

SU News

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



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Missions Edition | Summer 2019

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation



From the Director

How else can I say this? 'I LOVE MY JOB!' Yes, I really do love what I do.

This was the thought that came to me loud and clear as I did the drive home after spending 5 days on the Eyre Peninsula and 2 days on Yorke Peninsula connecting with SU ministry, pastors, leaders, volunteers and others in those regions.

What a privilege to serve God and His people in this way and how exciting that SU gets to be part of living out God's mission into His world and especially our state.

So, why do I love my job? Here's a brief outline. I got to see amazing SU volunteers in action as they prepared, trained, organised and led in outreach ministry to hundreds of children and families. I had the honour of serving them as I led training, gave advice and consulted with leaders. I felt the pure joy of seeing children introduced to the God who loves them and the person of Jesus, through songs, stories, drama, video and bible reading. WOW, WOW, WOW! Just WOW!

☺ I felt the pure joy of seeing children introduced to the God who loves them...

If I can be a little self-indulgent, what a great job I have. I want to thank all of you who financially support SU. Because of your generosity we can keep doing what we do. Because of you, I get to have this amazing job and I do not take that for granted. It is a huge responsibility that I and other SU staff have, to be good stewards of the money you give and to serve God's mission in all we do. So thank you very much.

Lastly, what can be said about our volunteers? Words do not do justice. They sacrifice and they work hard. They face obstacles and challenges. They do it all so that as many children as possible can discover the God who loves them. They are truly amazing.

As the State Director I get to see it all and be a part of some of it when I can. To see lives changed by the good news of Christ, that's why I love my job.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



After many years I am still surprised by the way the Adaily Bible reading so often speaks to a situation I am currently faced with. The quote below is just such a time.

"The church finds new wineskins a challenge. The early church struggled with the problem of those who wanted to use the new as an add-on, to patch up the old operating system. It is one thing to believe in the wine of the

new covenant in Jesus' blood. It is another thing to develop new and relevant wineskins, churches capable of holding the new wine." Excerpt From: Scripture Union. "Encounter with God"

The CEOs and Chairs of all the SU movements across Australia have been in conversation about how we might better co-operate and work together.

Currently, each state or territory has a separate board, each having to spend a great deal of time and resources on governance to comply with legal requirements and to have healthy, well run movements. All while providing support for local mission. There are the many people invested in SU who provide their prayer, support, wisdom and leadership for the local SU mission.

Is it possible that a renewed structure for SU might release more resources for grass roots ministry? In these challenging more secular times might there be greater strength in working together? If we worked together to share the load, might we have a greater impact across Australia?

Tough questions! Please pray earnestly for the Spirit to guide these discussions and that we might be open to the possibilities of new wineskins for new wine.

Vivien Bleby
SUSA Council Chairperson

☺ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, 'The old is good.' Luke 5.33-39 (NRSV)



Welcome Chris to SUSAs



There's a new voice on the end of the phone or email when you contact SU, Chris Jenkinson. After having gone through a significant staff restructure we realised that the admin area was vulnerable and not being covered well enough.

Chris comes with a strong admin background and a heart for serving God. Between Leanne Wissell and Chris, they cover the office and many admin tasks from Tuesday to Thursday. There's a lot to learn but Chris is dedicated and doing a great job. It's has been a blessing having her join the team.

SUPA Clubs are surging ahead.



Scripture Union Primary Ages Clubs have been a lunch time group run in schools for decades. But with shorter lunch times and the difficulties of getting day time volunteers, maintaining this ministry has been challenging.

We still have several lunchtime clubs operating but more recently we have seen

God open new doors to new ways of reaching children with His message.

What began in Birdwood some years ago as an after school SUPA Club has now led the way for several new after school clubs led by local volunteers from various denominations. In 2018 two new clubs began in Kersbrook & Springton. The next club is due to kick off in Mannum in term 2. We also have interest from other regions for new clubs which Chris Battistuzzi is following up on.

So, what is a SUPA Club? An outreach ministry to primary school children led by local church volunteers. It is a great way for local churches to reach children with the gospel, connect into the school community and build relationships with local families. After school SUPA Clubs are an exciting new form of this ministry with huge potential as they can run for longer, usually 1.5 to 2 hours, can include more Bible teaching, connect with parents and serve the local schools. After school SUPA Clubs really are the complete package!

After school SUPA Clubs really are the complete package!

Alongside this has been the start of SUPA School Holiday Clubs. These are a 3 or 4 day club run during school holidays. SU supply the resources, training and support to the teams and in some cases get directly involved with leading and teaching.

Coming soon – SUPA Camp. We are working now on starting this new area of camping to build on the existing SUPA Club ministry. It will be open to all kids from Yr 4 of school to Yr 7.

A SUPA Training is being held in Mannum on March 16th for anyone interested or involved with children’s ministry, not just SUPA. The training that day will be led by Chris Battistuzzi and Cherie Jaeschke. Other workshops have already occurred and it looks like more are to come.

So as you can see, there’s a lot going on in the world of SUPA. Please pray for the volunteers needed, the funds required and for the SU staff who support this growing area of mission to children and families.

If you would like more information about SUPA Clubs don’t hesitate to contact SU.



Farewell to a true legend!



It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Les Dennis who has served as Missions Coordinator for 5 years, Special Projects Officer and even stepped into the role as the (temporary) Acting SUSA Director.

What can we say about this incredible man? Here’s a few attempts; A servant, a soldier,

a giver and above all a leader who has gone above and beyond to see our summer missions succeed in reaching young people and families with the good news of Jesus. So, as I said, A TRUE LEGEND.

Les officially finished in his role at the end of February but praise God he’s not going far. Les has committed to hanging around to help support Julie Calvert as she takes on the role and to remain on our Missions Committee.

If you want to say thanks to Les or express your gratitude in some way then I encourage you to contact him yourself. I know he’ love to hear from you.

The many faces of Les.



Summer of Mission



What's Needed?

What does Australia need now more than ever? Christians who have a heart for the lost, believers who will give their time, money and effort to share Jesus with young people and families who have no idea who Jesus is.

In our wealthy comfortable society it can be hard to step out and sacrifice our comforts, give up our time and even spend our own money to do mission into the world. Praise God we have those people on our Summer Mission teams.

This year across our 5 missions, hundreds of children and families were introduced to Jesus. That's what it's all about!

Tumby Bay

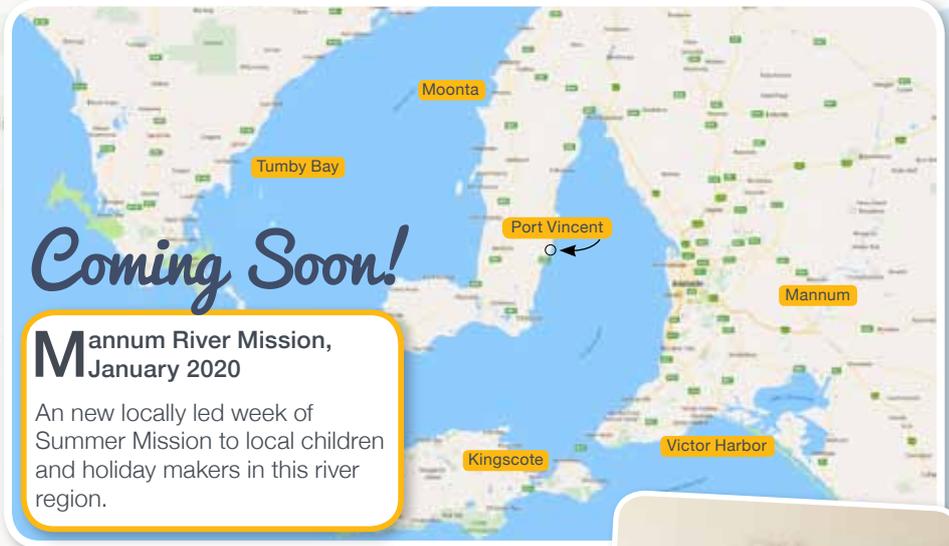
Tumby Bay Family Mission took kids on a MEGA QUEST and the attendance figures broke records. Across the 5 days over 200 children and their families connected with the local churches and Christians from the Eyre Peninsula. It was incredible.

A fantastic team of volunteers who came from the local region, Adelaide and even as far away as Darwin, to be part of sharing Jesus with children.

The Mega Quest program is a very solid "Gospel" program that took kids on a journey with Jesus from sin to salvation. The feedback from parents, including non-Christian parents, is that it's good for kids to come and learn about God for themselves in a positive, safe, fun and well run program. The growing numbers of kids is a testimony of the support of all involved as well as parents and the community.

All The kids knew the Memory verse (John 3:16) and were yelling it back by the end of the week. Our talented drama team and use of Bible stories explained how Jesus sacrificed himself for us and defeated sin.

It is a challenge in the rural areas. Some on team have leadership qualities but live/study in Adelaide. Local younger Christians are having families and are busy with them. Harvest time makes things time pressured and getting future leaders difficult. But we trust that God will raise up the future leaders we need to carry on His mission.



Coming Soon!

Mannum River Mission, January 2020

An new locally led week of Summer Mission to local children and holiday makers in this river region.

Kangaroo Island

Mid-January Lily Rohrlach joined a Scripture Union Mission (Kangaroo Island) for the first time, counting it as a privilege.

She says, "The mission runs for a total of five days, during this time we have the opportunity to connect with the children by sharing Bible stories, playing games and making crafts.

This year we shared the story of Joseph's exile to Egypt, and how God used such a negative experience to bless Joseph, his family and many others. The children were really able to see that God's love never fails – even when we might feel different or left out, God is with us, and he has a plan to bring us through difficult times, and use us to ultimately bring glory to him.

I was so impressed by the children's level of openness to learn and participate in the program, and to receive the message we were teaching them, and I was reminded of Matthew 18:3 where Jesus instructs us to have faith like a child's.

Lily - KI Volunteer



I found the time spent in KI to be spiritually enriching, and felt blessed to spend time teaching God's word with strong Christian peers and leaders.

The KI team were also blessed to spend time touring the island and taking in the spectacular sights and being reminded of what an awesome creator we serve."

Lily - KI Volunteer



TUMBY BAY

MOONTA

PORT VINCENT

KANGAROO ISLAND

VICTOR HARBOR



Port Vincent

It's very exciting when children share with team members about how they are exploring the Bible and Christian faith. These are some of those stories and they share why we do Mission.

Hunter asking "What is the bible?" in 7-9's Ricardo (10-12's group) who had obtained a bible at mission the year before expressing disappointment in himself that he had only read up to Exodus. Team members supported him in directing him in where he should read next.

Jamie (16 year old) who has been coming to the program since he was five, but professes to not be a believer, openly shared what he does believe with a team member as he felt safe to do so. Also sharing about some tough stuff he was going through personally because he trusts the team members to do so.

Carolyn (7-9's) was hesitant to let her mum go the first day, so mum stayed for the session. A local family, living in the area for 12 years, who came to the movie night as a first point of contact. The second day she let her go, which her mum reported was remarkable as she is very timid, and she always stays with her at birthday parties etc. That second day Carolyn even got up at mat time and spoke about what we'd done in the 7-9's. Her Mum had coffee with Tania (our pastor's wife) and said it was a long time since she had been to church, but that Carolyn goes to an after school Kid's Club at Minlaton UC.

After a discussion around forgiveness and basically the gospel message a child in the 10-12's said "I have literally never heard that before".

A Christian parent of a child in the 5-6's age group had the opportunity to share her testimony with another parent as they sat in the hall, while their children participated in the program.

The Team would like to thank all who have supported the Port Vincent Team with their prayers and practical support and ask continuing prayers as the team stays in touch with those who have attended Mission this year.

Victor Harbor

While most of Adelaide were resting and recovering after Christmas, Boxing day saw 20 team members and their 8 children travel to the Beach Front Caravan Park.

On a blissfully mild day the team were joined by almost 30 helpers who travelled down to support the set up. This amazing group of helpers were able to assist the unpacking of the storage shed, putting up 4 marquees and cleaning the equipment.

The mission was blessed with mild days, only two of which reached mid 30's. Once again, we had over 100 children and teens register for our programs. The youngest children had a range of dramas and stories that presented bible truths with the support of Super Mart and Stinky Norman. Older children answered Big Questions and the teens chilled and chatted.

The adults once again enjoyed Ricca Coffee including a coffee tasting from the Ricca owner. This year we introduced Big Tent branded reusable cups to assist promotion and protect the environment, these were very popular with dozens of people coming back on a regular basis to have them re filled.

Evening programs involved the return of family favourites the Bush Dance and BBQ, Talent Night and Board Games Café. Our Movie night was Chicken Run and our Carnival had a Pirate Theme. A new evening program was the Reality TV night, which included Ninja Warrior, Minute to Win It, My Tent Rules and Nailed It. This evening proved highly successful with many people excited to be involved in versions of shows they love.

Victor was the first ever Beach Mission in SA and is still going strong. To help us remain strong new volunteers would be fantastic. If you are interested contact SU and you can find out more on our facebook page www.facebook.com/vhsufm.

Moonta

Moonta Family Mission 2019 was a very exciting experience for all involved and was testament to God's faithfulness and mercy.

The beginning of the week provided the relatively new team of 30 volunteers with a chance to get to know each other and partner with the churches of the Copper Coast in their Sunday services, before the annual "Fun in the Park" event at Moonta Bay Caravan Park, including face painting, and pancakes to kickstart the program for the week.

Our usual program aimed at children between 5 and 15 continued, with a new seniors group geared towards 16 and 17 year-olds. Solid relationships were built between the kids and team members, with lots of questions and deep discussions happening as a result.

The theme for the mission was "Mega Makers" with an inventor's twist, focusing on the gospel of Matthew and the width, depth and strength of God's love for us in Jesus. The gospel was also shared through our movie and talent nights as well as the much-loved team led drama, encouraging the children to share what they had learnt through the week with their friends.

We continue to praise God for the work he did at Moonta Mission 2019 and look forward with great anticipation to what he will continue to do on the Copper Coast through the Gospel and the relationships that have been formed so far..

At-Risk Wrap



Second Chances Teen Girls Camp (Prisoner's Kids)

It's hard to imagine the types of challenges these girls face, coming from homes where one or even both parents have been or are in prison. SCSA do an amazing work with them and SU is privileged to keep serving them in this way.

The teen girls held a camp in November in Goolwa. Activities included bushwalking, an animal park and a fun beach day which was very much enjoyed by all. Our new leader Ema Bovoro quickly fitted in and built positive relationships. Our seasoned leaders, Lyresha, Montana and Lilja once again volunteered their time to give into the lives of our precious girls.

Director Helen Rance has been involved in PK Camps for 10 years and has lead over 25 camps. She has been the force behind the success of teen girl's camp, has built incredibly strong relationships with the girls and is known as Nana by all. Helen not only works full time as a high school teacher but also has seven children and is a grandmother.

This year Helen will take very much deserved long service leave from our program. We wish her a year of rest and fulfilment as she focusses on her family and a wedding.

Helen, you deserve a gold medal and we will miss you this year.



Helen Rance (centre) surrounded by PK Campers



You Are Needed

Second Chances SA/SUSA PK Primary Camp needs YOU!

Our primary aged camp for 9-12 year old children is looking for leaders who are passionate about building positive mentoring relationships with children whose parent/s are involved in the correctional system.

**Camp is 5th to 7th April 2019
Venue TBA**

Past camp activities have included high ropes, horse riding, adventure games, archery, kayaking, abseiling, surfing, crafts and more. All activities are run by paid instructors so leaders can participate and have fun.

Requirements:

- Current Police Check or DHS Child-Related Employment Screen. (We can organise one free of charge if you don't have one.)
- Willingness to do SUSA ChildSafe training. (2 hours online or in person).

Please Contact Cherith on 0409 540 398 or email: cherith@susa.org.au

October 4th - 8th
Shiloh Hills Camp - Ironbank
Girls in school years 7 to 12.
Info: Cherith@susa.org.au



BWO & SU Partnership



Each January SU partners with passionate young volunteers from many different churches to share God's love. It's a fantastic event that connects with many unchurched people in the community while sharing the gospel through actions and words.

From the three bases – operating in the East, West and Hills regions of Adelaide - we had over 150 youth and young adults head into their communities to share God's love through meaningful acts of service!

Each base also spent time studying God's word and learning about what it means to serve God in everything that we do.

Here are some highlights from the week from each base:

Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Projects Coordinator



Big Week Out Highlights

East Base

This year's weather provided some complications for East Base. We had two days where our outdoor events got cancelled, but thankfully God provided us some alternative events for all 100 people!

We also welcomed a lot of new faces, leaders and participants with some participants being non-Christians. They all felt incredibly welcome and loved learning about our mission and serving with us.

Highlights include our whole base event where we did beach and beach cleanup at Moana Beach and the last night where participants stood up and declared "Here I am Lord, send me".

West Base

The West Base was thankfully a few degrees cooler than the East and Hills bases, so we were able to do all of our outdoor events without getting too hot!

Our highlights from the week include eight Backyard Blitzes, washing buses for a local school, and several nursing home visits.

We were also surprised by God's planning – what initially looked like an abundance of food that would need to be thrown out was provided to a young lady who arrived at the church in need of food.

Hills Base

We had some unexpected Hills-based challenges during the week – including a brown snake sighting at a Backyard Blitz and an event cancellation due a nearby bushfire.

Praise God that everyone was safe, but also that after some difficulties finding places to serve before the week, He provided us with amazing opportunities!

We ended up gardening at house where the owner was fuzzy with the idea of God but was open to pray with us, and later called to tell us they planned to come to church the next Sunday!

GENTS legacy

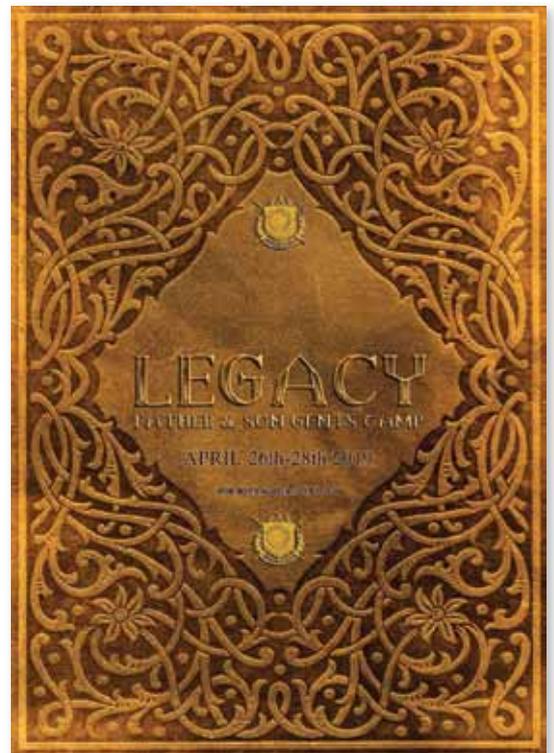


For millennia fathers told their sons 'The Story'. Across religions, continents, and generations this story took many forms but spoke of an archetypal hero.

The telling of 'The Story' helped fathers guide their sons in the rest of life on the journey to becoming great men. Recently it's been forgotten. We're going to tell our sons 'The Story' again.

'Legacy' Father and Son Gents Camp will be full of fun activities and campfire sessions with Andrew Lines from 'The Rite Journey', and David Buxton – Children and Families Pastor at Coro U.C., and Hamilton McNicol – SUSA State Youth Coordinator

When: April 26th (5pm) - April 28th
Cost: \$50 p/person
Who: Fathers & sons (aged 8-12 years)
Where: Douglas Scrub Campsite, Blewett Springs



Keep the flame burning

Many people whose lives have been touched by SU are so deeply grateful for it's ministry that they couldn't imagine a world without it.

Did you know that you can leave a bequest to SUSA in your will? By leaving a bequest you provide opportunity for ongoing ministry, enabling future generations to hear about God's love for them. Please consider including SUSA in your will.



Contact the SUSA office on 8235 9500 or email info@susa.org.au for more information on how you can leave a bequest to SUSA.

65 When David went home to be with his Lord... it was his delight to help the work continue by making a bequest to SU.

A love for Jesus

We're always interested in hearing from individuals who love Jesus and want to tell people all about Him. If that's you, have you thought about joining a team?

Countless children and their families have come to learn of God's love for them through the many years of SU ministry. From beach missions to schools and camps, SUSA has always strived to take the good news of Jesus to the young people of South Australia.

Consider the joy awaiting everyone who believes. Join a team today. The mission field awaits you.



For more information on how you can join a team and help share the great news about Jesus, call 8235 9500 or email info@susa.org.au

