

# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

## Moving Mountains TOGETHER



MT EVEREST CLIMBER JOHN ZECKENDORF

### Join us at our SU Fundraising Dinners across Tas

Three great venues, two delicious courses and an inspiring speaker. SU Tas invites you to our upcoming fundraising dinners to raise vital funds and be treated to a wonderful meal and entertainment. Below, our speaker John Zeckendorf introduces himself and encourages us to support young people in overcoming their own 'mountains'.

- South – Monday 9 October
  - North – Friday 24 November
  - North West – Thur 23 November
- For more info or bookings: [www.sutas.org.au/dinners](http://www.sutas.org.au/dinners)

"We all face our own mountains. For some of us they are literal, for others it's figurative – simply struggling through depression or caring for a loved one. How do you climb a mountain? For me, it's just taking one step at a time. The same applies to any difficult situation in life.

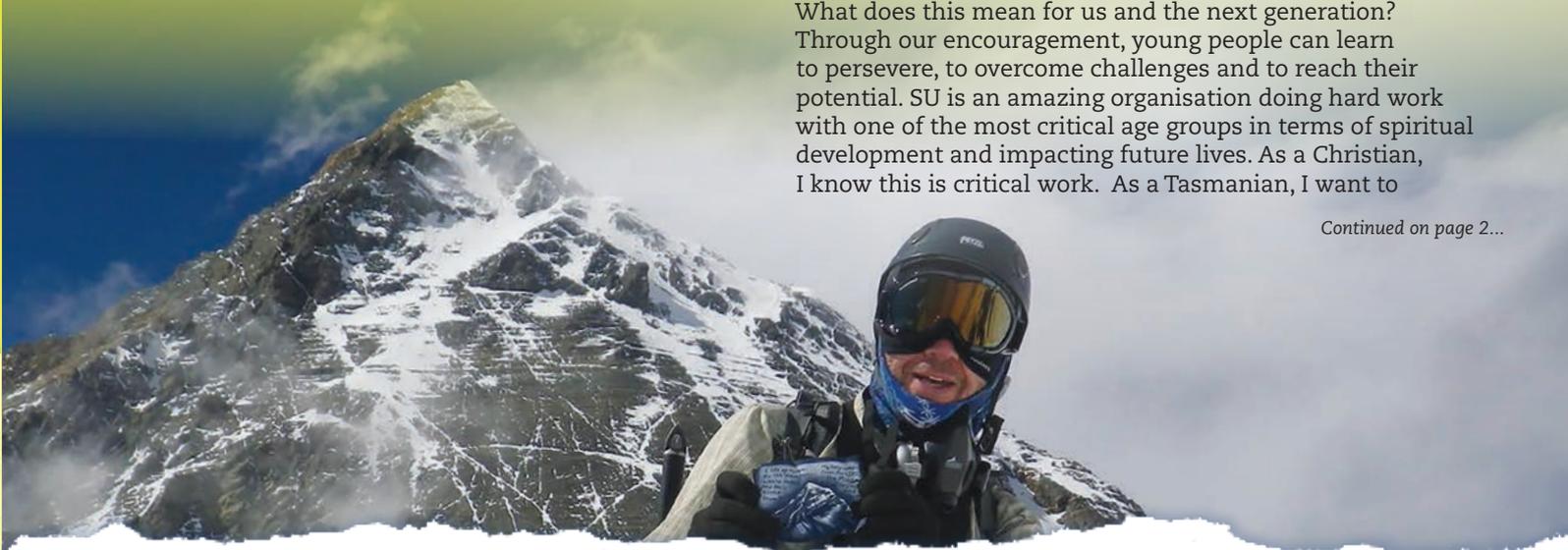
My name is John Zeckendorf and I live in Kingston, Tasmania, with my wife and four children. I decided around 12 years ago that rather than watching others do amazing things with the Lord, it might be more fun to get out there and give it a go. As a result, I started mountaineering in 2010 and began the challenge of climbing all of the seven highest summits of the world in 2011. Earlier this year I had the privilege of being the first Tasmanian to climb Mt Everest, the highest mountain in the world.

Training for climbing Everest was incredibly hard. I spent approximately 10 months rotating pain around my body for longer and longer times each session. The time investment in climbing Everest is massive and a high price was paid especially by my family (especially my wife) who had to endure months of early mornings, days away to train and then two months away to climb.

Overcoming difficult situations in life shares some similarity with the challenge of climbing. It is often achieved through persistence and hard work, with the results sometimes only seen in the longer term. And I've met many people (especially in places like India) who have overcome extraordinarily tough circumstances, yet have much less talent, resources and opportunities than others.

What does this mean for us and the next generation? Through our encouragement, young people can learn to persevere, to overcome challenges and to reach their potential. SU is an amazing organisation doing hard work with one of the most critical age groups in terms of spiritual development and impacting future lives. As a Christian, I know this is critical work. As a Tasmanian, I want to

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see young people be inspired, encouraged and where necessary, "pushed" to achieving the best they can from the talents that God has given them. SU are part of doing this in a way that few others are.

My passion is to bring glory to my Lord by reaching people and bringing them closer to him. Come along to our upcoming SU fundraising dinners and be challenged and encouraged to move mountains for our young people through SU Tasmania. Despite being an accountant, I've never been accused of being boring!"

Go to [www.sutas.org.au/dinners](http://www.sutas.org.au/dinners) to book your tickets.

# YOUR SUPPORT HAS GIVEN YOUNG PEOPLE HOPE

## WINTER CAMPS UPDATE

### Grid Camp God's not dead, he's alive!



Thanks to your support, 15 participants had a wonderful time and were challenged to dwell on the reality of Jesus at our Grid camp for years 7-10 at Roches Beach from 9-12 June.

With the theme being the 2012 movie, *God's Not Dead 2*, teens from both Christian and non-Christian backgrounds reflected on topics such as 'Is God real?', 'Who is Jesus, and did He really die and rise again?' and 'Spreading the good news'. Beyond this, campers enjoyed a variety of activities including a circus night, beach bonfire, treasure hunt, music, skits and many outdoor and indoor games.

But the highlight was the healthy conversation between campers. Many thought that the camp would help them to be better equipped to deal with challenges in the real world, especially at school.

*"Thank you for giving our son a safe space to learn about life, friendship and his Saviour, Jesus. Bless you!"* —parent of a camp participant

### Dcypher South Camp Geeks, games and God



At dcypher camp at Dodges Ferry, 12 computer-minded teens in years 9-12 and 11 leaders were able to engage with technology, computer games and unique board games in a fun environment, while also considering the gospel in a relevant and meaningful way.

Each night during the evening meal, table questions revolved around gaming, technology, geek culture, the gospel and God.

Excitement on young people's faces was apparent as they engaged, laughed and had a great time in a place that

understood and accepted them for who they were. A year 10 camper commented, "I wish I had heard about this camp earlier because I would have started coming years ago!"

We're looking forward to more dcypher camps, where young people discover their true potential with Jesus, and for them to realise that they are accepted and loved by an awesome Creator.



### SUPA South Camp out of this world!

The team at SUPA South have one big goal: to give children engaging and fun experiences in a safe environment where they can learn about Jesus. Many kids keep coming back year after year, and with energetic activities including a bonfire night with marshmallow roasting, glow stick flags, a movie night, and an ultimate games night, it's easy to understand why.

*"Who is your favourite superhero? Jesus is mine."* —camp participant



This year, 23 kids from years 4-6 along with 17 leaders camped at Roches Beach from 8-11 July. Working around the movie *Big Hero 6* campers had fun dressing up as mad scientists and robots and they visited the Grote Reber

Observatory where they were able to see a 3D movie of space. A highlight of the camp was the Bible group times where campers were able to read and ask questions and at the end of camp, six children asked to take Bibles home. Campers commented on how the Bible group times prompted them to think.

With camps continuing to grow and expand, SU gives thanks for your prayers and support which make all of this possible.



*"This has definitely been the best weekend of my life!"* —camp participant

### Element Camp the ultimate experience

Team leader Jenna writes, "We had a wonderful time at camp at Liffey, yet again. We had considered cancelling camp due to a lack of interest, but God had it all sorted and He had great plans. It was a smaller camp this year with 10 campers from years 7-10, five senior leaders and four junior leaders, so we invited a camp family to contribute to the family atmosphere.

awareness of how we treat other people and how that might make them feel.

"As the group developed relationships and trust, we saw individuals open up, discuss life, identity, the relevance of God in our lives and how He might be speaking to us. It was a privilege to see young people grow, question the norm and develop confidence in who they are."

*"The camp helped me along the journey of life and our religion paths"* —camp participant

Most of the campers loved having younger children to look after.

"Camp included a range of activities, such as a bush walk to Liffey Falls, spider web trust challenge, amazing race activity complete with a blind fold obstacle course and food challenges. We also did a labelling activity to raise

*"I grew closer to the leaders and developed amazing relationships with other campers."* —camp participant

## PRAY FOR OUR UPCOMING SU CAMPS

**SUPA NORTH**  
30 Sept – 3 Oct

SUPA camp is a fun movie-themed camp for those in years 4-6.

**TAKE THE LEAD**  
4-8 October

Take the Lead is for those in years 7-10 who wish to build leadership skills.

**TAKING ON GOLIATH**  
11-14 October

Taking on Goliath is a bushwalking camp for those in years 6-8.

Go to [www.sutas.org.au/camps](http://www.sutas.org.au/camps) to find out more about these camps.



Go to [www.sutas.org.au/camps](http://www.sutas.org.au/camps) to see more photos.



## EOFY Appeal Update

Thank you to all who gave to our appeal earlier in the year to help SU TAS reach the \$120,000 goal. Although we did have a shortfall of \$13,100 we are thankful for your continued financial and prayerful support of SU Tas. If you still have capacity to give, please fill in the response form or go to

[www.sutas.org.au/give](http://www.sutas.org.au/give)



# Director's Desk

Dear Friend,

I hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of SU News and been stirred and encouraged by stories of those taking daring opportunities and relying on God. I'm not just referring to John Zeckendorf – although I hope you are eager to hear more from him and will come along to the dinner with all your friends too! (see page 1).

I'm thinking of the volunteers who took the plunge and trusted God to help them impact the lives of the youngsters who have recently attended camp.

I'm thinking of those who took on overall responsibility to be the camp director (some for the first time). It simply wouldn't be possible to provide these opportunities for young people to hear and explore the gospel without these volunteers. Read below about the impact it can have on all members of a family.

But I'm also thinking of those who took the plunge to come on an SU camp. One of the Element campers looked very nervous about staying when they arrived ... but they did and went on to have loads of fun and to ask some very important questions. As Rom 10:14 says, "And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?"

How can you help us to make sure Tasmanian young people hear and respond to the truth of the gospel?

Every Blessing,

*Ruth*  
Ruth Pinkerton  
SU Tas CEO

# PRAYER POINTS

**GIVE THANKS** for the recent TCC Emergencies Ministry training in Longford, which allows our chaplains to deliver accredited pastoral care to people in times of crisis (pictured below).

**GIVE THANKS** for those who attended SU camps recently. Pray that they will continue to grow in faith.

**PRAY** for our upcoming chaplaincy briefing at Parliament House, hosted by Guy Barnett. Pray that this will lead to a greater awareness and support of school chaplaincy.

**PRAY** for our fundraising dinners with speaker John Zeckendorf, that they will be well attended and people will give generously.



## Be involved in SU Tas and change lives forever



*Bronwyn Salter has helped as an SU volunteer in many ways: as a mentor, prayer breakfast host, camp leader, caterer at fundraising dinners, prayer warrior, school chaplaincy committee member, and offering help whenever needed. Here she shares her experience of being an SU volunteer, along with her son Tom.*

"In my first year of uni in 1988, I met a friend who invited me to join an SU beach mission in Ulverstone and we went to a training session together. At that time, I didn't belong to any church but my new SU friends became my church family and stood by me all the way.

When I married Patrick in 1994 he, too, became part of the beach mission team. Beach missions went from Ulverstone to Port Sorell at that time, and after my three children were born my SU involvement developed from beach mission team leader to SU Prayer Breakfast host. We met regularly at my house to pray for the SU state director Kay Hunter, to laugh and cry together and to discern God's will for SU and our lives.

When chaplaincy started in the North the SU family grew again. One chaplain attended our church and together we started an amazing journey of coming alongside young people in schools.

As my children grew, I started taking them on SU family camps. It was an amazing experience for a young mother to be genuinely loved and cared for, while the three children experienced an equally exciting time of joy.

My son Tom came along as a camper first but now has been a junior leader for many years. To observe his development is amazing. Tom says, "Through volunteering I have been able to gain leadership skills and to learn how to handle things well. It is amazing to lead younger children in things they haven't experienced before. I have realised that I can help these kids to overcome some difficult things at camps which in turn helps them overcome even bigger things in their lives."

I feel blessed by the opportunity to communicate with people who don't know Jesus and actively demonstrate God's love to them. As part of SU I also really enjoy working with Christians from different denominations and this helps me to see the bigger picture of churches working together as part of the body of Christ.

For us, SU is not just an organisation – SU is an extended family that has set an example for our own family. The relationships we have gained through volunteering with SU have forever changed the lives of others."

*There are many ways you can be involved as an SU volunteer: a camp leader, a SUPA club leader, a chaplain supporter, help with our mailing or something else! If you would like to register your interest, simply fill in the response form or contact us (see below).*

### How do you handle conflict?



PEACEWISE  
*Christus solvitur in conflictu*

Two upcoming training events to help build positive relationships

**Everyday Peacemaking**

Sat 23 Sept 2017, 9.30am–4.30pm

**The Heart of Peacemaking**

Mon 25 Sept 2017, 9.30am–4.30pm

Punchbowl Christian Centre, 100 Punchbowl Rd, Launceston **Bookings:** [sutas.org.au/peacemake](http://sutas.org.au/peacemake)



**Digital news is just a click away!** With relevant updates just for you, it's the best way to stay in the SU loop and see the impact of your support. Simply contact us with your email address to be added to our list.