



SU Camps Rock!



A Camp for creative minds

MADD Camp (*Music, Art, Dance, Drama*) isn't your regular camp, and this year we really saw God at work in campers' hearts.

We saw lives remixed, thoughts remixed, topics and themes remixed. We saw campers remix how they saw themselves, and how they interacted with their God-given gifts and talents.

Not wanting to elevate any individuals gifts or talents above any other, we set an interactive (and creative) group problem solving challenge. Each camper had a part to play in solving riddles or putting pieces

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SU Camps Impact lives

By the age of 15 I was rejecting the church and the Christian faith I had been brought up to believe in.

But on a youth camp I heard the gospel, possibly hearing it for the first time in a way I could understand without all the church tradition, liturgy and ritual. I remember feeling convicted of my sin, repenting in tears and turning to Jesus. Since that time my life has been dedicated to sharing the gospel with young people.

When it comes to camps you just never know who, why or how they can impact a young person's life. What you do know is that the Holy Spirit is at work, meeting them where they're at.

At our recent camps with At Risk Kids, Gents and Jewels, we saw many teens powerfully impacted through the teaching and experiences of the camps and we saw several come to a point of decision to follow Christ. That is what SU camps are all about.

"I remember feeling convicted of my sin, repenting in tears and turning to Jesus."

At our recent 150th Anniversary event I asked for a show of hands, of those in the audience, who made a decision to follow Christ while on a Christian camp. About 25% of the audience raised their hand. WOW! That just shows how important it is that SUSA keeps on camping.

Camping is a core ministry of SU, both in Australia and around the world. They wouldn't happen without the many volunteers who make selfless sacrifices of both work and finances to be on one. It's on camp where young people are introduced to a Jesus who loves them, died for them and who can forgive their sin. Our leaders are amazing.

Please keep praying for our camps and the ongoing ministry they have to help our young people know and follow Jesus.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that

someone took and

sowed in his field; it

is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Matthew 13.31,32

At the recent 150th celebrations there were many stories where, as the result of involvement in an SU event, people had encountered Christ. Story after story. What stood out was the incredible impact that SU's ministry in schools, camps and beach missions had on these people.

Recently I was at a lecture where the Rev'd Canon Dr Rhys Bezzant, Dean of Missional Leadership and Lecturer in Christian Thought at Ridley College, Melbourne, began his lecture by recounting his early life. He had grown up with God-fearing parents, but they were not regular churchgoers.

When Rhys was 13 years old and at school he started attending an ISCF Bible study and a prayer meeting each week, under the auspices of Scripture Union, and was greatly impacted by the person of Jesus.

“What stood out was the incredible impact SU's ministry in schools, camps and beach missions had on these people.

By sixteen he was regularly attending church. Rhys has since gone on to be an ordained parish minister, has worked with tertiary students, loves preaching, lecturing and mentoring young adults for ministry.

He is currently speaking in many places around this vast continent about the Reformation. One might say, as with the mustard seed, "from little things big things grow"!

There are always difficult decisions to be made about which areas of ministry we prioritise here in South Australia at this time.

Stories such as those we heard at the 150th celebration, and Rhys' experience, encourage the Council and help us to discern the most effective ways to reach young people with what will be the most transformational relationship they will ever have – one that will change their lives forever.

Please pray! And praise God!

Vivien Bleby
SUSA Council Chairperson

SU Camp testimonial



“I attended SU's Swot Camp in 1983 while I was studying Year 12. I wasn't a Christian at the time but I was attending a local church after some friends shared the gospel with me at school.

They invited me to come along to Swot Camp and, given that I needed all the help I could get with passing my exams, I went along. It turned out to be a crucial time when I was able to ask more questions about Jesus and get to know more about following him.

I was surrounded by a great bunch of young people who really wanted to help me with my journey. Three months later I walked out the front of my church and made a commitment - and I passed my exams!

I have no doubt Swot Camp played an important role in both of these miracles and I highly recommended it for any SACE student, wherever you're at with Jesus”.

David Bland | Lead Pastor, The Hills Christian Family Centre.



David and Goliath



Who were David and Goliath?

This question was asked of children aged between 9-12 at a recent Prisoners Kids Mentoring Camp.

The story of David and Goliath was chosen as the theme for camp. The children listened intently as the story was told over three sessions.

At the end of the camp the children were asked, "How many of you have heard this story before?" Only three children said that they had.

The Bible and its many exciting stories are unknown to so many children. This is why it so important for Scripture Union to keep on doing what it does.

The camp was a huge success! A team of volunteer leaders from several local churches, helped to make the children feel safe in the camp environment.

Prisoners' kids are the innocent victims of their parent's crime.

Campers enjoyed the challenge of the high ropes, did archery and bush skills and other fun activities.

Prisoners' kids are the innocent victims of their parent's crime. "It's not their fault" Les quotes. "We want them to know that Jesus is their friend".

For almost 11 years, Scripture Union (in partnership with Second Chances) have organised camps for Prisoners Kids.

These children have many Goliaths in their lives to overcome. The camp 'Family Support Team', continue to minister, well after the camps have ended.

Thank you to SALT Church, Gawler for their generous support towards this camp.

Les Dennis
PK Mentoring Camps Liaison

Madd Camp

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together, in order to solve the problem.

The aim of seeing all campers working together, and reflecting on different attributes and characteristics they saw in each other, was achieved.

God really created a MADD family during the camp.

One of the parents spoke to me about how different they saw their child after camp. They were amazed (and proud) to see how confident they were during the end of camp performance.

The experience of MADD Camp is not something that can be easily explained. There were no social splits, no 'odd-ones-out'. Everyone is accepted. It's one MADD family, united under God.

MADD Camp is life changing for many kids who need to see that they are purposely made as creative beings by God. They are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Having attended MADD camp as a teen, and now as a leader, I still believe that it is the greatest experience for any teenager who has an interest in the creative arts. MADD Camp is amazing, and it's all due to an amazing God.

Cherie Jaeschke
MADD Camp Coordinator



A SupaPower rises in Pirie!

Recently SUSA partnered with the combined churches of Port Pirie to run a new outreach to children and families. 68 children came along for games, craft, worship and teaching.

The program was written by Chris Battistuzzi, who led training sessions in Port Pirie with their leadership team and oversaw the volunteer management.

It was fantastic to see so many volunteers from 7 different churches, all working together to share the love of God and truth of Jesus with the local children.

Would you like to see something like this in your region? We can help. SUSA has the staff, skills, resources and experience to help you get it off to a flying start.

Contact us on:
info@susa.org.au

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



Finding your true worth



JEWELS Camp 2017 went off bigger, brighter and better than we could have hoped for! Girls from years 7 to 11 tackled activities like

parkour, fire twirling, acrobatics, circus skills, hip-hop dance, djembe drumming, bush first aid and survival skills.

Along with these experiences the girls were actively pursuing their relationship with God as young women.

Beth Hoy and Elise Larcombe spoke passionately about womanhood. In Christ, a woman's true identity is a reflection of the 'female' characteristics of God. The girls learnt about the importance of being like a tree with its roots of faith planted deep.

There was enormous response and discussion about how God's love, as pictured in Song of Songs, is so different to the love the world offers and seeks after. Girls responded to knowing that their value needs to come from God, not from the opposite sex and peers.

Elise spoke about her journey of discovery that all women are unique and special to God and are moulded in his image.

This year saw our first three initiates complete their rite-of-passage which consisted of a series of challenges and tasks designed to build character and develop an understanding of identity as women.

The finale of camp saw our initiates presented to the campers and parents as women in a special and moving ceremony.

Cherith Harvey
At Risk Kids Ministry Coordinator

“ The worship was awesome... I felt the presence of God!!



“ I learned a lot about myself, my character, my future and relationship with the Lord.

“ It's good to know that (women) aren't just the back up plan.

Transforming boys to men



GENTS Camp was FANTASTIC! We had more campers and leaders than ever, with a group of 80 boys and men.

Arbury Park Campsite was a superb venue, allowing campers lots of interaction with nature.

'Break Down the Wall', was the theme of the SPIT (Spiritual Input) sessions, which explored all the things that males typically put in a wall that keeps God out of their lives. The drama style helped all campers to engage in these sessions well.

On the last day every camper walked through the cross shape that had been kicked out of the wall, symbolising identification of faith in Jesus as Lord. For some, this was their first time!

The tribal wars were a great mix of team spirit, fun competition, and a touch of bravado. This year we tackled the 'trenches' in Brighton after a fun filled afternoon at Brighton pool.

The camp highlight for me was the 'Calling Out' ceremony held on the last night. Three assistant leaders gave their testimonies on their journey to manhood.

There was not a dry eye in the room as they shared some momentous struggles, and received heartfelt words of affirmation, confirming they were worthy to be identified as men.

In 2018 we are looking to start both a Father & Sons Gents Camp (for boys aged 5-10), as well as help Gents Romania kick off. Please get in touch if you are interested or can help us financially to do this: hamilton@susa.org.au

Hamilton McNicol
Youth Projects Coordinator

“ You guys are total legends and the work you do to instil God values in young men is awesome!