the local school is a mission field in the backyard of our churches...more must be done to take the life, love & hope of Jesus to young people..."



He is married to Maria and together they have two children Kyle and Caylee. Maria is a nurse and the kids attend High School.

He is committed to seeing young people know Jesus and grow in their faith. Please consider giving financially to support the ministry that Chris is doing.



Lochy at Risk?

Lochy is now stepping up as SUSA's dedicated "At Risk" coordinator, there's a few new projects on the table at SU.

A recent meeting with Teen Challenge SA has resulted in a new partnership, which should involve SU's kids outreach expertise being put to use with indigenous young people in the APY lands (in SA's far north-west). We're also starting to sound out the possibility of a new camp working with Autistic kids and their parents (working in areas some autistic kids are particularly responsive to - music, drama and water activities).

And there's also possibilities down the track for camps working with foster-care kids.

We're also continuing to partner in Prison Fellowship camps. And after a successful pilot year, things look very positive for the "SOAR" program (working with At-Risk school kids) continuing as part of what we do.

So it could be a busy year for the At-Risk office..

Lochy Cupit | At Risk Coordinator



From the Chair

It was recently reported in the press that many Victorian primary school principals are shutting down religious education classes, even though Victorian state law still allows for them. One principal was quoted as saying "It is not education. It has no value whatsoever. It is rubbish."

Some state schools have become more strident in dismissing faith as an essential ingredient in a balanced worldview. At the same time, many parents who do value faith as part of the curriculum have abandoned the state system in favour of Christian schools.

The net effect is that children in South Australia are growing up with neither knowledge nor understanding of what Christians actually believe.

They have no opportunity to make an informed decision.

Scripture Union's Christian Option Programs and seminars exist for this very purpose, as do other programs like family missions at popular holiday destinations. This ministry is needed more than ever. A growing number of families in our nation are in crisis, and cut off from the God who offers hope and new life.

Many of us have experienced the forgiveness and the love of God, and his grace and strength through the trials of life. To all those who work so hard to share what they have so freely received, thank you!

Mission today is right on our doorstep.

Regards,
Allan Packer | Council Chairperson

Victor Harbour

We have a group of Teens who have been coming to Victor mission for 12 years. One night (*because they were too cool for the evening program*) 3 of them spent their time in their tent writing questions to put in the question box...

We went through the questions later that night, answering them and discussing the answers with the Teens. One of the questions was "Do you have a youth group, and if so, can we come?"

We had a table giving away bibles at our Carnival this year. The bibles were taken very fast and we ran out of the children's ones.

The shower blocks closest to our tents were closed one night and I was showering in a different shower block. I overheard one of the little girls telling a lady about our programs. She was so excited and hardly took a breath in her sentence. But she ended with 'It's so amazing and it's all free!'

The 10-12 aged kids were really interested in looking through the magazine/graphic novel version of gospel of Mark on the last morning. A few took them home and one took a bible as well.

One of the families rang us after we left Victor and left us a phone message saying how thankful they are for us and wanting to keep in touch. It made me cry happy tears!

Emma | SUFM Director, Victor Harbour

Testafy Bro!

This is how significant my first beach mission was to my faith. I became involved because my cousins helped run them, and some of my older siblings who had been involved also encouraged me to join them.

I really enjoyed my first year and came back the next, where I had yet another incredible time! I have really appreciated missions as a great chance to spend a week aligning my priorities with God's... makes a great start to the year!

Moshe | SUFM Leader

ebay Auction for Life

You may not always have spare cash to donate, but SUSA's 'Auction for Life' is a practical and easy way for you to continue supporting SUSA programs and staff.

All donated items will be auctioned on ebay to raise much needed funds for SUSA. SUSA will place the advertisement and oversee the auction process.

What can be donated? Anything from electrical goods or sporting equipment, to furniture or jewellery - providing it's in good condition. Items in a poor condition will not be accepted.

Small items can be delivered to the office during business hours from 3rd -17th March. For large items, please email us clear photos with a detailed description. We will arrange between you and the winner to collect from your home.

For more information contact Chris Battistuzzi (0433 067 769), Arthur Economides (0418 856 986) or call the SUSA office on 8235 9500.

***Please note: If you can carry it and it fits in the boot of your car, it's small. If you need two or more people to lift it or a trailer to transport it, it's large. No clothing will be accepted for the auction.**



Mission Highlights

Sometime between 1973 and 1977 I discovered Scripture Union, and I joined the Arno Bay Beach Mission team. From 1996 until 2014, as a SUSA staff member, I have had great opportunities to enable people to proclaim God's love to the children, youth and families of SA, as well as contributing to SU ministry throughout Australia and beyond.

Amongst the many achievements and highlights, some of the most memorable are;

- contributing to SU national publications; The Essential Guide, JAFFA series and KidsWise magazine;
- supporting our work in the Pacific by travelling to the Solomon Islands, going to the SU Pacific conference in Vanuatu and encouraging our Pacific colleagues;
- involved in writing a seminar for the 2000 Olympics, presented in over 70 schools throughout SA. Children of all ages, religious backgrounds were positively affirmed and responsive to the seminar's message that in a relationship with God we find gold (love, acceptance, forgiveness, hope and real life);
- working in little out-of-the-way primary schools where teachers and students so welcomed visitors they participated enthusiastically in our programs. A particular highlight was a year 2-4 class dramatisation of the Good Samaritan, with the teacher playing the part of the donkey!

I do not know how God has continued to work in the lives of so many children (and teachers) I have had contact with over the years, but I do know that He was and still is at work. The voices of these young ones will remain in my mind and heart: "Thank you for coming". "I loved learning about Jesus. I didn't know anything before". "Before now I didn't believe in Jesus. I believe now."

Jenny Lanyon | Outgoing SUPA Staff Coordinator



Farewell Andrew, Jenni & Ray

It's always a bitter-sweet moment when someone leaves. Bitter because of the parting, but sweet because of the memories that were shared. So it's with affection that we say farewell to Andrew Klynsmith, Jenni Forder and Ray Neal. You've all been a blessing to Scripture Union SA.

Andrew Commenced as the Missions Coordinator early in 2013 following the sad passing of former Missions Coordinator Steve Burnett in 2012. On appointment Andrew commenced the planning for the 2013/14 Family Missions. We are thankful for his committed efforts and as reported in this Missions issue of SU News six successful Family Missions operated during December and January. We wish him well as he takes up the position of part time Associate Pastor at the Fishgate Uniting Church.

Jenni came to SUSA in August 2012 as Training Coordinator and Administration Support. She quickly proved invaluable as she developed her knowledge of training systems and requirements, internships, child protection plus safety issues and more. A ministry opportunity has arisen for Jenni and, while excited to see her starting in her new role with SMG, we are sad to see her go. We wish her all the best as she moves to her next challenge.

SUSA Council recently farewelled our treasurer, Ray Neal, after a number of years of effective and greatly valued service. We are already missing him! Ray planned to step down earlier, but agreed to stay on for an additional 18 months to help us through our Executive Director transition period. Please pray with us as we seek the right person to replace him.

SU Diary	
March - June 2014	
MARCH	
2	SUSA moving to Kidman Park
6	COP at West Beach PS
7 & 14	COP at St Agnes PS
9 - 10	PF-SU Teen Boys Camp
23 - 24	PF-SU Teen Girls Camp
28	COP at Keithcot Farm PS
30	GENTS Leader's Training Day
APRIL	
5 & 12	COP at Keithcot Farm PS
13	Term 4 ends
18	SU Office closes
25	Christmas Day
26 - 1 Jan	Pt Elliot SUFM
26 - 5 Jan	Victor Harbor SUFM
29 - 2 Jan	CE Senior Camp
31 - 4 Jan	Moana SUFM
MAY	
1	New Years Day
3 - 10	Tumby Bay SUFM
4 - 8	CE-SU Camp Junior
4 - 10	Pt Vincent SUFM
4 - 10	Moonta SUFM
6	SU Office reopens
7 - 10	Port MacDonnell SUFM
20 - 24	GENTS Camp
26	Australia Day
28	Term 1 starts
JUNE	



Prisoners Kids Camps

Over the past six years Scripture Union SA in partnership with Prison Fellowship SA have hosted camps for prisoners children, known as PK Camps. The camps provide a not-to-be forgotten experience for these children, who sadly are often forgotten, and in many cases ignored by the community... and even by the church.

Camp For Kids (C4K) are for children 8 to 12 years of age. It started with two camps, and has grown to eight camps a year. Teen Camps was created for children who outgrew C4K. Many camp leaders volunteer because they recognise how vital this ministry is.

Teen Girls Camp has been an outstanding success with consistently strong leadership. Two girls who regularly attended as campers are now old enough to become trainee leaders for C4K this year.

Scripture Union SA is seeking male leaders who can work with Teen Boys. Recently SUSA was unable to cater for some Teen Boys due to a lack of leaders. A high ratio of leaders to campers is necessary to ensure positive role modelling outcomes. Commitment is two weekends a year, plus planning and debrief meetings. There is no financial cost for volunteer leaders.

If you believe you have the skills and commitment to be a leader at any of the PK camps you should seek further information from either Lochy Cupit (At Risk Coordinator) or myself (0408 813 966 / lesdennis@bigpond.com). You can also check out www.prisonfellowship.org.au and click on SA.

Les Dennis | Special Projects Manager

Ministry is for K.I.D.S.



The K.I.D.S. Program (Kids Intensive Discipleship School) is a BRAND NEW ministry initiative of SUSA. It's designed to grow your kids faith in Jesus and empower them. This is needed now more than ever.

Never before has there been so many temptations and distractions to keep our focus off Jesus. Children today are surrounded by technology and worldly influences. Family breakdown continues to erode the innocence and emotional health of kids. But for those who register in KIDS, they can experience strong, Godly influence where biblical values and beliefs are put into practice.

We are currently seeking good quality people to be part of the K.I.D.S. leadership team. If this interests you contact Chris Battistuzzi for more information. He'd love to hear from you.

Ride 155 km's - \$2600 Raised



On Friday 24th January I participated in the Tour Down Under - BUPA Community Challenge. A 155km bike ride from Unley to Victor Harbor. It is with great satisfaction I write to let you know I made it to the finish line, and raised \$2600 in the process! Donations are still trickling in so we might break the \$3,000 barrier, which would be a real achievement.

Everyone asks: "So...how was the ride?" I answer: "It's a lot like the walk of faith" and I answer that puzzled look on their face by explaining.

Firstly, it's a solo effort. You may be surrounded by 'a great cloud of witnesses' in your family, friends, or a cycling team but essentially, you do the pedalling yourself. When you stand before the Lord, it will be just you, on your own, solo. A sobering thought for many.

Secondly, crossing that finishing line was all I could think about. I didn't care about the pain I felt, how long it took or what place I finished. I just wanted to make it to the end. I had my mind 'fixed on the prize' - Finishing!

A HUGE heartfelt gratitude of thanks to everyone who supported me in prayer and through sponsorship.

Every blessing,

Arthur Economides | Marketing & Communications

Support Arthur!

Support the role that promotes the reason!

Arthur's role at SUSA is a combination of marketing, communications, graphic design, social media, fundraising and public relations. It's a unique role, catering for his unique blend of gifts and skills - a skill set which is rare to find in one person, which I'm grateful for.

Current funding allows him to be employed at three days a week until the end of March. We simply cannot do without him. I need him in this role full-time! Will you help?

Please prayerfully consider supporting this man by completing an SUSA Staff Support Form, enclosed with this edition of SU News.

Marc Wheway | Executive Director



Sacred Stone in Lwr Eyre Peninsula

Sacred Stone have confirmed seminars in some of our LEP Schools. They are still waiting to hear on Port Lincoln schools to confirm so please pray.

To make the most of their tour across our lovely region we are putting on a concert for youth. But it is also a night for the whole family!

We hope to raise some funds on the night through the sausage sizzles. Any donations from churches are most welcome - contact Benji Callen.



Looking forward to what should be a great night at this Regional Youth Event!!

Glenys Tiller Sauturaga | SUSA Regional Coordinator - LEP