



Autumn 2015 

SU news

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalm 119:105



The Summer was the biggest camping season that SUSA has had in a long time. Across CE-SU Senior, CE-SU Junior and GENTS Camps we had 330 campers and 120 leaders. That was 450 campers all up!!!

CE-SU Senior Camp was bursting at the seams with campers from all over South Australia. Over 61 different churches were represented. Mike Stevens, State Baptist Youth and Young Adults Ministry Facilitator; spoke on the beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew.

Over 45 campers decided they wanted to recommit their lives to following Jesus. One camper said afterwards "I feel refreshed and ready to take on the year".

CE-SU Kids Camp explored superheroes of the bible; from the bravest of heroes to the unlikely savior. They took an overview of God's plan for his creation and how we can be superheroes on his team. One camper commented, "I felt like I had let God in and I want to keep him in my life"

Gents Weekend was a short camp but managed to squeeze a lot in. The camp helped a number of boys take significant steps in their faith (some, for the first time) and towards manhood. The camaraderie that was established allowed for some really special times of sharing.

The summer of camps left us with many reasons to be thankful, and celebrate the life of Jesus breaking into young people's lives. We have a great God!

Plans are underway for an Upper Primary Gents camp. If you would like to find out more, contact Chris Battistuzzi, or check in with the fb page - Gents Camp Ignition SUSA.

Hamilton McNicol | Youth Coordinator

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Update your details
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Workshops for ministry with children, youth, young adults, schools, families and more!

Saturday 13th June 9am - 4.30pm

Turn to page 2 for more details.





From the Director

Let me be clear. We (the Christian church) are not doing enough - not nearly enough - to take the good news of Jesus to a lost and dying world.

Now more than ever children are growing up hearing NOTHING about the Bible, NOTHING about forgiveness, NOTHING about JESUS, the only way, only truth, only life. (John 14:6)

My whole adult life has been committed to one cause: To go and make disciples (Matt 20:19) As an Ordained Pastor I have led several churches towards stronger community outreach, engagement and the discipleship of young people. Now more than ever we face a battle for the souls and salvation of our children.

I believe that SUSA is at the forefront of this battle. Every year we bring the good news of Jesus into schools, churches, holiday parks, homes and the wider community through our targeted activities, events and resources.

But we are restricted in what we can do because we face very difficult financial times.

Over recent years we have noticed a significant decline in financial support. It's no secret. As a result we have had to pull back from some areas of ministry. We continue to seek the Lord and his guidance as we address this important issue.

One of my primary concerns is for the wellbeing of our staff. They are not immune to this decline in support. All are affected and have had their hours reduced, yet their workload hasn't decreased accordingly. If anything, it's increased. They're having to do more, with less!

I desire to see this rectified. You'll notice an article in this edition of SU News introducing a very special appeal to support our admin staff - an *Admin Appeal*. You can read more about it on page three, and in the flyer that accompanies this edition of SU News.

My heart aches, my soul is heavy with a burden to introduce more children to the love of Jesus.

SUSA exists for one purpose: To introduce children, young people and families, to Jesus the Bible and the local church. SUSA exists to 'Go and make disciples'. To this end we need your help now more than ever. Will you help in this mission? Please respond generously and sacrificially.

Blessings,

Chris Battistuzzi | Executive Director

SUSA Family Missions



Following many months of planning, team building and preparation of the SUFMs, the wait was over for the teams to move into their welcoming camp grounds and holiday venues.

This season SUFM's operated at Victor Harbor, Tumby Bay, Port Vincent, Moonta and Port MacDonnell. Port Elliot family mission was not able to function because of pending redevelopment and site works.

We are looking into alternative locations for the year ahead. It was reported that several families were disappointed and their children missed the fun of the Family Mission. One family even texted the ABC.

This actioned the ABC Breakfast Program to seek an on-air interview as to the reason why this long-standing SUFM was not operating.

SUFM's are so well known that families seek camping and holiday locations where missions are conducted. One family who attended the Victor Harbor SUFM said they would continue their holiday at Port Vincent so as to attend the SUFM there. Port Vincent Family Mission commenced the week following Victor Harbor.

Les Dennis | Missions Coordinator

Welcome Luke Pt Vincent SUFM



Luke Lehmann has just begun as the Coordinator of Student Led Groups. Luke was involved in leading a fruitful Christian group at his High School, Cornerstone College, from 2010-12.

He has also attended and led on Youth Leadership Week and GENTS Camp.

Presently Luke is in his 2nd year of Medicine at Adelaide University, and actively involved at Aldgate Baptist Church.

We are really excited that Luke is joining the Wired Youth department and will be a great asset to the integral ministry of high school groups.

Please uphold him in prayer and e-mail him any encouragement and support you can offer as he begins: luke@susa.org.au

The theme of our program this year was 'You Are Special'. Through our Bible stories, songs, crafts, drama, memory verses, discussions and prayer times we aimed to share with each child, teen and family the message of hope that each of us is unique and special to God. So special that he'd send his only Son to find us. So special that he'd be willing to die for us to bring us back to God!

We ran our primary age program each afternoon in the Institute Hall, while the teens' program happened in our marquee down on the foreshore. There were three family events in the evenings and the teens' team ran events every night to connect with more teenagers. Over the week we had more than 90 children and teens join in our main programs and many more who joined in one of our family events in the evenings. It was a privilege to share this time with them and to serve the community in this way.



yacc

Youth and Children's Conference

Details are coming together rapidly for this very first Youth and Childrens Conference (Y.a.C.C.). The aim of this conference is to equip people involved in Youth and Children's Church and Outreach ministry.

The day will be full of interactive workshops, inspiring talks, and practical training that will send you home eager to 'get out there' and engage the world in the mission of God. More details will be available soon on workshops and electives for the day. Stay tuned.

13th June 9am - 4.30pm
The Salvation Army, 277 Pirie Street, Adelaide

We would also like to hear from anyone interested in having an Expo site to display and promote their ministry or resources. Please contact us on 8235 9500 or info@susa.org.au

I felt like I had let God in and I want to keep him in my life..

My son went on Gents Camp in January. He just had the best time, loved everything about it.

He said he put his name down to be considered as a junior leader for camps with younger boys in the holidays.

He will definitely be there on gents camp in October! He can't wait. It was just so good for him.

Thank you for all the good work you do.



From the Chair

A new year is well underway, and it will undoubtedly be filled with opportunities and challenges. We know already what some of them look like. Others will be less easy to predict and therefore difficult to prepare for.

At SUSAs last year, we faced an unexpected challenge with the departure in December of Marc Wheway, our previous Executive Director. Marc was able to give some warning, but we knew from experience that finding a successor can take time. As Council began a search process, we were also conscious that

leadership change is unsettling and inevitably impacts staff, volunteers and the ministry generally. And the longer the process takes, the greater the potential for disruption.

God provided a way forward, though, and Council was delighted to be able to appoint Chris Battistuzzi as the new Executive Director. In addition to his long involvement with SU both in SA and in Queensland, Chris had been on staff at SUSAs for just over 12 months. So he was able to take up the position with a solid understanding of the local environment, while already knowing all of the staff and many of the key volunteers. The timing even allowed for a brief handover before Marc left.

Through this process God has yet again demonstrated his grace and his provision. Please uphold Chris in prayer in his leadership role as he's in the front line of a spiritual battle.

None of us can anticipate all of the opportunities and challenges that this year will bring. We can, however, trust in God's faithfulness, and choose each day to say with the psalmist, "This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it!" (Psalm 118:24).

Allan Packer | SUSAs Council Chairperson



Victor Harbor SUFM

When we read stories like this from volunteers at Scripture Union Family Missions all over South Australia, it makes our prayers, financial and in-kind support really worth it!

"I met with a 12 year old girl who was very shy and nervous about meeting new people and going into high school next year. With lots of encouragement and persistence she came to most of the programs. After leaving, her family have kept in contact and want to learn more. I have given them information about the stuff SU does in Victoria (where she lives)."

"There was a girl in our group who was very shy. By the end of mission she had come out of her shell, was talking a lot and loved participating. She even convinced her family to stay another night so she could spend more time with us. Another team member also spent a lot of time chatting with the parents of this girl."

"The kids asked if we could all come back next year - that felt pretty good!"

"Two families were leaving from Victor Harbor to other holiday destinations. They asked us where else they could find an SUFM and we were able to point them towards Port Vincent SUFM."

"A junior teen girl who has been coming to programs for a long time was sad that she won't be seeing us next year because she will be in New Zealand. She said that if she had a choice she would come to SUFM instead!"

"The new 'play group style' programs for the Kindy - year 1 kids were excellent. Not only did the kids love the range of activities but we were able to invite children under 4 to join us with their parents. Every day we had parents come in to chat over a coffee while their children played. Some great relationships were formed and grown in this time."



Tumby Bay SUFM

It is always a miracle when Tumby Bay SUFM suddenly appears at the Recreation Centre in the heart of Tumby. The locals have just finished harvest, the teams have travelled from far and wide, and many of them meet each other for the first time when they get there! And yet it never ceases to be a wonderful testament to God's power and grace in that regional community.

This year, the number of people coming continued to grow through the course of the week with some of the largest crowds seen for years. The children were well entertained but also engaged with the dramas, games, crafts and the story of Jesus.

However, on Thursday afternoon, there was a real answer to prayer. As the team were preparing for the carnival on the adjacent oval an approaching storm was threatening to ruin the afternoon, posing a potential wash out for the team. Team members got together and prayed and, sure enough, by the time the carnival started, the wind had dropped, the clouds began to clear and the children started rolling in with their families.

The day was topped off with the traditional family concert to a packed audience of families, children and supporters.

SUSAs Vision & A.G.M.

It has been said that true vision is caught, not taught. Come and catch the exciting Vision and Direction for SUSAs. Be inspired to live out your faith in partnership with the ministry and mission of SUSAs.

It will be a day for all ages. A children's program will be operating while the Vision & AGM occur. So bring the kids for a bunch of fun, including a movie (G rated), games, colouring in & more.

This is a time to discuss, pray, celebrate and come together for the cause of the gospel.

Saturday August 1st
9am - 12.30pm
BCSA, 176 Wattle St Malvern, SA 5061

Concludes with a light finger-food lunch.

Please rsvp your attendance or apologies to: 8235 9500 or info@susa.org.au

Work with SUSAs

Ministry Vacancy - 2 days a week.
Primary & Children's Worker.

SUSAs is looking for someone who is committed and experienced in working with and for children. The role will involve liaising with schools, Chaplains (PCWs), churches, coordination of events such as camps, volunteer training, seminars and more.

You will need to have a mature outlook, passion for this work and be a self starter.

Experience in a school setting is advantageous. For more information about the role, and to obtain a position description contact SUSAs office on 8235 9500.



Admin Appeal



Imagine if all the secretaries, receptionists and admin people just stopped working. Wouldn't things become a disorganised mess really quickly?

At SUSAs we have a committed team who do all this. It doesn't have the glamour of a ministry role,

they may not be out there doing the camps, in the schools or running the events, but without them everything would come to a grinding halt. Our Admin Team are vitally important.

This is special appeal asking if you could give above and beyond to support our admin staff. We still need your regular giving but please consider supporting SUSAs's admin team, perhaps with a once off gift or a small monthly amount. Every little bit helps.

Farewell-ish to Glenys



Glenys Sauturaga (nee Tiller), joined the staff team in 2004 as the Camps Coordinator. Her creative flair and love for spending time investing in people was never hidden under a bushel.

Her experience and love for her role bore some great fruit in the camping ministry over those first few years. And then, a few years ago, Glenys traded her city ways for a regional role, becoming the first of SUSAs Regional Coordinators on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

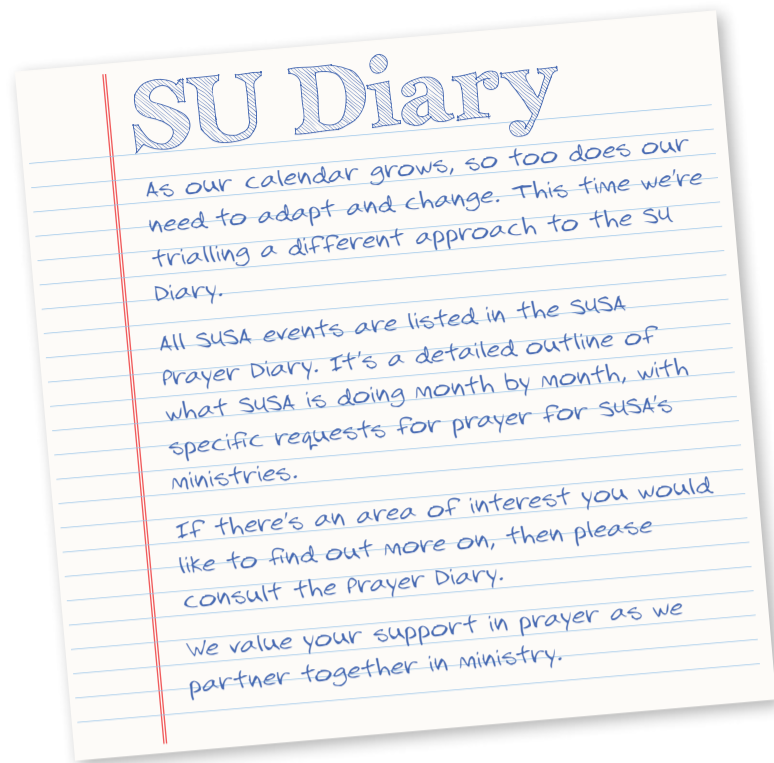
Glenys has never been afraid of a challenge and she was a wonderful advocate for churches working together to reach children, youth and families in that part of the state. She continued to invest a great deal into young leaders and formed some wonderful networks that led to positive outreach in those communities.

With changes in SUSAs and the changes in her own family situation, it seemed the right time for Glenys to finalise her time on SUSAs staff.

A vibrant group gathered in the Tumbay Bay Church of Christ hall to tell stories and give thanks to both God for what He has done through Glenys' gifts and calling, as well as to Glenys for her commitment and faithfulness.

We know Glenys will always be an "SU" person, but we are really grateful for all that she has done and invite you to pray with us for her future ministry and life with Maika and Illy.

Mark Schultz | Former Executive Director



Ministry is for K.I.D.S.



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

Never before have 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 those who register in KIDS can experience strong, Godly influence where biblical values and beliefs are put into practice.

We are currently seeking 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.



Going Digital makes Cents



Now, I don't want to harp on and on about the need to reduce expenses and increase our fundraising, so I won't. But one easy and convenient way we can save thousands of dollars every year is by going digital.

Just how much exactly? We calculate that we can save \$6,000 a year in postage alone!

By using digital media (*website, facebook, emailing newsletters, prayer-points, staff updates, etc, etc*) we can significantly reduce expenses, whilst maximising your donated funds towards actual ministry.

One major benefit the internet offers is its enormous reach - we can email the SU News (*or prayer points*) to anyone with a valid email address to anywhere in the world for the cost of a split pea!

This is what millenials call a 'No-Brainer' - We hope you agree.

The new digital format will allow it to be circulated more easily and to a wider audience. You can forward it to your own contacts as well.

Greater exposure means greater awareness, which leads to more ministry opportunities. That's a compelling reason to go digital.

At SUSAs we want every dollar possible to go towards ministry. We greatly appreciate your understanding and support in this matter as we continue to improve our services. That's why we are making this change.

It makes 'cents' (*pardon the pun!*)

Arthur Economides | Marketing & Communications

Don't Miss Out...!

Please update your details by May 1st.

As a valued SUSAs supporter we naturally want you to keep up to date with all the latest SUSAs news and events. As we move to online and digital publications, we would hate for you to miss out on future editions.

WE NEED YOU to update your email address and notify us of any changes to your contact details BY MAY 1st.

If you would still prefer to receive SU News in your letter box, you can! But, you MUST complete and return this 'Opt In' form OR call the office on 8235 9500 OR email info@susa.org.au with your details.

Otherwise SU News and many other forms of communication will be sent to you via email. Failure to do so may mean that you miss out on future editions.

Thankyou for your cooperation.

Please post your response to: SUSAs, 14 Adele Ave, Kidman Park, SA 5025 OR email: info@susa.org.au

Post SU News? **Yes | No** *Circle 'Yes' if you would like to receive SU News in your letter box.*

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