

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

WHY WE TO VOLUNTEER

The Summer 2018/19 holiday season was another memorable one in Tasmania with an exciting variety of SU camps, clubs and experiences for young people and families across the state. Whilst each experience was unique, they all had the same core aim of sharing the Good News and giving young people the opportunity to explore the Bible and Christian faith.

These experiences would not be possible without the dedicated teams of volunteers who, motivated to share God's love, generously give up their time, and in some cases money, to serve and see lives changed through Jesus.

So why do our volunteers pack their bags every year, travel to different areas of the state, and spend their days playing games, singing songs, teaching Bible stories and being completely tired out?

Team leader Barrie says, "It's been great to see some of our junior leaders step up to be adult leaders. There's a freedom

to talk about Jesus and it so good for our personal faith." Elaine, who is in her 80s and has been volunteering for over 25 years, says, "I have as much fun as the kids. I have a great time and I'm hoping that all of these children will end up in God's Kingdom". Volunteer Stephanie adds, "It's a joy to see that we are making a difference and impacting children's lives even in small ways."

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet new people, have fun and get away from the stress of everyday life while making a positive contribution to the lives of young people. Many people come away from the experience with new perspectives and a sense of achievement.

So what's involved in volunteering?

There are a range of volunteering opportunities with SU Tas. Many choose to become a camp or holiday club leader, or help run a SUPA club. This involves assisting with organising activities and supervising school-aged children

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Volunteer Sophie (left) with participants at East Devonport Holiday Happening

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to explore their potential in a fun, challenging and supportive environment.

But there are other ways to volunteer! SU has opportunities to be an advocate for SU chaplaincy in churches, assisting with administration in the SU Tas office or helping with our fundraising dinners. With many tasks available, there's something for everyone.

All volunteers need to have a WWVP card and those involved with our camping and club programs will be trained in child safety procedures.

For over 50 years, empowering and equipping volunteers to serve has been at the heart of what we do at SU Tas. It is a privilege to be part of the amazing work God is doing!

If you would like to join our volunteer teams, please contact us (see back page) or visit www.sutas.org.au/volunteer, and one of our staff will be in touch.

Launceston Easter Festival

The **Easter Saturday Children's and Families Festival** is on again! There will be free jumping castles, free sausages, free face painting, kinder gym, a mobile maze, craft, games, music, dance performance, bands playing and balloon sculpting.

This year's theme is "Champion of Champions" and we will offer free mini-sports clinics in soccer, basketball, boxing and dance. 2017 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medalist Nicola McDermott will also be there, inspiring young champions of the future. For older kids we have organised a number of school bands, who will provide musical entertainment.

Saturday 20 April 11am to 2pm
City Park, Launceston
www.facebook.com/LauncestonAlive

St Helens Fun Run

The **St Helens Fun Run/Walk** is on Saturday 27 April at 9.30am and now is the time to register for the 2kms, 5kms or 10kms events. Join in the fun and raise money for the St Helens chaplaincy program!

<https://event.registernow.io/anzacdayrun>

SU Tas Summer Reports

FAMILY CAMP NORTH

The theme for Family Camp North was "Reaching for the Stars" – and that's exactly what 31 children, teenagers and adults truly did this year at Fingal Valley.

Everyone reached out, tried to be their best and had a wonderful time with games, river rafting, a bush walk to Hardings Falls, art and craft, kayaking, a fun talent show and inspiring Bible study sessions. The group enjoyed and accepted each other's company so much that not only were new friendships formed, but one participant, who hadn't played the piano for many years, found the courage to touch the keys and find joy in music again.

Hearing the story of Jesus and his disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee proved to be a real life changer for a family of six. They heard about Jesus' disciples being afraid of the storm, and awaking Jesus who rebuked the wind and sea and everything became calm. One of the campers then concluded, "I think I want and need Jesus in my boat". The family has since become part of a church and not missed a service.

EAST DEVONPORT

East Devonport Holiday Happening was a blast! 61 children, 17 leaders, four days, and one massive opportunity to speak into the lives of young people.

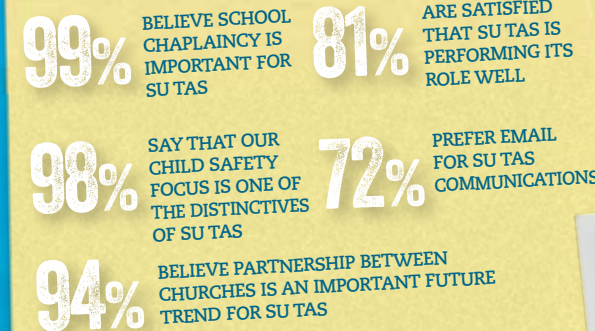
Our groups had a whole lot of fun in our "LandLubbers" (Pirates) theme, and enjoyed the games, crafts, songs, Bible teaching, and morning teas.

During the week, we took the opportunity to follow Paul on his missionary journeys, and also looked at his letter to the Philippian church. We focused on how Paul was able to persevere through rough trials, still loving and caring for his friends, because of his relationship with God.

One of the highlights of the program was having some of our grade 6s (who have been attending the program for years) asking to come back again next year to help out as leaders. The fact that these young people want to continue being involved in the program is a sign that we are achieving our goal to provide a welcoming, godly environment.

SU Tas Supporter Engagement Survey

Thank you very much to those of you who gave your opinions through our survey last year. Discussion groups are now being organised but so far there has been plenty of quality feedback to help us move forward as an organisation – so thank you! Here's a quick snapshot of some of the results:



STANLEY

Stanley Beach Mission 2019 was a wonderful bridge-building opportunity into the Stanley community. We made many new friends, and have woven an amazing support network, particularly with friends from local churches providing home cooking for our evening coffee shops. This year, our coffee shops were the highlight, with visiting speakers and musicians each night from along the coast. We started mission with a mini fair – the jumping castle and fairy floss a highlight for the younger ones.

Our afternoon activities included the annual Super Duper Rollercoaster Golfball Sandcastle Competition, craft, structured waterfight, beach games, and we are so thankful for Lynden's Laser Tag providing a fun opportunity at the school in the afternoons and evenings! Many seeds were sown, and the tent became a place demonstrating God's love in action, with a theme of "being a child of God", and living the purpose He has for our lives.

ST HELENS

Over 20 primary children took part in all the fun with the "Armour of God" theme at St Helens Beach Mission. On top of games such as Cannon Ball Relay, Captain's Coming, and Non-Stop Dodge Ball, the children learnt more about Jesus. The event culminated on the final night with the team, local church and community coming together for a BBQ. Team leader Barrie said, "It's been great to see the enthusiasm of all involved. We want kids to learn about God, have fun and build a sense of community."

WESTBURY

Westbury Holiday Club was run at Westbury Baptist Church 'Parklands', with over 25 children attending throughout the week, along with an awesome team. The children heard Bible stories from Genesis, learnt songs and had craft activities and games each day.

Another Amazing Summer of Mission

Thanks to you!

FAMILY CAMP SOUTH

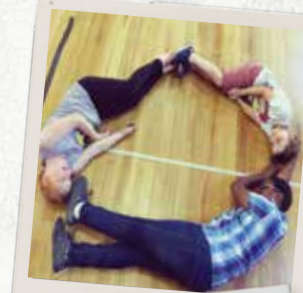
We are all works of art by the greatest Creator of all. At Family Camp South participants found out more about God's creative plan and how special we are to Him. Six families attended and it was a fantastic opportunity to take a break from normal everyday routines.



New SU Tas State Director

We are very thankful to God to be able to announce the appointment of **Chris Taylor** as the new SU Tas State Director, replacing Ruth Pinkerton.

Along with this newsletter, you will find enclosed a letter from the SU Tas Chair, Kate Barnett, with further details. If you would like to meet Chris come along to our afternoon tea on Sunday 28 April. More details to come.





Last word from Ruth

In my post as SU Tas CEO for 12 years, I have had so much to be thankful for. But it hasn't all been plain sailing. There have been quite a few times when financial resources were stretched so tight it was only faith which was making ends meet. Other times we have had to work so hard to defend

our ministry that you might wonder if it was worth it. But overall, I have seen tremendous growth in the organisation.

Numerically we were running two missions and about seven camps when I came and we had 19 chaplaincies as well as Christian Option Programs and SUPA clubs. SU Tas was punching above its weight in 2007. Now we have plans for 12 camps in 2020, 4 or 5 mission events and there are 84 chaplaincies. We also have growing numbers of SUPA clubs and connections with other Christian organisations. In no way do I take personal credit for all this. God has been faithful to us and very importantly it has been your work as the volunteers, donors and prayer supporters of SU Tas which has allowed this growth.

Numerical growth is not the only kind to look for and I have been thrilled to see the Kingdom of God grow in Tasmania with dozens of new Christians and hundreds of young disciples encouraged and trained in their faith. It has been my privilege to walk with many people of all ages as they deepened their faith through Bible engagement, prayer and service.

Thank you so much for your partnership and my prayer is that SU Tas will continue to follow God's lead as we use His word to light our path (Ps. 119:105).



CHAPLAINCY WEEK 2019

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

26 MAY –
2 JUNE 2019

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 'My Special Place'. Congratulations to students from Zeehan Primary and Invermay Primary who won both first and second prizes last year. 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 2019 celebrations.

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



PRAYER POINTS

GIVE THANKS for those who attended the SU Summer experiences. Pray that each person will be inspired to read the Bible, ask questions and continue to grow in faith.

PRAY for our new State Director, Chris Taylor, as he starts his new position. Pray for wisdom, strength and energy as he settles into routines.

GIVE THANKS for Ruth Pinkerton and her ministry over 12 years at SU Tas. Pray that she will continue to know God's presence.

PRAY that Chaplaincy Week will help people have a better understanding of the benefits of chaplaincy and build good connections between schools, churches and communities.

WELCOME: NEW CHAPLAINS

Bothwell DHS:
Janna Leaman

Brighton PS:
Corey MacDonald

Exeter HS & Kings Meadows HS:
Paul Burton

Invermay PS:
Riikka Kuronen

Jordan River LFSS:
Cameron Brett

Molesworth PS:
Christine Knight

Penguin DS:
Mim Zariffa

Perth PS:
Chris Brooks

Port Dalrymple School:
Janine Targett

Riverside PS:
Victoria Small

Ulverstone SC:
Cindy Clingeffer

