

# SU News

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



## Big Tent Revival!



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I believe we all want the structure of this organisation to be efficient and effective in bringing young people to faith . . . . [\[read more - pg 2\]](#)

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 Missions Edition | Summer 2020

## Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

**SUSA**   
Scripture Union South Australia



## From the Director

**R**ecently my Pastor challenged people in our church to pray a 'DANGEROUS' prayer. The simplicity and yet power of that prayer really struck me.

I've adapted it slightly and my version goes like this;

*'Lord, open my eyes and help me see where I should serve for you.'*

Why is this prayer dangerous? If you sincerely pray this you are asking God to open your mind to see the where, who and what He wants you to do in service to Him. You may not like it, it might scare you, it might challenge you and it most likely will change you. Instead of just continuing to do or live your faith as you always have and within a certain comfort zone, does God have more or something else He wants you to do?

What skills, passions, resources, interests and gifts do you have that God has given your life? God does not give any of this so you can simply serve yourself. We know we are here to serve others, to care, to share to give and to love.

Lately I have been praying this same prayer for Scripture Union. There are so many worthwhile ministries SU *could* be doing but that does not mean it is what SU *should* be doing.

Across our staff and volunteers we continue to serve God with our hearts and minds, giving our time, effort and resources for His glory. But we are human and we make mistakes, or errors in judgement sometimes. Therefore it is vitally important that through prayer we keep asking for God's guidance.

So if you are still reading this, I have a challenge for you, a special way that you can help SU. Will you join me over the next week or even month as I pray everyday;

*'Lord, open my eyes and help me see where SU should serve for you.'*

This is a prayer that SU needs as we continue to faithfully serve Him. It is a dangerous prayer but I believe a prayer that opens us to see beyond ourselves to what God wants us to do for Him. Please pray with me over the coming weeks and I believe as we do, God will reveal, lead and empower us to serve Him in more effective ways.

*Chris Battistuzzi*

**Chris Battistuzzi**  
Executive Director



## From the Chair



**F**irstly, as the new Chairperson for SUSU I would like to acknowledge the outgoing chairperson Vivien Bleby, and on behalf of Council and members, thank her for her contribution over the last 4.5 years.

Viv's approach was not only professional but well measured in terms of wisdom and insight, always conducting herself under the headship of the one true God.

However, the word 'gracious' really says it all about her. I am happy to say that she will be staying on as Council member.

As most of you will know there has been a lot going on in the organisational structure of SU Australia. The probable end game will be for all state associations to merge to become one company. There is some way to go in this process and we have already achieved much in the past few years to establish sound footings for this to occur. In fact, just a little while ago on February 3rd 2020, members voted to:

- Change from a state-based association, to a company limited by guarantee;
- Adopt the name 'Scripture Union South Australia Limited';
- Adopt a new constitution to facilitate the change to a company.

As we move forward, I want to encourage you all to prayerfully consider further coming changes (as they are circulated) and certainly to take opportunity to have your say – either in agreement or disagreement.

I believe we all want the structure of this organisation to be such that the operations in the field are enhanced, efficient and effective in bringing young people to faith in Christ. The structure becomes secondary, indeed invisible when compared to the main Aims and Beliefs of SUSU and the working out of the same.

Please feel free to contact myself, Chris Battistuzzi or anyone on Council for discussion as required.

At the same time, and most importantly, we must not forget the ongoing work of SUSU and what has been going on in the field over the last few months. We had the 6 missions ready to go into the new year which included the new Mannum one, and also Kangaroo Island. Everyone is aware of what happened on KI with fires. Unfortunately, in the interest of safety and issues around capacity to serve adequately in an emergency setting, we withdrew the team. For the time being. Thanks to the many people involved, especially our President Kevin Hull, the Team Leader, who along with others exercised much wisdom and consideration given the circumstances. Watch this space.

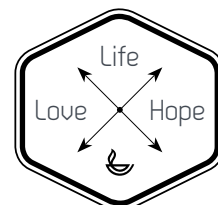
In all of our work as SUSU (and indeed around the other state operations) we need to be in thanksgiving to God for what he has given and done for us in the past AND into the future. There is purpose in that.

However, in the context of Paul encouraging the Corinthians in their giving to the church of Jerusalem, 2 Corinthians 9:10-15, talks about using what God had given to them, not just only using it for themselves but ALSO to sow from it. Through that act, the receiver (in this case the church of Jerusalem) would not only glorify God for the "liberality of the Corinthians contribution" to them (time food, money... ministry) but would ALSO glorify God for the "obedience of the Corinthians confession to the Good News of Christ". It's the same message for us at SU and our ministry.

When things become difficult, let's not falter, as the scripture is clear in its promises. God is clear in what we are to do. So then, there is purpose in the mission of SUSU. We are at the coal-face dealing with people who search. As we go forward, be generous in all things in the name of the Father. I encourage all of us to continue on with thanksgiving and with courage.

Praise be to God

**David Jenkinson**  
SUSU Council Chairperson



# Julie and her Rollercoaster Mission Season



**T**he 2019-2020 Summer SU Family Mission season has been a rollercoaster journey. There have been wonderful highs and beautiful blessings but there has also been deep sadness and disappointment. This season saw 6 Mission teams plan and prepare their volunteers to show and share the love of

**Jesus in fun, relevant and engaging ways to children, youth and families.**

It has been about 20 years since SU last had 6 active missions. God in His kindness and generosity provided the necessary volunteers and supportive church communities to enable the recent commencement of new missions.

This season a new mission began in Mannum. We prepared and planned and then trusted God to bring the children and accomplish His work. For the churches of Mannum and the local volunteers it was a huge step of faith. They put their hands up to be part of a ministry they had never seen before. They trusted SU to bring about a program that would benefit the community of Mannum. God was at work. He brought children who needed the love and care of the team. We also shared God as the all-powerful God who made and loves them and as a personal God He can be their safe place, always ready to help them in times of trouble.

Other highs include successful missions in Pt Vincent, Moonta, and Victor Harbor. Tumby Bay saw over 200 registrations and the added blessing of someone coming to saving faith acknowledging Jesus as their Lord and saviour. All these blessings show God at work bringing about His plans and purposes.

But, while these great ministries were happening, over in Kangaroo Island a destructive bushfire wreaked havoc. People's lives were dramatically turned upside down as they helplessly waited to see if their home and belongings would survive.

The heart of the KI team was to go and be the hands and feet of Jesus, to help their friends on KI however they could. With just days before our team travelling to KI the decision was taken out of our hands and higher authorities took action preventing travel to KI by non-residents. Options are being discussed to go over to KI later this year but as yet nothing has been decided. We want to make sure that whatever we do we provide a fun, safe and meaningful activity that supports the local community.

I am so thankful to you all for your generous prayers. The safety, protection and sustaining of all the teams and participants is a visible answer we can praise God for. It was your prayers that enabled and protected each of the 6 missions- even the intervention imposed on the KI mission. Please pray for the KI team and for the people of Kangaroo Island. The recovery from the devastation and destruction of these recent bushfires will take significant time. As they rebuild and heal from their trauma please lift them into the mighty hands of our good and gracious Father.

As Missions coordinator the time required to support, train, equip and oversee 6 Family Missions is considerable. My vision is to see up to 10 Family Missions in operation over the next 5-10 years. To enable this even more time, energy and volunteers will be required. The Spiritual input in many rural communities in South Australia is next to none. To invest in these communities, working alongside the local churches to introduce children, youth and families to Jesus, is to invest in eternity.

I want to invest in eternity in this way but working 1 day a week makes this virtually impossible. Can I ask you to consider helping me invest in eternity by financially supporting me? Whatever God leads you to give will be gratefully accepted and will enable the establishment of more family missions and better support and training for our fantastic volunteers.

Go to [www.susa.org.au/donate-online](http://www.susa.org.au/donate-online) or contact me directly to find out more as we work together and invest in eternity.

**Julie Calvert**  
Missions Coordinator



**MANNUM**

*Our Newest SUFM!!*



# Summer of Mission

SCRIPTURE  
**BEA**  
**MISS**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Victor Harbor

One thing that stands out every year at Victor Harbor Big Tent Mission is the faithfulness God has shown towards His servants. Such faithfulness has resulted in a legacy of Godly servanthood spanning over 80 years. How fortunate we are.

It gives us permission to connect with the people there in an intimate and familial way. We are trusted and embraced by the community in the park.

We had strong attendance to our children's programs in the mornings, our family-oriented evening programs and our late night sessions with the teens. We also shared a lot of great stories about God and us with everyone.

We had some extreme heat and one storm that caused some damage, but were very blessed by people stepping in to help out just when we needed it. It is beautiful to see, and be a part of, God's people at work and sharing his love in such a wonderful way.

**Mike Shaw**

Victor Harbor Team Leader

## Port Vincent

Port Vincent really comes alive in summer. Our Family Mission kicked off with a movie night on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, and ran primary and teens activities from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. Our team of 27 were more intentional this year about being visible in the community. We were also encouraged by the growing connection with local churches.

The Sunday prior to mission our team members visited 7 churches in the area. On one evening the Gospel Church from Minlaton came and held a prayer meeting with us where we were staying. Local people were also on team.

62 children attended the primary program across the week. But it's not really about numbers at all, but about the interactions and relationships formed. One local Christian mum appreciated her son seeing the broader family of faith. For most of the year his Dad is his preacher and his Mum is his Sunday School teacher! One child when taught that prayer is talking to God, exclaimed: "I have never heard that until you said that just then!" The grandmother of one young boy was keen for him to attend, but he was shy and unsure. After coming for one day, he didn't return. But when team members saw him a day or so later at VacSwim and said hello, he was keen to return that afternoon. A parent going through a very traumatic situation found support and a listening ear in one of our team members.

In our 10-12's group we had a girl take home a copy of Luke's gospel after the first day, because she wasn't sure if she'd be able to come back and she wanted to find out more.

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## Moonta

Moonta Family Mission kicked off with a united team of 32 volunteers from different parts of Adelaide and the Copper Coast. Throughout the week, the team led up to 50 children through the book of Acts using games, crafts and songs.

Each day, children of varying ages came to the Moonta Uniting Hall to enjoy a café themed week, learning about the early church and how God's family is open to all; the lame, the dead and dead in spirit, people of different languages and even those considered unclean.

Each day also brought along a new episode to the week long slapstick drama, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

As the week progressed, the team was able to put on a few outreach events, such as a Fun-in-the-Caravan Park, a Movie Night and a Talent Night. The Fun-in-the-Caravan Park included free pancakes, clowns, balloon art, face painting, crazy hair, biscuit decorating and some great conversations with the families in the park.

An encouragement for Fun-in-the-Caravan Park this year was the Park manager's support for us, even going so far as to send a text to all caravan park residents to alert them that the team was coming later in the day and to encourage families to attend. The children really enjoyed the experience and many families were made aware of the program and what the team's mission was.

The Movie Night outreach, allowed for building of community amongst the team, the children and families. Afterwards, Craig Loveday shared a reflection, tying in the movie into the week's theme of God's family and all being welcome.

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Our Newest SUFM!!

## Tumby Bay

**W**ith 213 children and youth registered the week was set to be busy in our Town Hall! To cater for the growing numbers we expanded, using two more nearby church buildings.

A new program called Guardians of Ancora, including its catchy theme song provided the storyline to a Bible adventure. Participants reflected on five of the miracles Jesus performed through small group discussion and craft. The bouncy castle was enjoyed along with woodwork activities. Numbers were up for Junior Teens who played some very noisy table tennis games! A highlight was the Junior Teens crew up front during Mat Time doing the actions to a well known song they've been singing since their own early years at Family Mission.

Mentoring and passing on of skills and wisdom to young adult volunteers is key. As they step up into roles with the support and encouragement of those who have been involved for many years. This is a fabulous way for our churches to see the next generation equipped and enabled to serve God not just for a week in summer but throughout the whole year.

Volunteers from across our town and region were joined by those from as far as Adelaide. Time was spent in prayer as the team supported each other as well as praying for other SU events taking place across South Australia and beyond. Our hearts go out to the team unable to run on Kangaroo Island because of the devastating fires at the time.

We are thankful to local churches and community groups for the awesome support we receive to make this possible.

Stay tuned as the team are already thinking about doing it all over again next January! There is talk of presenting the follow up program to Guardians of Ancora called 'Treasure Seekers'. We really appreciated the online aspect of the game so that children can continue to engage in Bible Stories. It's a much more up-to-date way to provide follow up material.

**Glenys Sauturaga**

Tumby Bay Team Leader

## Mannum

**18** volunteers led the inaugural 'SU Family Mission' at Mannum – it was Wet, it was Wild, and it was Wonderful! Our water based theme provided the opportunity for lots of creativity and fun as well as learning of our Great God who is in control no matter what's happening.

Our Mission was called 'Supa Summa Fun' to link in with the local SUPA Club that started last year, and it certainly was! While numbers of children attending were small, those that came had a great time and smaller numbers enabled more effective relationship building with both children and their families. It also helped to gently 'break in' the local volunteers who hadn't been part of a Family Mission before, ably led by Julie, Pete and the team from Adelaide. Local volunteers are very grateful to them and SU. Mostly we are very thankful to God for who He is and for what He is doing among us.

Major highlights for us were the connections built with families, and the connections across the churches in Mannum. It was exciting to see so many families and friends come for the talent night and the increasing interest in the drama kept everyone in suspense.

We look forward to next January and the next SUPA Summa Fun in Mannum!

**Joy Marks**

Mannum Team Leader



**I**t has been about 20 years since SU last had 6 active missions. God in His kindness and generosity provided the necessary volunteers and supportive church communities.

# Summer of Mission (continued)

## Port Vincent

>> The next day she did come back and she'd already read the story of Zacchaeus, which was the topic for that day!

Meanwhile, we had another girl with more questions than we had time to answer so she happily skipped the craft one day (making a resurrection scene out of chocolate and lollies!) to sit with one of our leaders and talk through everything she wanted to know. With mission time running out and still wanting to find out more, three of the girls took home a Bible and a reading plan to guide them on their journey.

Two parents this year enrolled their children because they had been to mission in the 1980's and it was part of their positive memories from holidays in Port Vincent. Port Vincent Mission's longevity means that we now have a second generation of children attending. As far as we are aware these parents aren't Christians but they have fond memories from their time as children at mission, and want it for their children as well.

The teens program aimed to create a more comfortable, unique and exciting space for the teens. The overwhelming positive of the teens program was watching the teens

form friendships with each other through a program of fun activities, snacks, gospel messages, small group discussions and testimonies. The number of teens peaked at 30 people, and we are so thankful for the new and ongoing connections we developed with them.

As a team, we experienced a close sense of family as we worked together. In particular some members of team were experiencing grief, which was quite raw in one case. Yet with courage, persistence and reliance on God they, and the team, continued to serve. As such we experienced the sufficiency of God's grace and received His strength in our weakness. As we sang with the kids "How wonderful, to be a part of God's amazing plan"!

**Rebekah**  
Port Vincent Team Leader

## Moonta

>> Finally, the Talent Night was an outreach event where many of the children were able to participate in the acts and parents were able to get a glimpse of

what the kids had been involved in. Each age group had the chance to perform an act and many leaders participated in comedy sketches and acts. Overall, the atmosphere of the evening was warm and joyful.

All the leaders attended morning devotions throughout the week. This proved helpful in connecting the team's hearts and minds to God's faithfulness towards the early church, and His miraculous work of transforming and restoring lives and hearts. The team also joined in prayer partners lifting up the week to the Lord and encouraging each other through prayer.

Across the week, the team grew very close. Late night games, Krispy Kreme runs and refreshing swims all aided the team's growth and sense of community.

At the end of the week, as goodbyes were said, all were grateful for each and every member of team and the sense of community, of family, remained a strong encouragement.

**Lilly Loveday**  
Moonta Team Leader

# Outback Mission Adventure

## Broken Hill, here we come!

**N**ew Mission Experience for Young Adults and teens (16+).  
Join our SUPA Serve team on a mission adventure to Broken Hill in the great Australian outback. Be part of a brand new outreach ministry to children and families.

Learn leadership skills, take responsibility for running games and activities. Enjoy daily Christ centred community, devotions and worship. Special team excursions to see local sites.

**Places are strictly limited so get in touch ASAP!**

If you are up for the adventure then contact SU Director Chris Battistuzzi: [chris@susa.org.au](mailto:chris@susa.org.au) / 0433067769 to find out more.

An interstate SU partnership working with local churches.







# BWO & SU Partnership



In the third week of January Big Week Out again left the aroma of Christ again all over Adelaide. Over 90 teenagers and 40 leaders gathered at the East and West hubs, but reached out all over Adelaide 'inspired by Jesus to serve'.

In the West teams engaged in watering and propagating plants for Conservation Volunteers Australia, outdoor cleaning at MarionLife Community Services Inc, painting at Good Gear Op shop, clothes sorting, painting and cleaning at Puddle Jumpers' Op Shops, and gardening at the Marion Salvation Army Church. The larger base in the East engaged in over 20 activities through the week including volunteering at Foodbank, backyard blitzes, painting community centre fences, working with homeless patrons at Westcare centre, amongst many other diverse activities.

Unusually for January the weather was perfect and our participants and leaders served joyfully putting in a lot of hard work to make a difference where they were and share the love of God to the people they were serving. Along with service events, BWO had the privilege of Jenny Wardrop and Jess Kaucz sharing what the Bible says about 'growing and going' with Christ, in faith and life.

BWO ended the week with a dress up night, dinner, final small groups and a worship party! BWO 2020 was an amazing week seeing many participants and leaders grow in not only their confidence, but their faith.

BWO was over barely a week when a number of participants saw the call to help bushfire victims and headed up to the hills to help. It sparked a passion and idea to see BWO ministries continue to roll throughout the year. Watch this space. Young people inspired by Jesus to serve their communities 12 months of the year is an exciting possibility. Get in touch with Hamilton McNicol ([hamilton@susa.org.au](mailto:hamilton@susa.org.au)) if you'd like to know where this goes.

**Hamilton McNicol**

State Youth Projects Coordinator



## Keep the flame alight

**M**any 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](mailto:info@susa.org.au) for more information on how you can leave a bequest to SUSA.



# Scripture Union United

**P**raise God for great weather and great discussions as the Directors of all 8 SU movements in Australia recently met in Adelaide.

The process towards becoming one national SU is gaining speed and clarity. There has been a huge amount of work undertaken across the movement with input for Chairpersons, staff, members and Boards.

We see God moving us this way to create a stronger SU that can achieve more for God's Kingdom and most of all see more children, youth & families introduced to Jesus. Please keep the Directors and the whole process in your prayers.

**Chris Battistuzzi**  
Executive Director



from left to right - myself, Peter James ( Qld ), Justin Simpson ( Vic ), Glenn Coombs ( NSW ), Kent Morgan ( WA ), Ana Davy ( ACT ), Chris Taylor ( Tas ), Ox ( Mark ) Roberts ( NT ) .



## Father & Son's Camp

## GENTS Camp is coming!



SUSA uses the ChildSafe system of safety and risk management for all our programs. We provide training for churches and groups who minister to children. For more information on ChildSafe visit: [www.susa.org.au/childsafes](http://www.susa.org.au/childsafes)



SUSA is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. For more information visit: [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)



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14 Adele Avenue, Kidman Park, SA 5025

T. 08 8235 9500 F. 08 8353 6400 E. [info@susa.org.au](mailto:info@susa.org.au) Print Post Approved 6332371/001

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