

SU News

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



The Mission Continues



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 Missions Edition | Summer 2022

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA 
Scripture Union South Australia

When SUSA merged to become part of the new SU Australia movement in June last year, we did so with a vision to see more children, young people, and families reached with the good news across Australia.

But more than simply 'reach' more, it's about giving more people opportunities to 'discover life' in God's big and unfolding story.

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10.

Over the past nine months our team structures have changed as we've worked across human-made borders to enhance our existing local ministries and birth new ones too.

And while a lot has been happening internally, and on the frontlines, much remains unchanged; same websites, same state logos, same newsletters.

By your fruits you will be known – more than a brand.

These things will soon begin to change with the launch of our SU Australia brand. What's exciting about launching this new, united brand is that you, our SU family of supporters have helped to shape it.

Thank you to everyone who gave such amazing feedback through our brand research work in the latter half of last year. It's why we're so excited to share the brand with you soon because you are part of it.

But first let's clarify what we mean by brand. While we might immediately think 'logo' – which is part of the brand – it's much more than that.

As Christians we have a 'brand' – whether we care to call it that or not. When Jesus says in John 13:35: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another", He was explaining this concept of brand to His followers. It's more than a look, or a label. It's how people experience you.

Equally when Jesus says in Matthew 7:16 "by their fruits you will know them" He again highlights this point that it's not what you say that matters, it's the fruit you bear.

As SU Australia our brand (or a person's experience of the movement) must align with God's values and the mission He is calling us to. It's why you are so important.

In SA you have kept this movement effective, vibrant and accountable. As a national movement, we need you.

Please continue to pray for us, and with us, continue to volunteer and help on the frontlines. Please continue to financially support the work of reaching more children, young people and families so they can 'discover life in God's big story'.

From the Regional Manager

My vision for SA.



The map you see below is an old school map, obviously of South Australia. It hangs on the wall of my dining room at home. I often sit with my laptop working directly opposite the map, my gaze often caught by some town, feature or even the enormity of this great state. What a beautiful and amazing place to live. Having that map in my home where I see it every day is a constant reminder of God's call in my life and His purpose for SU to show and share Jesus to as many as possible from the East to West, North to the South of South Australia.

That vision and that commitment is only getting stronger with SA now being part of the new national SU Australia movement. But let's be honest, it hasn't been without its challenges.

The last 2 years with a national merger process and the roller coaster of COVID-19 have stretched us. Sadly many events have had to be cancelled and we aren't completely out of the woods yet. The national transition process continues. Our volunteers and staff have faced many challenges, frustrations and even disappointments. Yet, throughout it all we look to God for strength, wisdom and guidance.

So often in all my years of ministry it is from adversity that I have seen new vision, new ideas, new activity and new ministry started. That is no different now.

On the Eyre Peninsula because of COVID-19 complexities, SU staff and volunteers have begun exploring new ideas and some are quite exiting and could lead to even more outreach across the EP. We are even able to extend SU staffing to have a permanent SU ministry worker 3 days a week based on the EP. This will make a huge difference. Please pray we find the right person for the role.

In the Yorkes and Mid North region we have just appointed a 3 day a week Ministry Catalyst role. You will meet her on page 3. We have some great ministry already established and there are new ideas and new passion to see growth and more activity. It is very exciting. God is moving.

Around the Adelaide region we are seeing growth in our camps and new interest in SUPA ministry. Later in 2022 we hope to employ a new schools ministry worker to help grow this even more.

So as you can see, SA is not disappearing into the new national fabric. In fact we are expanding and extending our reach for God's Kingdom. Praise God for His goodness and blessings upon SU.

I hope that you will commit to praying regularly for SU ministry in SA and please keep financially supporting us so we can grow and share the gospel with more young people and families. We need you, we are His body and we are His hands and feet, as we take Jesus throughout this great state.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Regional Manager (SA)
Scripture Union Australia



New Ministry Role for Yorke & Mid North SA.



The SU team in South Australia is growing and we are excited to introduce our newest team member, known to most people as Dee.

This is a new role enabled through national funding as part of our SU Australia vision to reach the whole nation.

"Hello, I'm Dianne Kenyon, I am married to Stuart and we have a 23-year-old daughter, Jessica. We moved to Clare two months before Jessica was born and attend Clare Uniting Church.

Going back 30ish years ago, I was involved in SU Beach Missions, Boys' Brigade and Sunday School teaching. More recently I have been involved in the SU JEWELS and SQUAD camps, CE camps, Children's ministry at church and starting THEO's Bible group for primary aged kids in Spalding.

Currently I am the school Chaplain (PCW) at Spalding State School where I have been for over 10 years.

My prayer for the Yorke/Mid North region is to have the gospel message boldly and liberally spread all over the place. I hope there will be many opportunities for children and young people to respond to the Truth and be transformed by it."

Dee will be directly supported by SA Regional Manager Chris Battistuzzi and work closely with existing SU in SA staff with further support from the national team. It's going to be quite a challenge with 3 days per week to cover from the bottom of Yorke to the top of the Mid North so we value your prayers for Dee.

Our funding for this role is for an initial 2 years and local support will need to be raised to continue it. We are trusting God to provide as we take this step of faith to increase mission across the region.

If financially supporting this new role and Dee is something you feel you could contribute towards please contact our SU office to find out more. (08) 82359500 / info@susa.org.au

Chris Battistuzzi
Regional Manager SA



Left: Dee's New Ministry Area
Centre: Melrose Easter Camp
Right: Minlaton SUPA Sports



Mission Report



The mustard seed and yeast. Two very small, every day, well known items the people of Jesus' day were familiar with. They are the focus of two parables Jesus teaches in Matthew 13:31-33.

Two parables that refer to the growth of God's Kingdom. The kingdom that began as a baby in a manger, grew to 12 close friends and the formation of the early church. It has now expanded to 2.6 billion people worldwide. The yeast in bread dough permeates through the flour as the dough is folded and kneaded. The influence of the yeast is significant and yet it takes time to see its impact. The tiny mustard seed can grow to a tree about 6m high. This is far beyond what seems possible for such a tiny seed. In our eyes obstacles and hurdles appear to make the growth of God's Kingdom impossible but it's God's Kingdom and he will make what is impossible possible for his purposes and glory.

This year's Mission season did not go as planned. The state borders opened, COVID-19 entered and quickly spread. The safety of team members and communities became a concern. Lengthy discussions, thought and prayer seeking to determine the best course of action for all was undertaken. It was a very stressful and uncertain time. Moonta, Tumby Bay and Pt Vincent missions all decided to cancel. They could not run their programs in their current format and ensure the safety of the children, the team or the community. It broke my heart and I know many families were disappointed and saddened. But it was a good and right decision as it showed care and love for the communities we had planned to go to.

To their credit some from the Moonta team decided to film and upload songs, stories and memory verses to youtube. If you would like to see what they put together go to: <https://youtu.be/JqRg8OKGT7Y>

The Tumby Bay team sent out craft packs to those who had registered online. These wonderful ideas helped provide some connection between the team and participants as they pointed them to Jesus and the bible.

The Big Tent in Victor Harbor and SUPA SUMMA FUN in Mannum did run. Their outdoor style programs enabled the safety needed for all. COVID-19 spreading remained a big concern and trust in a faithful God from day to day about tomorrow became the only thing that was certain. Great kindness was shown to these teams and all praise to our sovereign God who enabled the Gospel to be proclaimed in the midst of the COVID-19 turmoil.

It would be easy to question how God's Kingdom can be growing when 3 Missions were cancelled. I believe we need to remember that God is....sovereign, faithful and all powerful. God's Kingdom growth cannot be stopped by COVID-19 or cancelled missions. The reality is that God's Kingdom is always growing because that is what it does. We can't always see the impact of those seeds planted through a story, a song, a memory verse or conversation.

But we do trust God to grow them and as He does His Kingdom will grow. The question to ask ourselves is what is holding us back from trusting God to grow His unstoppable kingdom?

Julie Calvert
Family Missions Coordinator

Summer of Mission

SCRIPTURE
BEACH MISSION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Victor Harbor

Mission is almost always daunting and intimidating. This is especially true for introverts like us to want to approach new faces and have challenging conversations with them about Jesus.

Yet, our motivation is that as disciples and followers of Christ, we are called to be His ambassadors and make His name known to the ends of the earth. We are thankful to God that we are not alone in this. Working along with a great team at Victor Harbor, we were reminded again and again that we were there as the body of Christ.

Something that stuck with us was when one of the kids said that our big tent was like the tabernacle where people went to meet God. The only exception was, there is no longer the separation between man and God for God now dwells in all of us, and we as a team have brought the warm and loving welcome of Jesus to the people of Victor Harbor.

It is not by our strength but God's that we could achieve this. Through time spent in prayers daily, we remembered that He is the one who works in people's hearts. Every morning, we gathered for devotions as a team and encouraged each other to look to Jesus. In the afternoon we had prayer partners to reflect with and pray for one another.

Our favourite part of beach mission was "scoop", which is a parade around the caravan park as we invite children to come along to our morning programs. We were deeply moved as we saw an increasing number of children following us, realising that they were essentially following Christ and seeking to know Him more.

In the afternoon, we met people where they were through simple activities, intentionally making conversations and building relationships. It was encouraging to see how the Big Tent team included families through the coffee cart, conversations and family-oriented programs in the evening, to bring the gospel closer to entire families.

We were amazed by the generations of families that have come to The Big Tent. Since we were the new faces, families would often share with us about their experience of The Big Tent and what it has meant to them.

We trust that the longevity of Beach Mission in Victor Harbor, and the favour it has with campers is entirely made possible because of God's work and the unwavering faith of team members who have been serving and building relationships over so many years.

We are thankful that despite the rampant spread of COVID-19 at the time, we could reach the children and parents directly, faithfully serving them through our programs while still being safe.

This was our first beach mission, but we pray that it will not be the last, and that many more will come and experience the great joy of serving God in this way. Now, we will use the opportunity we've had to tell others about the amazing experience of being a witness of God's mission and inviting others to be involved as well.

Michelle Kee and Chloe Tan
Victor Harbor Team Members



Mannum

Mannum Supa Summa Fun.

A man's heart plans his way. But the Lord directs his steps.
Proverbs 16:9.

This is certainly what we experienced with Mannum Supa Summa Fun. (SSF) As a team we made plans, knowing that at any stage the Team Leaders could announce that it wasn't safe for Mission to happen. SSF was planned as a 4 day morning event, Monday to Thursday, run outside on the MaryAnn Reserve which is next to the Murray river.

Children could be part of an all together time, playing large active games, (a special highlight was our epic water fight using origami paper balloons to hold our water, which took team work and perseverance to fold enough of them)singing songs, listening to a Bible story, learning a memory verse and seeing an illusion which supported the theme for the day. Once this together time was finished they could choose the activities they were interested in, set up in various gazebos, such as Mega Art, craft, active games, mystery box, take home shrinkies, chill out zone, and a ask questions/ resource area.

Children were engaged with their activities, adults were engaged in conversation with team members and each other.

What a blessing to serve together as a team united in intent to show the love of Jesus. The vision to engage with the community was happening. There was joy and deep satisfaction which we all felt after the morning, Bibles had been given out, resources taken, truth shared, welcome extended.

Thursday morning brought different news. One of our team had gone home with a sore throat, the test came back COVID-19 positive and the Team Leaders made the call that the program was cancelled and we were to pack up and go home. And so our best day became our last day and we trust God with the seeds that were sown, knowing that He indeed directs our steps.

Anita Venning
Mannum team member.



Next Level Leadership

Did you know that every year SU equips, trains and supports people stepping up to take on leadership in various forms of ministry?

**THE KING
IS
CALLING!**



**VOLUNTEER
WITH
SUSA!**

What are the benefits of leading with SU?

- Training and support provided. You are not doing it all on your own.
- Develop skills that will flow over into church and work situations.
- Explore the gifts God has given you for ministry.
- Be a servant leader of other volunteers.
- Make a Kingdom impact through your time and effort.
- See the good news shared through word and action.

Becoming a Team Leader with an SU ministry is a great way to grow your skills, your faith and discover more of how God can use you.

We have Team Leader vacancies now for suitable people. Maybe that is YOU!

If you would like to know more contact the SU office – info@susa.org.au / 82359500.

SUPA Summa Fun

A somewhat different but very REAL point of view.

What an exciting time for mission in Mannum. In this current climate when ideas and wants don't always make it to reality our mission was an inspiration. Myself and Colin were close contacts a week out from mission. We had our tests and all was negative, which was a positive, or so we thought. This did not allow us to be in the midst of mission as we wanted. As per SA Health guide lines and wanting to keep everyone safe we were not allowed to be in close contact with children and others.

However we were able to join the team for breakfast, worship and planning, then helped to set up and do background painting on the mega art. When the children started to arrive we took our leave and went home where we were able to sit on our front porch to watch and listen to the fun being had by everyone down on Mary Ann Reserve. This was bitter sweet.

Returning later to help pack up, it was amazing to see what the children had accomplished with the mega art and see it develop into the amazing picture that was in front of me.

On Wednesday morning one of our team members wasn't feeling well and went home to be tested and recuperate. Unfortunately their test was positive. The decision was made to err on the side of caution and the final day of mission was cancelled.

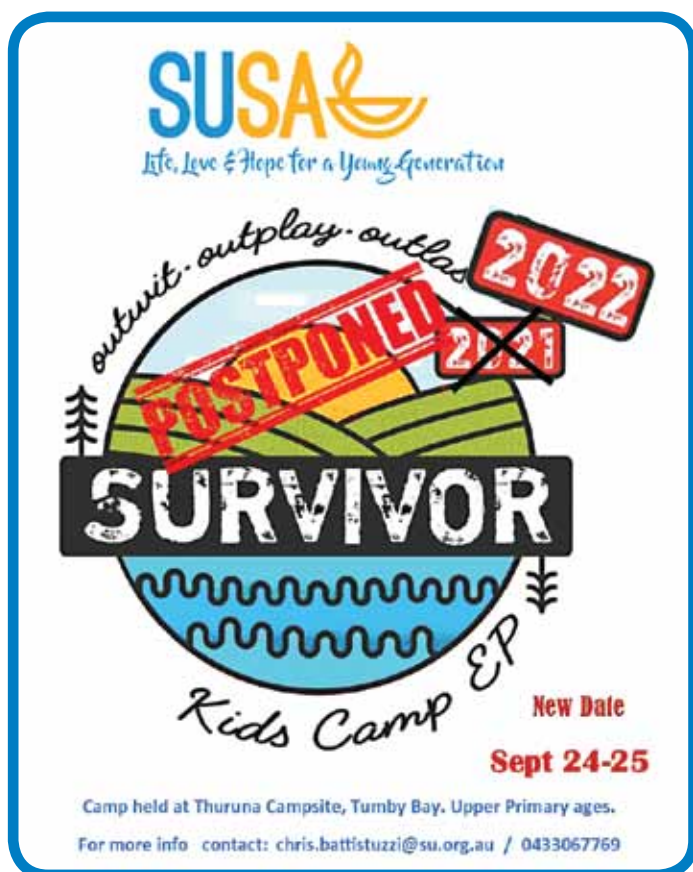
We set about packing up all the gazebos, paints, craft and sound equipment under a small cloud of disappointment. But in hindsight the mission grew in the three days it ran. Monday there were 10 children, Tuesday 11, and Wednesday 17.

Thursday morning at breakfast one team member said how sad it was that we didn't have our finale. Then someone spoke up and reminded us that yesterday everyone was on a real high. The children were really happy and looking forward to the next day.

God is in control and Wednesday was our finale. The mission ended on a high and next year those children will be here waiting for Supa Summa Fun.

Claire Nieass

Mannum local & Team Member



IT'S TIME FOR A C.H.A.T



CULTURAL + HEARING + ASKING + TELLING

SU has developed an innovative new resource called the CHAT Program, to be delivered by trained facilitators, accredited through specific SU Australia CHAT training.

Facilitators can be school PCWs (chaplains), school staff, community volunteers and others.

CHAT is designed to help schools meet the requirements of the Australian Curriculum for Intercultural Understanding.

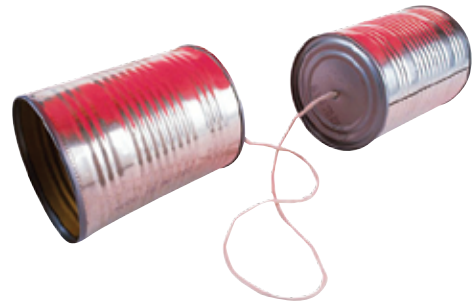
CHAT consists of 8 weekly sessions that accelerate the social interaction capabilities of students through activity-based learning, utilising the following graduated topics:

1. **Come Together** - it all starts with practical steps to connect
2. **Communication** - exploring the power of hearing, asking and telling
3. **Curiosity** - extending ourselves to learning more about others and so gain perspective
4. **Conflict** - our differences are real and normal, but need to be brought out into the open
5. **Compassion** - unpacking empathy as a valuable tool in social interactions
6. **Change** - starting with me but reaching out to others and society
7. **Community** - imagining our ideal world where all people can live well together
8. **Celebration** - enjoying the social benefits of stronger bonds with others

The program is designed for work with small and diverse groups of students, of up to a class size, and with at least 40 minute long sessions.



**Cultural
Hearing
Asking
Telling**



There are two ways you can be involved as a CHAT facilitator in South Australia.

1. Be part of our multicultural team of volunteer educators.

Do you have a heart to see our young people equipped with the social and communication skills to engage with people who are different to them? Are you keen to help them become more aware of themselves and others? Join a team of SU Australia facilitators who can facilitate the program for students at both a primary and secondary levels.

2. Facilitate the program at your own school, youth group or community group.

If you choose this option, you will be equipped to run this program in your local community. Upon successful completion of the 2 day facilitator training program, you will receive all the materials you need to run the course with your school or other context. All you will need to do is register your courses with SU Australia.

The CHAT Facilitator training is a two day program teaching you both the theory behind and the method of the CHAT program. You will engage in a similar learning process to the students so come ready to learn more about yourself, others and how culture shapes our worldview.

Facilitators who are trained to run CHAT in South Australia can access support through the national SU CHAT team and will also be invited to take part in further cross-cultural professional development experiences. Including a CHAT camp planned for 2023.

We are holding our first C.H.A.T training over 2 days at the SU Office on June 20-21. There is a cost but once trained there are no further fees.

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

To register for the training go to: <https://sua.brushfire.com/chatadelaideterm2/528181>

Keep the flame alight

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 SU SA 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 SU SA in your will.

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



SUSA 

SQUAD CAMP '22 *leaders*

Are you passionate about seeing girls thrive in their faith?
Do you love to encourage girls in their gifts and passions?
Do you love Jesus and want to share your hope in Him?
Do you love the idea of spending a long weekend in a community of encouragement where you are supported and released to use your gifts to inspire others?

get on track email alaina.frost@su.org.au to register your interest

www.wired-youth.com/squad-camp



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15 - 18 April

SUSA

MELROSE EASTER CAMP

House of God

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

www.wired-youth.com/melrose-easter-camp

Father & Sons Camp 2022 May 13-15

GENTS

For dads and boys aged 8-12 years

www.wired-youth.com/gentscampfatherandsons

SUSA



GENTS CAMP SA 2022 **SUSA**

October 1st - 4th

www.wired-youth.com/gents-camp

regos open April 18th




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



SU News is published by Scripture Union of South Australia Inc.
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T. 08 8235 9500 F. 08 8353 6400 E. info@susa.org.au Print Post Approved 6332371/001

Summer | 2022

www.susa.org.au

