

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Your Support is Sowing Seeds in YOUNG HEARTS

CHAPLAINCY IS NOT JUST ANOTHER SCHOOL PROGRAM. It's a critical role for the wellbeing of students and sowing seeds of hope for the future. School chaplain Rita explains her story and just how important her role is in the lives of children.

What's the most rewarding aspect when you wake in the morning? For me, my biggest reward is the smile, bonding, trust and positive relationships I have built with children through school chaplaincy and the opportunities that brings.

Hello, my name is Rita and I came to Australia from Malaysia in 1991. I brought my family here in 2010 and since then we have settled in this beautiful island of Tasmania.

It has been my great honour to be part of the SU chaplaincy team for nearly two years now. I remember how inadequate I felt when I first started, but in no time I felt deeply connected to the first school I was working at, Ravenswood Heights Primary. My family relocated to the South in January last year and currently I am working at two very different schools – Franklin and Glenorchy Primary.

♥ Being a listening ear

The resilience, self-esteem and harm prevention program that I deliver has made a huge impact on children who longed for friendship, love and affirmation. One highlight was a young girl named Claire*. Her teacher was worried about her disengagement and anti-social behaviour and referred her to participate in my support program.

During this time, she learnt how to process her emotions and share them with someone she could trust. Soon she had opened herself up to me about her grief towards her parents' separation and her beloved cat's death. She could finally reach out instead of isolating herself. She has since grown to be a confident, secure and positive individual and this year she was nominated the class captain in her grade. Everyone was amazed at her change and the special bond that I have with her is something we will cherish forever!

♥ Exploring their worldview

School chaplaincy has given me the opportunity of sowing the seed of hope into these young lives. Children do question their existence, worldview and identity and being available to answer those big questions is a unique role of chaplains ...

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Chaplaincy Appeal Update!

Thank you for your faithfulness in our Chaplaincy Appeal that to date has raised **\$18,100** – helping reach our young people and families in schools across the state. Although this is encouraging, we are only 60% of the way to our target figure of **\$30,000** to ensure that our services and programs can effectively continue. If you still have capacity to give, please fill in the enclosed donation form or go to sutas.org.au/give.



GIVING THANKS FOR SU TAS

Ruth reflects on a decade of fruitful ministry

As you may know I am currently on Long Service leave which must mean that I have been leading SU Tas for over ten years – in fact it is just a shade over 11 years!

It is interesting to look back over my time here and see the development of the ministry and the different ways God has been working. I'm so grateful to God for bringing me here to make my home in beautiful Tasmania and for teaching me so many things and being so faithful in all challenges. But when I arrived in Tasmania (from Scotland) the financial situation briefly produced a horrible suspicion that God had brought me all this way to close SU Tasmania down! Clearly not. God had far greater plans in store for us and I am amazed to see the vibrant diversity of SU ministries and the generosity of our supporters to make that all happen.

In 2007 SU Tas had been running a small chaplaincy program for several years but the federal government had just announced plans to make that a much bigger program! Since then there hasn't been time to get stale, as new programs with their own challenges have come around at regular intervals. With 53 chaplains bringing care and a Christian presence in 83 schools, our work now has a profound impact all over the state.

Camping, missions and holiday clubs have been the engine of SU's evangelism for all of its 150-year history and that is

certainly true in Tasmania. When I arrived there were good examples of all of them running. Today, our regional focus and engaging local volunteers has seen the numbers of events climb to very encouraging levels. We have no less than 11 camps planned this year! And there will be at least four missions and holiday clubs – bearing God's fruit with new and growing believers.

There are many other highlights, such as the inspiration from SU activities that have occurred at a national and global level. The Living Hope initiative in 2012 brought home the importance of intentional family ministry which we have been actively seeking to provide through our family camps. Closer to home we have recognised how many of our volunteers now have a far greater commitment to SU because of catching the SU spirit in a national setting.

One thing that hasn't changed is that God is active and alive through SU Tas and continues to remain faithful. By the grace of God all this ministry happens on what we fondly refer to as "the smell of an oily rag". But in truth, the ministry which is happening is under-resourced and we pray for God to bless us with the resources to continue.

"Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good." Psalm 127:1.



BUSH N BISCUITS CAMP

by Gabi Dunn

You are bringing the gospel to young campers!

SU Tas camps are wonderful experiences where campers are immersed in positive environments that generate character and faith for the future. And this is certainly what happened at our recent Bush n Biscuits Camp for Years 7–10.

On 23 February, five leaders and nine campers piled into three cars and drove to Rooney's Creek, Cradle Mountain, hiking in the rain to the local Scout Hut to spend the night.

Across the next two days, we walked, talked, ate (biscuits!) and we explored spirituality and the great narrative of Jesus. For many of the young people who joined us, this was the first time they had truly heard the gospel spoken in full.

The experience of the mountain provided the perfect foundation for raw, authentic discussion about our creator and His creation. Testimonies were shared while hiking through the rain, and real, lasting relationships were formed.

For one young woman in particular, the walk represented the beginning of new and lasting friendships with members of a local youth group. We have been privileged enough to welcome her into our community, and to hear her stories, questions, and to share her friendship.

Thank you for your support in bringing the great news of the gospel to these young campers.

NEW UPCOMING CAMPS FOR YOUR KIDS

SUPA AND BEYOND

Years 7–8
Paper Beach
29 June – 1 July

SUPA SOUTH

Years 4–6
Roches Beach
7–10 July

DCYPHER SOUTH

Years 9–12
Dodges Ferry
13–16 July

GRID CAMP

Years 7–10
Roches Beach
14–17 July

Find out more at www.sutas.org.au/camps



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... who bring spiritual support to the school community, regardless of their religious or faith background. Chaplaincy has been an incredible journey and I see God's favour and faithfulness every day. I thank you for your support of school chaplaincy through your engagement with SU Tas and urge you to continue to support us in prayers, financial giving or volunteering so our work in bringing hope can continue.

If you would like to support Rita or other school chaplains, visit our website at www.sutas.org.au/give or use the enclosed donation form.

**Name changed for privacy reasons.*



The New Gen of SU Tas leaders

THANKS TO YOU!

Ministry Leaders across our camps, missions and clubs got together recently for 'LEAD' Leadership Training in Campbell Town. SU Tas particularly would like to welcome on board Gareth, Ben, Bryce and Tanya (pictured with Ruth Pinkerton) who are taking over leadership of SU Tas camps and clubs later this year.

Thank you for your investment in our leaders of tomorrow.



WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

CHAPLAINCY WEEK 20–27 MAY

School chaplains need the support of local churches and local communities to help students reach their full potential. That's why this year's theme for Chaplaincy Week is STRONGER TOGETHER. Chaplaincy is stronger when School Chaplaincy Committees, churches, local communities and the school work together to support the chaplain. Chaplaincy Week last year was a great success because of your efforts, and those of chaplains and SU Tas staff.

The annual art competition is happening again with the theme 'Strong and Courageous'. Congratulations to students from South George Town Primary who won both first and second prizes last year (pictured - top right). So now the challenge is out for other schools to take the glory this year!

Chaplaincy Week has become an important part of the calendar in many schools, celebrating their chaplain with school assemblies, special morning teas, school barbecues and even talent quests and music concerts. The ideas are endless and you are encouraged to get creative and get involved. We look forward to hearing more inspiring stories of schools and churches celebrating the good work of their local chaplain.

Check out the SU Tas website so you can be part of the Chaplaincy Week 2018 celebrations.

For more info and ideas go to sutas.org.au/chaplaincy-week/





Director's Desk

Chair for a change!

Dear Friend,

With Ruth Pinkerton on long service leave, as SU Tas Chair I have been given the invitation to share my perspective on **prayer**.

Prayer is a vital aspect of SU Tas ministry and a powerful driver of Scripture Union's movement in Tasmania and across the world. Why does prayer matter? Prayer helps us to seek God's purposes – and how SU Tas and we as individuals can serve Him in what we think and do.

Our camps, holiday programs, chaplaincy, bushwalking, Bible reading resources, training, fundraisers and various other gatherings, and especially our SU staff and volunteers, all need prayer! And as we pray, as Jesus taught us to pray, we reach out to God, who has shown us His care and wisdom for every person, family and community.

The SU Northern prayer breakfast has been meeting monthly for many years in the homes of SU supporters and has a mix of regulars and also visitors including SU staff and chaplains across the year. We're a friendly bunch and you are welcome to join us (details for upcoming prayer breakfasts are on the website). We open God's Word and then pray specifically for prayer needs and praise God for answered prayers.

You may like to be involved in a local prayer gathering or there may be opportunities to pray for SU at your church. SU Tas values your prayers. Do you receive our "For Your Prayers" emails? If you would like these prayer updates, you can contact the SU office and ask to be added to the email list.

SU needs you to keep praying and those prayers are precious!

Kate Barnett
SU Tas Chair



CAMP CLAYTON EASTER FESTIVAL

Easter Festival at Camp Clayton in Ulverstone was a fantastic weekend learning from God's Word, hearing engaging speakers and enjoying the special Easter season with people in the North West. SU Tas had the privilege of hosting a booth and plenty of good conversations were had. We're looking forward to being there again next year!



LAUNCESTON EASTER FUN DAY

A beautiful day greeted us on Easter Saturday, and what a privilege to be present within the community, celebrating Jesus with the families and churches of Launceston.

At the SU Tas stall, we had a blast chatting with families, playing giant games, and creating artwork inspired by the incredible space that we enjoyed for the day.

We engaged with many children across the morning, and gave away many Bible stories. It was a pleasure to be at the centre of so much laughter, fun, and encouragement for the community.

PRAYER POINTS

GIVE THANKS for the new young leaders who attended LEAD. Most of these are people who've been impacted by SU camps themselves, now leading others to Jesus!

GIVE THANKS for all the upcoming camps and events over June and July. Please pray especially for the leaders and volunteers – and that the campers and attendees will discover more of God's love for them.

PRAY for our school chaplains - men and women who are passionately committed to their students and to ministering to them with grace and love.

PRAY for Chaplaincy Week, and that churches and schools will be encouraged to support their local chaplain.

PRAY for Ruth during leave, and that God will sustain the rest of the staff as they enter a busy time of year.



SU Tas welcomes the following chaplains in these schools:



Deloraine DHS:
Molly Bosco



Mowbray Heights PS:
Sonya Harris



Penguin DS:
Melissa Walker

We still have vacancies in Jordan River and Scottsdale HS. For more details visit

www.sutas.org.au/chaplaincy/

ChildSafe ROADSHOW



It was a wonderful time of learning at the ChildSafe Roadshow in Launceston, Ulverstone and Hobart. Many school, youth and community leaders attended to hear about the Royal Commission safety standards and how organisations can change their culture to be more focused on child safety. SU Tas partners with ChildSafe Australia to make training accessible to Tasmanian communities. If you wish to find out more about training go to sutas.org.au/childsafet or contact our ChildSafe representative in Tasmania, James Todd – james.todd@sutas.org.au.

Digital prayer updates are 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.