

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

THE BOOTS N' ALL STORY

Engaging Tasmanians with God and His Creation



For almost 40 years, Scripture Union's Boots N' All bushwalking group has been offering people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to experience the beauty of God's creation in Northern Tasmania. And we want to thank you, as our readers, for your support and prayers in ensuring this group continues.

The Boots N' All motto is "Love the bush and praise its Creator", with participants visiting stunning landmarks and immersing themselves in the wonder of God's creation. Events are held all year, with walks varying in range of difficulty, with most being suitable for kids, families or youth groups. Each time walkers keep coming back exhilarated by the adventure and the conquering of new challenges.

Nik, who is the director of this year's *Taking on Goliath* camp, has great memories of Boots N' All walks from the 1980s and early 1990s: "My first Boots N' All walk was with an older lady from church who took me when I was about 13 years old. I clearly recall one of the experienced walkers passing his binoculars around and pointing out the many peaks. I was particularly fascinated by the Acropolis as viewed from Mt Pillinger, and this inspired me to climb other peaks in the following years."

Nik is now passionate to continue that inspiration of outdoor experiences for young people. "I recently went on my first

Boots N' All walk in about 25 years. It reinforced one of the most valuable Boots N' All experiences – the people. Every time I've done a Boots N' All walk, I meet interesting people who I've never met before and sometimes old friends that I haven't seen for years. I especially want to help young people overcome challenges and experience the beauty of God's creation and God as Creator."

Various versions of the Boots N' All group have started throughout the years. In the South, the *Bushies* group held monthly walks to locations such as Maria Island, Twilight Tarn, Seven Mile Beach, the Prosser Convict Trail, and Wielangta Forest. In 1989 the North West *Trekkers* group began with walks that included Cradle Mountain, Bakers Beach, Quamby Bluff and the Walls of Jerusalem. Sadly, these groups are no longer in operation, but there is gathering momentum to once again start groups in these regions.

SU Tas is very happy to work alongside leaders to extend options for healthy and safe activities for young people and families. Why not consider whether once or twice a year, your group could participate in a Boots N' All walk?

If you are thinking of bringing a group of young people on a walk, it is a good idea to be in touch well in advance as SU Tas treats safety seriously. There are requirements such

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Boots N' All participants taking in the magnificent scenery.



IMPORTANT APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to those who have given to our EOFY Appeal, that to date has raised **\$34,000**. Thanks to you, young people like Kayla, who attended our Dcypher camp, are experiencing God's love and care. We still have a significant amount to raise – **\$86,000** – so we can continue to offer our full range of outreach ministries. If you are still able to give, please fill in the enclosed donation form or go to www.sutas.org.au/give.



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as adequate adult-child ratio, availability of leaders who meet ChildSafe requirements, transport arrangements, availability of a qualified first aid person and whether the children and young people will be adequately equipped for the particular walk. All leaders are mature Christians who are experienced and enthusiastic.

Boots N' All is a great way for you to invite friends and family, especially those not yet connected with God, to have fun and experience, not just God's creation, but the love of His people. It's too much fun to keep to ourselves, so help us get the word out - jump onto the SU Tas Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sutasmania to find out the next walk, or go to <https://bootsnall.sutas.org.au> or contact the office to express your interest.

The next walk is at Greens Beach and West Head on 22 June. Check out the website for more details.



St Helens Fun Run

The 5th annual **Chaplaincy Fun Run** in St Helens on 27 April attracted about 100 serious runners and leisurely walkers ranging from 4 years to retirement age. Athletes from as far as Victoria, alongside locals and people from across the state, ran and walked various distances between 2 and 10 kilometres. The whole community was involved in encouraging the racers, setting up the course, handing out water, sizzling sausages, organising prizes, handing out certificates and celebrating achievements. The Fun Run is a true blessing to the school, the community of St Helens and the chaplaincy program!



SHARING THE GOSPEL:

Launceston's Easter Festival

'Champion of Champions' was the title of this year's Launceston Alive Easter Festival, proudly supported by SU Tas. With school sports clinics, a multicultural dinner, prayer vigil and combined Sunday Celebration, the festival celebrated the Good News of Easter. One of the highlights was the Children's Festival, held on Easter Saturday. 40 churches, organisations and even the mayor got together to share God's love. Over 3,000 visitors enjoyed activities including Zorb balls, jumping castles, delicious food, art, craft music and dance. One member of the local churches shared this story from the event:

The All Saints Network were making bookmarks and sharing the gospel with children through colours. The first two children who came to make a bookmark received Christ as their Saviour! Later in the day, another child went on to receive Christ at the bookmark stall. What a joy to have this opportunity to share the love of Jesus and the story of Easter in our community!

GREAT CONNECTIONS WITH THE SMITHTON COMMUNITY

Supporting school chaplains in their local networks is vital to maintaining strong partnerships and relationships within communities.

This year for the very first time we held our School Chaplaincy Committee networking event at Smithton. We were hosted by the Circular Head Anglican Church, who supplied us with a wonderful light tea. We had a fantastic response from both the local community, with all local churches represented, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and both public schools. We also had representatives from churches and committees from right across the North West.

Using the theme of 'Stronger Together', we heard from the Council, (Deputy Mayor Norm Berechree) and the local church (Minister Joel Nankervis) about what the needs of young people are, what is happening and how we can interact with the local schools through chaplaincy.

After a wonderful tea and networking time, we heard from chaplains Christine Blake and Peta Conley from Smithton, as well as Charlie Smith from Ulverstone. They spoke about their work and passions, and how we can help. We also heard from State Director, Chris Taylor.

We need to be praying and supporting our chaplains. There are wonderful programs assisting students that we can be involved with - as mentors, help with breakfast programs, chess activities, helping students with their reading - every school has opportunities. Most importantly, it is knowing that people care and are interested in our chaplains and their work in schools.

We had a very enjoyable night and achieved our goal of showing how we are Stronger Together.

James Todd
Regional Coordinator SUTas NW



Chaplaincy Week 26th May-1st June 2019

**YOUR SUPPORT SHOWS
WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER**

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**



Schools are at the heart of our communities and your support of Chaplaincy Week helped it to be once again a great success in 2019.

The aim of the week was to celebrate school chaplaincy and the amazing work of chaplains within Tasmanian schools. With chaplains, School Chaplaincy Committees, volunteers and school staff working together, many fantastic stories are still emerging.

An interview on local radio, a 3D art exhibition, school concerts and talent shows, multiple barbecues and even more morning teas were all on offer around the state during a busy week. The annual Chaplaincy Week art competition attracted over a hundred entries and regional School Chaplaincy Committee networking events were held in each region. The North event featured a wide range of speakers from the local community. The North West event was held in Smithton for the first time and in the South there were good connections made with church representatives and supporters.

The theme of the week was 'Stronger Together'. Many local churches welcomed SU staff members and school chaplains to speak about churches, communities and school chaplaincy. Some generously contributed with a retiring offering to go towards SU's work.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect was the positive comments and stories, and to see seeds planted and coming to fruit is such a delight. Here is a sample:

From a school teacher to their school chaplain:

"I cannot thank you enough for the help and support you have given my class with your programs. The social change I have had with one student has been amazing, including four days in a row where she has used the skills you discussed with her to actively walk away from problems as well as try to solve them without nasty words. One of the dads has also praised you highly for bringing the confidence out of his son, and lowering his obsession to be perfect. He told me at Learn to Swim

Thank you for joining in the celebrations over the week and demonstrating the importance of chaplaincy in the community. To see some pictures from the art competition, go to www.sutas.org.au/chaplaincy-week.

that he's seen his son change at home and become more outgoing. Thank you again for spending some one on one time with these students, it has really been helping."

From parents and teachers (via Facebook):

"I am personally so grateful to have someone to speak to through tough times and (my school chaplain) is so approachable and special."

"Our chaplain does a wonderful job!"

"The school chaplain is always ready with a kind word, listening ear and compassionate outlook. She is a blessing to us all!"

From an SU Tas staff member:

"One of our chaplains has worked with a single mother and daughter for the last few years through the school's *Launching into Learning* program, and has helped with practical support for the family and creating strategies for anxiety. This year the mother realised that with her child heading off to Kindergarten, and someone else doing school drop off, she could go a whole week without having an adult conversation. She was able to ask the school chaplain about local churches and now mum and daughter have become part of a local church and attended a small group Bible study with a shared meal each week. She is super excited about her new faith, and inviting other parents along to join her at church and small group. What an exciting journey!"

From a school chaplain:

"In my new chaplaincy role at the school I have been focusing on building relationships. Much of my time is spent at 'The Clock', an off-school campus for disengaged or anxious students. This campus offers a safe haven for them to build stable relationships with teachers and myself. Motivating students to create artistic displays and to stay on task can be both challenging and rewarding. It's satisfying to know that it's building resilience and seeing barriers come down."



Director's Desk

J. William Fulbright was a United States Senator and the longest serving Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee. In a speech, he stated that "We must dare to think 'unthinkable' thoughts. We must learn to explore all the options and possibilities that confront us in a complex and rapidly changing world."

If we look back over history, how many things can you identify which at the time would have been considered 'unthinkable'? Perhaps a man on the moon, watching TV on your wrist and the ability to make phone calls anywhere using a satellite phone.

The word 'unthinkable' can sometimes create walls or barriers, or it can conjure up sinister, ugly or even devastating images such as those associated with the nuclear bomb. But sometimes it is this very reaction that causes us to miss or avoid the true possibilities in life.

Unless we are prepared to think the unthinkable we will never hear the quiet undertones of change or see the possibilities. Jesus himself rejected the world's way of doing things. He rejected religiosity based on rules and instead championed the idea that everyone is redeemable.

SU Tas needs to do the unthinkable – to be courageous and innovative as we reach out with lasting hope to a world that is sometimes hostile to the gospel, yet drastically needs it. Will you join us in this task?

I would encourage all supporters of SU Tas to consider partnering with us. One of our most immediate needs is financial support, so please consider contributing to our end of financial year appeal. We have exciting plans for ministry and your giving will go a long way to us achieving the unthinkable. Thank you for your partnership!

Chris Taylor, SU Tas State Director

PRAYER POINTS

GIVE THANKS for those who committed their lives to Christ at the Easter Festival.

PRAY for our ministry leaders as they prepare for the upcoming winter camps. Pray for strength, vision and wisdom.

GIVE THANKS for Chaplaincy Week, particularly for the new connections formed between schools, churches, community groups and supporters. Please pray for ongoing communication and fruitful partnerships.

PRAY for our EOFY appeal, that God will meet all of our needs according to the riches of His glory.

PRAY that we may find suitable applicants for the chaplaincy vacancies that exist within some of our schools.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

THE VALUE OF CHESS

Chaplains are in schools to help cater for the pastoral and emotional needs of young people. One of the ways we can do that is by engaging them in activities that help build relationships and social skills with peers. Chess is one of those activities and can also build logical thinking, creativity, and problem solving!

Leanne, our school chaplain at West Ulverstone PS, recently took a small group of students to the Chess tournament in Ulverstone. The students had not been offered an out-of-school small group activity before and were so excited to be amongst a large amount of students from other schools. This has led to the formation of a school chess team who come together each Tuesday to learn and practice in readiness for the next tournament on the NW Coast.



Spirituality Training at UTAS

The University of Tasmania (UTAS) again welcomed SU Tas to their Faculty of Education to introduce the Spirituality Toolbox to pre-service teachers in Launceston.

Through discussions, engaging activities and challenges, Jenny Cowley and SU Tas council member Helen Ridley presented the Toolbox to 30 students in their third year of teacher training.

The Spirituality Toolbox is a unique resource developed by SU Tas to help teachers and school chaplains to address spiritual health in the classroom. It explores the meaning of spiritual health and its place in the curriculum.

The students were very responsive to the resources in the Toolbox and we have been invited to return in September to share with a group of Master of Teaching students in Hobart. The resources in the Toolbox can be used with a whole class, a small group or in the context of a school or church camp.

Contact the office if you would like to know more.



SU TAS CHAPLAINS: HELLOS & GOODBYES

Ogilvie HS:
Hannah Edwards

Glen Huon PS:
Emily Wynhoven

Rose Bay HS:
Jonathan Ford

Glen Huon PS:
Christine Bunge

Sorell School & Dodges Ferry PS:
Naomi McGlone

Cosgrove HS:
Claire Johnstone