

SU News



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

Transforming young lives for Jesus!



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 Schools Edition | Winter 2021

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA 
Scripture Union South Australia

From the Director

Surrender all has long been one of my favourite hymns. It seems we struggle so much to control our lives, control others, control our finances, our work, our families our futures and yet we truly only serve God and can achieve our best when we surrender. God's kingdom, His laws and His love can only enter into our lives fully when we surrender control to God, when we let go and let God take the steering wheel of our lives.

Surrendering what we have now to a new national structure and leadership has been a journey of discernment, lots of prayer and several mountains of work but one we believed God was leading us towards for His great plans and purpose. On May 8th we held a Special Members meeting to discuss and vote on the national merger.

I'm excited to let you know that SU South Australia is joining the newly formed Scripture Union Australia! This means that from 1 June 2021, we will join into Scripture Union Australia.

'Our vision as an Australian movement is that every child, young person and family in Australia has opportunities of transforming experiences with Jesus and a life-long journey of discipleship and service.'

Working with churches, we will continue to help children, young people and families experience God's love and Good News through missions and camps, in schools, and in local communities. The ministry you have invested your time, prayer, and finances in is ongoing.

What about the future of SU in SA?

Be assured that your support in all kinds will continue to enable ministry into SA and with new national resources we are planning for growth to increase the reach of SU across the state and see more children and young people introduced to Jesus.

I will continue as the Director of a region that covers most of SA and crosses the border in a few strategic places. Our staff will continue to serve in their normal roles but overtime become incorporated into and better supported through SUA staff and structures. A key part of the national rollout will be placing District Workers in areas identified by the leadership and in SA our hope is to have 2 to 3 new staff who live and work in regional SA, supported by myself and the other staff.

This will be fantastic as we have more opportunities than we can cater for, especially in regional SA.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



Well, the National Merger is underway with SUSA members voting unanimously on the 8th May, 2021 for the adoption and implementation of "the Scheme" as defined in the documents that were delivered to all members in March 21. Around Australia (excluding NSW, who are not part of the merger but remain affiliated and open) the vote in favour was approximately 95%. What an historic moment. Of course, there is still much work to do in terms of the more important thing of developing and growing the ministry.

We all look forward to seeing what God will continue to do and we know He will do what He intends to do with this organisation through his people. Why is that? There have been thousands of people praying for thousands of cumulative hours over the last 4 years since the National concept commenced, and God answers prayer.

At the members meeting I spoke briefly about making God's "Good News" known to children, young people, and families. This is what SUSA and the whole movement has been about and will continue to be a about. No change!

So, what is Good News? The world is packed with information these days. It's instantly accessible. The problem becomes how to determine what is truth and what is not. We have all heard the term "Fake News" which alludes to the same problem. With time being a finite resource, there is little of it to truly work the answers out. The speed of new information coming inwards overcomes the ability to absorb it all. There is much danger in this and there is much wisdom required when using that information. If we don't know what is true, how do we work out what is actually "good" or not. People see and hear news items all day and then pass it on as truth. Is it?

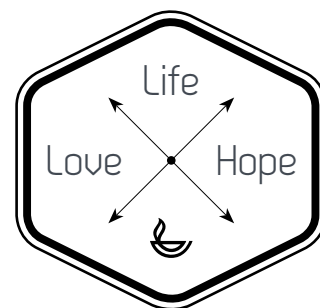
The word "news" finds its origins in France in the 14th century and means "new things". It means new information about something that happened recently. This is what Google told me ... so it must be right, yes? Point made. And it follows that Good News is "someone or something that is positive, encouraging, uplifting, desirable, or the like". Presumably it's true.

For Christians like ourselves, the term "Good News" is part of everyday vocabulary and means one thing in the biblical context. How do we offer that to non-Christians, so they get what it means in their own context. How do we offer that to non-Christians, so it stands out above all the other things on offer in this consumer world; all the other News and current alternatives on offer in this world? The interesting thing is that this Good News didn't happen recently per the definition above but rather is entrenched in history. And maybe therein lies a problem. Today's person who is exposed to the latest of everything receives the Biblical "Good News" as old News, and news that isn't actually that great, if in fact they understand that terminology at all. Whatever it is, it's not the latest.

As the world darkens and as over time people find no fulfilment in all the offers and promises given as truth, given as liberating, and given as fulfilling, the "Good News" will become terminology that will again be seen as just that. The irony is that the "Good News" is very current, not historical because it is a living thing. It's as relevant as it has always been. It will always be current. People may miss that. Our delivery of it in understandable language must therefore never cease, for we are the sowers who need to be dedicated, persevering, and committed. God, as always will do the rest.

The GOOD NEWS is that through Jesus's death on the cross and His resurrection there will be reconciliation between man and God for those who believe. IT IS TRUE.

David Jenkinson
SUSA Council Chairperson



SUSA and the National Journey



Introducing Scripture Union Australia's new CEO - Peter James. Peter loves the mission of Scripture Union! He was an SU camper and ISCF-er through school, and an SU camp leader and beach mission leader through his 20s. Since 1999, Peter has served as an SU volunteer, board member, and staff member.

Peter's background in business and law has come to the fore as he has led SU Qld for the past 9 years and been a key leader in the national process. His selection was part of a rigorous application process and we are thankful for His past and ongoing leadership. Peter says;

"The mission God has given Scripture Union is life-transforming. It certainly transformed my life, and helped me learn to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer: something I still treasure every day."

In order to reduce layers of governance and staff structure, SUA will operate nationally across four zones. SA will in no way lose the ability to direct and determine what ministry SA needs but we will be better supported, do less governance and have greater ministry focus. Our SUSA Council will cease official governance responsibilities and over time shift into a ministry advisory group becoming a key volunteer team supporting and empowering our mission in SA.



From 1 June 2021 South Australia, along with the SU movements in ACT, Victoria, and Tasmania will come together as SU Australia's South Zone, led by SUA Group Director, Ana Davy.

Ana is part of the SU Australia Executive Team and fell in love with SU on her first camp as she experienced the love and acceptance of Christian community. Since then she has been involved in SU for nearly 30 years as a participant, volunteer, and staff member serving in nearly every aspect of its ministry. Ana has a strong track record in SU leadership including 5 years as the SU ACT State Director and most recently as the Program Lead in the National Transition Management process.

As SUSA supporters and volunteers, please keep praying for God's Kingdom-building work through SU. Please pray for new opportunities to help children, young people, and families to encounter Jesus. Keep our staff and Council members in your prayers as we continue to journey through this time of transition.

Yours In Service to Christ

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



Help girls become who God is calling them to be.



At SU we are looking for women of all ages who are passionate about sowing into the lives of girls, who want to see girls grow in faith and be on a journey of discipleship.

Girls need women they can look up to, who can be an example and role model of living for God. Who can share their stories and listen as girls share their lives.

You could be a young woman 18 or over yourself or maybe more mature in your years. We need all ages to impact our girls through Squad camp and related ministry which grows out of the camp.

For more info please contact Alaina Frost.
alaina.frost@su.org.au, 0403977317

Alaina Frost | Girls Ministry Coordinator

SQUAD CAMP

Previously "Jewels Camp"

A camp for girls in year 7-12.

Year 11's and 12's are invited to participate in the SQUAD camp Rite of Passage

Oct 2nd - 5th

Arrive 9am Saturday
Depart 10am Tuesday

Old Woodhouse Manor

Woodhouse Activity Centre
39 Spring Gully Road
Piccadilly SA

Early Bird: \$265 before Aug 8

Standard Swan: \$280 before Sep 12

Late Goose: \$300 before Sep 27

Register at:
wired-youth.com/squad-camp

Director: Alaina Frost
alaina@susa.org.au
0403 977 317



SCHOOLS MINISTRY APPEAL

God...
are you
REAL?



do you care about me?
do you exist?
why am I here?
do you love me?
who is Jesus?

If you want the good news of Jesus shared with school children, please give generously.

Visit the SUSA website:
www.susa.org.au/donate-online

HELP US SHARE THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS.

Easter Camps

SCRIPTURE
CAMP
UNION

Mid North Camp



Over Easter I took some of my youth up to the Mid-North Easter Camp. Mid-North EC is a shining light and example of faithful endurance.

It became apparent to me

this year that we had a pretty special snap shot of the fruit of this Good News as well as what is behind young people leaving the church in droves since World War 2.

On camp this year we had every pair of leaders who has directed this camp going back over 20 years (with exception to Jordy & Sam Smith, and Natarnia Drysdale (nee Nieass).

Mid-North Easter Camp has had great young camp directors who have then, in turn, been great mentors after finishing directing. Sometimes this is seen in a handover year when directing was co-held, or in past camp directors returning to just be of assistance (even in the kitchen) to ensure that the camp was supported wherever it was most needed.

Today, when leaders finish, they hang on too long, but typically disappear immediately (usually with good intentions) to 'give space' for the next person. In reality, this leads to potential young leaders going elsewhere, and so much lost momentum and good culture.

This makes it harder for the incoming leaders to build something again. Thus, while it is easy to critique past leaders, it actually is a bigger culture problem of how to pass the baton on well.

The model Jesus gave of discipleship can be seen in his first and last words to his disciples:

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of people" (Mat 4:19), and

"go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Mat 28:18-20)

To disciple others like Jesus did, means to disciple them so they can disciple others, so they can disciple others ...and so on. Jesus' model was a family model. Not a business model. It meant passing on responsibility asap, but hanging around to mentor or play 'grandma/ grandpa' roles so that good culture is maintained while new spiritual 'parenthood' is established (See also Num 8:23-26).

The Mid-North Easter Camp continues today through this baton passing legacy. Consequently, God again was at work in significant ways this year through the unity of The Spirit in leaders AND youth. This ministry is a great blessing to Scripture Union and to the church of the Mid-North and we thank them and God for their faithful service over many years.

Hamilton McNicol
Youth Coordinator



Melrose Camp

This year at Mid North Easter Camp (Melrose) we had the great privilege of seeing God move through the kids at camp. Over the four days that camp ran, we saw the amazing transformative power that God graciously gives to all of us.

We had 75 people on camp this year from leaders to cooks to campers. Each individual came to camp at a different stage in their journey with God but each individual left with something more: This being connection, growth, identity or a better relationship with God.

Our speaker this year, all the way from Queensland, was Mark Johnston, Author, Founder of the Game Changers program, and Teacher at the Living Wisdom School. Mark brought truth and life to camp as we all saw the Lord move through him to speak identity over the kids. With many first-time commitments to Christ and breakthroughs in mindsets, God brought freedom and confidence in Christ.

Ben and I were assistant Camp Coordinators this year with outgoing Janae and Nathanael. Our desire looking ahead is to bring the truth of God's love into the heart of youth and expand his kingdom on earth.

We also want to create a space where youth can come and gain three things.

Firstly, connection with God. Whether a youth has been a Christian their whole lives or has never thought about Christ before, we want to see the sparks of a relationship with God in them. Everyone connects with God differently so we want to facilitate different spaces where youth can find relationship.

Secondly, connection through community. We value fellowship and desire to facilitate a space where lifelong supportive Christian friendships are made.

Thirdly, the renewing of their minds. In a world where there is so much uncertainty and lies, we want to renew minds with the living truth and security of the Word of God.

Through the partnership with regional churches and Christian communities, Melrose Easter Camp brought the restorative power of God into the youth's lives this year. The Lord moved mountains for camp this year so all we can say is bring on Easter Camp 2022!!

Sarah Treasure
Assistant Camp Leader



Fruit that will last



Why have so many young people been leaving the church for over 60 years? Many people have written about this in recent decades to distil what's going on. The tricky thing about this question is what level of analysis do you apply? My conviction is that Jesus is still (if not more so) as relevant as ever as Lord and Saviour for our youth. So, what's going on?

Recently as part of the emerging GENTS Ministry, I wanted to develop a devotional for churches to help communities of faith reverse this multi decade trend in Australia. This resource will be available as part of the GENTS Ministry suite for dads who come on GENTS Father and Sons camp.

The Bible covers the history of faith over millennia. We are not the first generation to see a nation walk away from the true God nor ask the question, "Where did faith go?", and "How does faith transfer successfully from one generation to the next?". As I looked across all of Scripture in developing this devotional, I was astounded how clear the message was of how this works; the predictable challenges, and some wisdom on supporting details for community ownership of this enterprise. As I did this, the Gospel of Jesus became so much clearer to me. I thought I knew the Bible well!?!?

The Gospel I once was taught was about the hope of where I go when I die - Jesus saved me from Hell. Though I still believe and rejoice at the eternal re-unification Jesus has brought me with God, I now see a bigger Gospel than my previous individualistic framework. The prophet Malachi prophesies the sign of the coming era of the Messiah. But it was more than a sign, it was the essence of the problem they could not overcome without Jesus.

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their sons, and the hearts of the sons to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction" (Mal 4:5-6)

The history of the nation Israel had never passed on faith successfully to the next generation. If one generation had faith, they prospered, and then neglected to teach the next generation how to 'not forget The LORD' (e.g. see Deut 6:10-12, Judges 3:7). No generation back to back for the entire history of Israel maintained faith. Israel, then, failed in its mandate to be a light to the nations. The Good News of Jesus meant lasting fruit would now be possible (Luke 1:17; John 15:16).

Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Projects Coordinator



SUPA opportunity to reach out for Jesus!



Regional opportunities are growing and SUPA Coordinator Chris Battistuzzi simply can't meet all the opportunities presenting themselves. Here's a snapshot;

- A brand new SUPA volunteer team was developed in Minlaton and in April we ran SUPA Sports as a local outreach. It was exciting to have 14 volunteers from 6 local churches, who worked together reaching 45 kids and their families. The team will be meeting soon to discuss what comes next.

- On the Eastside a brand new after school SUPA Club is hoping to launch soon specifically reaching into Trinity Gardens State school. **An info night for any churches or potential volunteers is being held on June 29th from 7 to 8:30pm at Maylands Church of Christ.**

- A lunchtime SUPA Club is planned for Aberfoyle Park.
- After many years absent SUPA Camp will be back, to run October 30-31. This will be a key opportunity for kids to hear about Jesus.
- Another SUPA Camp is being explored for the Mid North, to run alongside SUPA Kids events already established in Port Pirie and in cooperation with the long running SU Easter camp in Melrose.
- New interest exists in Kadina and Port Augusta. Please pray about these new opportunities.

So, how does SUPA work? SU staff support, resource and train local volunteers, usually inter-church teams, to host local outreach activities or a weekly SUPA Club, with a specific focus on connecting through local schools and churches.

If you would like to know more contact Chris Battistuzzi at – chris.battistuzzi@su.org.au / 0433 067 769.

SUPA Sports on Yorke!

A new outreach to children and families and a new team has begun on Yorke Peninsula. It all began with a couple of local Minlaton people contacting SU about how we could help them develop children's ministry in the area.

From that contact Chris Battistuzzi during one of his ministry road trips organized an expression of interest meeting which 15 people attended and things moved quickly from there.

A new local volunteer team came together. Childsafe and leadership training took place and a new SU Holiday program was created called 'SUPA Sports'.

How exciting to see volunteers from 6 different churches working together, praying and ministering to the 45 kids we had and making great connections with many non-Christian parents. It is something we hope to build on and in time to see greater inter-church activities and increased outreach into the community.

SUPA Sports is a 3 day half day program with a sports theme and plenty of Bible & Jesus. If you want to know more just contact Chris – chris.battistuzzi@su.org.au / 0433 067 769.



SUPACAMP

Scripture Union Primary Age

For School Years 3 - 7
30-31 October, 2021

Flagstaff Hill Scout Centre | Cost: \$35

A weekend getaway designed specifically for children, jammed full of activities such as: sport, craft, games, Bible teaching, movie, campfire, bushwalks & lots, lots more!

To stay informed of camp announcements keep an eye out on our facebook page - Scripture Union of South Australia. You can also contact our SUPA Camp Coordinator Chris Battistuzzi: chris@susa.org.au | 0433 067 769.

Testimonies from Family Mission field



As a volunteer in a Family Mission you never actually know the true impact of what you do. In faith we trust that the seeds we plant will travel deep into the hearts of those we meet and share Jesus with. We trust God to water and grow these seeds in His perfect way.

Sometimes we have the great privilege of seeing God growing faith in some children as they return year after year to the Mission program. We watch as they move from primary to a high school and we continue to share Jesus into their lives year after year. On very rare occasions a participant can transition through our programs and then decide to volunteer as a team member. They now want to show and share Jesus to others.

The Moonta Family Mission Team was joined in 2021 by two such people. Amy Cunningham and Anna Ottens. Here are their stories.

Julie Calvert
Family Missions Coordinator

**"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it,
but God has been making it grow."
1 Corinthians 3:6**



I first attended the Moonta Beach Mission in 2011 when I was 7 years old whilst on our annual holiday to Port Hughes. I loved the program and joining in with singing and dancing, doing the craft activities, and spending time with the leaders.

I have been going to Beach Missions almost every year since and have many fun memories of games in the park, the talent shows, and watching the dramas. It has been nice getting to know different people and making friendships through the program.

Moonta Mission impacted my faith over the years as I enjoyed the fun and practical ways Bible stories were told to teach us more about Jesus. As I got older, I was really encouraged by hearing about my leaders' testimonies and how God had been at work in their lives.

Last year I decided that I wanted to have the privilege of sharing God's love with the children through the program. So, I joined the Moonta Mission team and was excited to experience what it was like to be a leader and have an impact on other children's lives, just as I had been so blessed by Moonta Mission.

I found that being a team member was such a rewarding experience as I was challenged and built up in my faith. The worship sessions, morning devotions, and prayer times with the other team members were so encouraging.

I led in the 5-6 age group with 3 other team members, and it was so wonderful to see the children enjoy all the activities and engaging in learning about Jesus. I also loved mat time at the end of each afternoon, when all the age groups came together to share about the fun that they had and the things they learned. I am so grateful for everything I have learned from being able to volunteer as a team member at the Moonta Mission.

Amy Cunningham
Family Missions Team Leader



Hello! My name is Anna and I was a leader on the 2021 Moonta Family Mission. My family and I have always loved Beach Mission and look forward to it every year. We stay in Moonta annually for our holiday and were delighted to discover this program.

My family and I have attended mission for years and have had the privilege of seeing it become what it is today.

I was only 9 when I started going and was in the 7-9 age group, which was the age group I led on mission this year. I got to experience all the age groups from 7-9s through to Senior Teens. I am so grateful for the opportunity that God gave me to be the role model to the kids that my leaders were to me. To be able to share the gospel with them in a way that they could understand and provide them with a safe environment to ask questions was really special.

Some kids come back every year and it is incredible to see that growth. As a kid, it was such an inspiration to see young Christians coming in to spend time with us and encourage us in our own faith, especially with such a strong Biblical foundation. I know that it positively impacted my faith.

The drama was always one of my favourite parts of the program. It was fun to watch and had such a great atmosphere. I got to be a part of that this year, which was incredible. It was amazing to be able to have the kids experience the same level of enjoyment that I did. I've always loved the water games that we play each year as they were so much fun and one of the most highly anticipated days.

It was an incredible experience to be a leader in a program that I really love and was such an important part of my childhood. I will forever be grateful to God for this experience and for the people He placed in my path through this.

Anna Ottens
Family Missions Team Leader



Christmas, Easter & Christian Option Programs



Many times when I visit churches or speak to Christians about school ministry they seem under the illusion that Christians and churches are not allowed to be involved in schools anymore and especially that we are not allowed to share the gospel message. Well guess what? **YES WE CAN!**

In fact we have more opportunities to go into schools and reach out into schools through SU programs and activities than we have capacity and volunteers to do.

SU continue to work with local churches in Adelaide and regional areas to present Christmas, Easter and Christian Options programs into state schools. SA Legislation allows for 'Religious Seminars' to be presented during school time and during these seminars we share what Christians believe, what the Bible means to us and most importantly, who we believe Jesus to be.

This is an opportunity for churches to be actively connecting with their local schools, with hundreds of children and sharing God's love. If you would like to know more about this exciting and vital ministry just contact SU.



'The SU West side team presented the Easter message to hundreds of children across several schools.'



Save the Date!

SU Beach Mission 2022

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| • Victor Harbor | 28th Dec 2021 - 4th Jan 2022 | • Mannum | TBC |
| • Moonta | 1st-8th January 2022 | • Tumby Bay | TBC |
| • Port Vincent | 2nd-9th January 2022 | • Kangaroo Island | TBC |

For more info contact julie.calvert@su.org.au / 0407 826 004



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



SUSA is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. For more information visit: www.acnc.gov.au



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