

SU News

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



Leading the Way in Child Safety



Scripture Union across Australia has always been a leader when it comes to protecting children. The ChildSafe system was developed nationally by SU and today is used in hundreds of churches and organisations. For many years SUSAs has implemented a system that is far above the legal requirements.

All SU staff and volunteers must provide a criminal history or DCSI check, as well as undergo ChildSafe Team Member training. The training includes mandatory reporting, child abuse, team work, boundaries, risk management and further background checks.

Quite simply we have one of the best quality systems there is.

Our volunteers in schools do even more training and certification, as required by DECD.

We believe that it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to protect children. The big question is: Is your church or organisation child safe? SU can help, contact us for more information.

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Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA
Scripture Union South Australia

From the Director

An often quoted verse is Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision the people perish". There is only one place that vision must come from and that is from God. As we go through a period of change, our commitment is on seeking God's vision for the future, so that we keep fulfilling His mission for the ministry of SUSA.

It has been a tough time. We have had to reduce staff and we are still working through a time of restructure in how we operate. However, I have felt God's hand on us during the process.

We are in a rapidly changing world going through major societal shifts, along with a changing landscape in the church. All of this has implications for how SU operates, our finances, ministry directions and staffing.

It has been evident for many years now that as a Christian and evangelistic ministry which survives primarily on donations, we simply can't maintain the level of staffing and direct ministry that we have in the past. Times have changed.

As we let go of the past we are able to look at new opportunities, new possibilities and build SUSA for the future.

My confidence is in my God who I believe has been like a loving gardener pruning our organisation in preparation for future health and growth.

Thank you for your prayers. Prayer is foundational to all we do. Please keep SU foremost in your prayers. Your financial support keeps ensuring that SU will be an effective ministry into the future, and while we have had to make cutbacks this has also been very freeing.

As we let go of the past we are able to look at new opportunities, new possibilities and build SUSA for the future.

We are not thinking about 'perishing' at all. In fact it's the opposite. We can see a vision for SUSA's future and while it will take some time, we will dedicate ourselves to pursuing God's vision, achieving His purpose and undertaking His mission.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



I am often asked 'How is Scripture Union going?' And just recently at a meeting the comment was made "It must be hard to keep the focus and energy going with such a long-established organisation"

As we come into winter and our glory vine and crepe myrtle trees glow brilliant red and their leaves drop they will soon undergo a good prune. And come spring they will put out strong new growth, more vigorous and fruitful than ever. Is this not equally possible for an 'old' movement such as SU?

If you pour your life out faithfully to the gospel, the rest is in God's hands.

The SUSA Council have been carefully looking at our finances, and with a responsible desire to live within our means, have looked at staffing, our core business, and how we might best do what we believe we are called to do in the coming years. Has this been difficult? Yes – people's lives are affected and our staff is faithful and generous of their time to SU. Is it necessary? We believe so.

In Judges 6 Gideon feels abandoned by the God who had brought the Israelites out of Egypt. But the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" Judges 6.14 NIV (my emphasis) Read chapters 7 and 8 to see the very surprising result - God prunes, and then prunes some more, and with this much reduced army defeats the Midianites – unbelievable!

In a world that is hooked on never-ending growth, sustainable or not, when there are tough times we along with Gideon wonder about the trustworthiness of God and struggle to believe in God's power, love and faithfulness.

But there are times when a judicious prune is the best thing for healthy growth. Please be assured that SUSA has a Council that is passionate and prayerful in seeking the will of God.

NZ Bishop and founder of Urban Vision, Justin Duckworth, says 'Don't be captivated by success. Instead give your life to faithfulness. If you pour your life out faithfully to the gospel, the rest is in God's hands.'

Vivien Bleby
SUSA Council Chairperson

AGM with Brenton Ragless



This is a special Annual General Meeting open to all SUSA supporters, volunteers and members (past and present) and is not to be missed.

Includes a full 3 course dinner with pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, live music by Jazz guitarist and very special guest, Mr. Brenton Ragless of Channel 9 News.

Born in South Australia, Brenton is a passionate supporter of many South Australian charities. He is an ambassador for the Country Fire Service, Professional Firefighters Foundation, 'Watch Around Water' safety initiative, Asthma Foundation, Phoenix Society, Junction Australia, Cancer Council Sunsmart Initiative, Masters Swimming and the SA State Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

Date: Saturday 25th August

Venue: Westbourne Park Uniting Hall

Cost: \$35/pp.

AGM: 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

Dinner: 6:30pm.

RSVP by Fri 10th August.

Seating for dinner is limited. To reserve your place it's essential that you RSVP by calling the SUSA office on 8235 9500.

Front Cover photo: Pictured from left to right, Phil Pynor (Pastor, and Director of 2 Roads Consulting), Karen Brown (EA Insurance), Neil Milton (Business Development, Childsafe Australia) and Chris Battistuzzi (Executive Director, SUSA) forming the Q&A panel during the recent Childsafe Roadshow in Adelaide.

New Leadership Development Framework



There is a delicate balance between training young people to run programs well, and empowering them to wisely and ambitiously follow the Holy Spirit as they lead. SU's Leadership Development Program is a partnership between your church and SUSA that aims to grow and strengthen young leaders.

The SU Youth Department (WIRED) has just finished the new leadership framework that has clear discipleship and leadership outcomes. It's applicable from beginners through to experienced leaders, helping them to be innovative and follow the Spirit.

There are six levels of leadership development. More experienced leaders may quickly advance while new leaders will take longer. Our experience has revealed that not one step can be skipped without significantly jeopardising the integrity of making disciples, who in turn, know how to make disciples.

Critical to all of this training is a digital platform that leaders can access and use easily online from anywhere.

Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Coordinator

For more information about the program contact State Youth Coordinator Hamilton McNicol on 0432913250 or email: hamilton@susa.org.au

Creating leaders, both now and into the future!

The six levels of leadership are:

Team Member Stage 1: Developing the foundations for healthy spiritual habits and a faith that is starting to set you as a role model for younger Christians.

Team Member Stage 2: Know how to work in a small team under leadership, disciple 1 or 2 group members, and begin to know and use your unique gifts.

Team Member Stage 3: know how to lead a small group (6-12 people) and coach emerging leaders within the group using the training practice of 'I do. We do. You do'

Team Leader Stage 1: Know how to manage the safety of a group and operationally support the Stage 2 Team Leader in pursuing the vision and mission of your activity

Team Leader Stage 2: Know how to be a Spirit led missional leader and create synergy with your team in this pursuit, partnering fruitfully with local churches

Team Leader Stage 3: Actively making space for new leadership to emerge by either mentoring an existing ministry or courageously pursuing new missional opportunity as the Holy Spirit leads.



Concept artwork for the new Leadership Development mobile application.



SEPT 29-OCT 3

Arbury Park, Aldgate

To Register: www.wired-youth.com/gents-camp

Early Bird Rate: \$295 by August 6th



Help us bring the good news of Jesus to children and young people across SA.

Donations received before 30th June are Tax Deductible. Call SUSA reception on (08) 8235 9500 to support our School Ministry Appeal.

Bringing hope to kids at risk



SUSA's At Risk Kids Department continues to support the work of Second Chances SA, bringing hope of Christ to young people who have a parent in prison.

Our recent Older Teen Girls camp was a meaningful and impacting time for both campers and leaders.

These girls have grown into amazing young women of maturity and faith. It was so great to see the strength and depth of relationships built over the years between the volunteer leaders and the girls.

Helen Rance is universally known as 'Nana' and other leaders are known as 'Mumma.'

It's just so beautiful to see, especially when some of these girls don't have contact with their mother or are forced to live independently.

It can take years to build trust and to share Jesus with these young people.

Several of the campers from male and female camps have made decisions to follow Christ, some even being baptized and stepping into leadership roles. Praise God!

After much prayer a new camp Director for the Younger Teen Girls Camp has been found. This camp will go ahead sometime in June.

Cherith Harvey
At Risk Kids Ministry

For more information on how you can be involved in ministry to kids at risk or Jewels Camp, contact Cherith Harvey: cherith@susa.org.au



Pictured: 'Nana' Helen Rance, with girls from Older Teens Camp.

Jewels Camp



Oct 3-7

Douglas Scrub Campsite, Blewitt Springs

To Register: www.wired-youth.com/jewels-camp

Early Bird Rate: \$245 by August 1st

We will be asking girls the question, "What if, by disconnecting from the noise and pressure, you get to find true connection and are able to hear the voice of Jesus whispering, 'Come away with me.'"

JEWELS SURVIVOR will build a sense of belonging to the tribe of God's Kingdom. SURVIVOR style activities will challenge girls physically, mentally, emotionally and creatively. Unlike T.V. SURVIVOR, the aim is not to 'Out-Wit, Out-Play, Out-Last'.

On JEWELS SURVIVOR, the enemy is not each other. Our goal is unity and teamwork to model the body of Christ and to achieve this we will 'Out-Pray, Out-Love and Out-Serve.'

Think about the beach

Winter is the best time to start thinking about the beach... Beach Missions, that is. Think about how you can give support and some energy towards sharing that Beach Mission passion once again.

Being on team is a great way to express your Christian faith in a tangible way serving in a community setting. With Planning and Preparation Days commencing from June, SUSA will equip you for a great week of Missions.

Families with children are especially welcome to join in the fun; with the children becoming "Mission Kids".

Time to think Summer Missions.

2018/19 Mission Dates

Victor Harbor
26 December 2018
to 5 January 2019

Moonta
5-12 January 2019

Tumby Bay
7-11 January 2019

Port Vincent
7-11 January 2019

Kangaroo Island
14-19 January 2019

'Raise your hand' and seek more information from State Missions Coordinator Les Dennis: les@susa.org.au

Farewell to SU Staff

It's never an easy thing but letting go of staff is one of the hardest decisions the SUSA Council have had to make in recent times. Redundancy is not always a reflection of a person's performance.

If you haven't heard by now, three key staff were made redundant due to insufficient funding to continue supporting their roles. So, it's with sadness we say farewell to Arthur, Lochy and Yashu.

No matter how it's said, they will be missed! Their contribution to the ministry of SUSA won't be forgotten. We thank God for their faithful service to His call and ministry. We pray the favour, blessing and wisdom of the Lord upon them as they follow Him in this new season for their lives.



Arthur Economides
Marketing & Communications



Lochy Cupit
Creative Arts Network



Yashu Qin
Finance Officer



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