

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

OVERCOMING THE ELEMENTS

Your support helps teens hear the gospel

July 2019 marked the re-launch of Scripture Union Tasmania's Element Camp at Liffey Falls Campsite, and what a great camp it was! We're excited to let you know that your support helped a group of teenagers have meaningful discussions about God as they learnt about working through life's difficulties.

16 campers from grades 7-10 and nine awesome leaders had the privilege of taking on the Elements, and eating some pretty awesome food, in some of the best wilderness available in God's amazing creation.

Camp was based on surviving the Elements. Devotions were themed around Soul Surfer and Bethany Hamilton's amazing story of survival and taking on life's challenges after losing an arm in a shark attack.

The theme generated some great conversations and pointed the campers to situations in the Bible where faith in God gave people the strength to overcome the challenges they faced. Campers were reminded that regardless of the situation, they were not alone. We discovered that all we need is a change of perspective.

Campers took on a couple of bush walks. One was to Liffey Falls, where the water was flowing very powerfully due to recent rainfall, which was amazing to witness. The other bush walk seemed to have no end ... we just kept walking, walking, and walking!

Some of the many activities included making screen printed t-shirts and rustic picture frames. We built stretchers and shelters (using only branches and leaves) and had a first aid challenge, where campers carried an injured party on their stretcher to the shelter ready for evacuation. These activities required some team building and a lot of patience and they highlighted the importance of having others around us to strengthen our resolve.

Thank you for making camps like Element possible for young people to experience God's love in community.

Paul Burton, Element Camp leader

More exciting camp reports overleaf!

"I really enjoyed the camp and can't wait to come back next year!"

Element Camp participant



See more of our camp photos at www.sutas.org.au/camps

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CAMPERS HEAR THE GOSPEL

"It was great meeting new people and having fun as a group of nerds!"

"The talks made me think how God is as big as the universe"

THANKS TO YOU!

DCYPHER SOUTH

2019 was one of our largest DCYPHERs yet, with 39 participants and lots of active fun, social activities, and energy. There was also a lot of deep thinking and big questions being asked. We also heard from our speaker Caleb and from a panel of wise Christians, who tackled many excellent and tough questions. One person commented, "I may not be Christian, but I enjoy talking about life/God and this camp is like my perfect place for it." Others show a positive attitude and growth from previous years. We're looking forward to another great camp again next year!



SUPA SOUTH

This year's SUPA South saw 24 campers from grades 4-6 led by a very talented group of leaders. Themed around the movie *Incredibles 2*, we were inducted as superheroes after completing gruelling challenges. We constructed high-tech cardboard vehicles, dressed up as our own unique superheroes and made many crafts. During our daily Bible sessions, we heard about Jesus and his friends, and learnt many of the cool things found in the gospel. A highlight was introducing many children to Jesus for the first time on camp. The SUPA South team would like to thank you for your continued generosity and support.



SUPA & BEYOND

'Bold for Life' was the theme of this year's SUPA & Beyond camp, attended by 19 campers from grades 7-8. Besides an epic Paper Chase and challenging cross country laser tag, students learnt about being strong and courageous. We related this message from the Bible to the experiences of being bullied or challenged at school. 'Wassup' was our custom-made study series. Around the questions 'What?', 'Who are you?', 'Where do I fit in?', 'When is a good time?', and 'How?' campers saw that being loved unconditionally by God provides a cornerstone to see ourselves as more than what we experience in relationship with other people.



GRID CAMP

"I never believed in God, but now I do." One young person made this comment as they worked together with leaders and other campers who know and love God. At GRID camp, 16 enthusiastic young people in grades 7-10 became detectives to solve the mystery of the armour of God, while learning about his love. Each day they honed a new detective skill, and worked in teams to find the missing pieces of armour. A murder mystery, campfire and lots of new challenges and friends, made this year's camp a time to remember and a significant event for many teenagers. We're looking forward to GRID camp next year.



Picture: Nicola with the Mayor of Launceston, Albert Van Zetten



AIMING FOR THE HEIGHTS!

SU Tas invites you to join us at our upcoming Fundraising Dinners at three venues across the state. Along with a wonderful meal and local entertainment, we are excited to have Commonwealth medalist Nicola McDermott as our speaker. Below is a preview of her story.

Even after becoming a Commonwealth Games medalist, Nicola McDermott is still aiming for the heights as she seeks to achieve her childhood dreams.

Hailing from the Central Coast of NSW, Nicola describes how it all started. "When I first started sports such as swimming, tennis or dancing - I was just terrible. But then at my first school carnival, to my surprise, I started winning all of the events. I realised I had a gift and my parents put me into Little Athletics, which I immediately loved.

"I got into high jump when I was in under-9s and continued on. Back then I had a little dream to represent Australia ... to be one of the first women ever in Australia to jump two metres, with the record at 1.98m."

Why Chaplaincy?

People sometimes ask us why SU Tas are involved in school chaplaincy. As a Christian organisation, we see chaplaincy as a vital arm of our work in showing love and care to young people and making a positive difference to our school communities. But sometimes the best answer comes from the feedback we get from school communities themselves. Take a look at just some of the many responses from school principals about the chaplaincy service:

This ambitious dream is getting closer to being realised every day. Having jumped 1.76m in 2011, Nicola has been beating her personal best every year. In 2018, Nicola won bronze at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast with 1.91m. Nicola believes the medal win was a turning point in her career as she proved she could perform despite immense pressure.

Excitingly, Nicola recently finished third at the Ostrava Golden Spike Meet with a Tokyo Olympic Qualifying height of 1.96m. This now brings her within striking distance of a medal, with the gold medal won at the 2016 Rio Olympics with a jump of 1.97m. McDermott is now equal third on the Australian all-time rankings list and in the top 10 in the 2019 World Rankings.

Nicola's faith has been instrumental in helping her overcome challenges and aim for greater heights. In describing the start of her Christian journey, she says she was bullied as a child and singled out for her height. But when she enrolled in a Christian school in Year 6, she experienced the overwhelming, non-judging love of Jesus from

INTRODUCING OUR DINNER SPEAKER: Nicola McDermott

Christian students and teachers. Nicola gave her life to Jesus back then and has since grown in her faith through youth groups and church. She joined the Evangelical Union at Sydney University, where she was able to lead Bible studies and openly share her journey to large groups.

In 2017 Nicola began a Christian athlete ministry called *Everlasting Crowns* that sees athletes connect to local sports chaplains for Christian support and encouragement. Today she is a wonderful ambassador for her sport and a role model for young people. This year's theme for the SU Tas dinner is 'A Brighter Tomorrow' and Nicola is excited to inspire us with a vision for communities to encourage our young people to be the best they can be. "I love the platform this sport gives me to be a role model for the next generation," Nicola says.

Please see the enclosed flyer for tickets and locations for the event. This event will raise vital funds for SU Tas so please share with others and come along!

"Teachers have noted positive changes in student self-esteem"

"The work of our chaplain links closely to our strategic plan"

"One family was very overwhelmed by the care and support being offered"

"Chaplaincy is an integral part of our student support systems"

"We would not be able to offer extra support within our school without this service"



Above: a chaplaincy week afternoon tea celebration at Windermere PS. School chaplain Rita says, "A parent and a student expressed appreciation for the support and care I have provided to them personally and to the school community. That really warmed my heart."

THANK YOU for your support of chaplaincy. Together we are making a tremendous impact for young people and families in local schools.



Director's Desk

I recently reflected on a journal that I made some months ago. In that entry I had noticed a few leaves on the trees exchanging their vibrant summer green for their autumn glory. As I thought about this, I realised that it was a good picture of how we humans can respond to the changing seasons of life.

In our modern world with things moving so quickly change is inevitable. The way we respond to change, however, is as unique as each of us.

Some people are ahead of the game. They can see change is coming, they get ready straight away, and look ahead. For others, they wait a little longer, wait until they are sure the change is coming. But they see others ready for change and join them, not wanting to be left behind. Then there are those who just want things to stay the way they are. They are like those leaves that just stubbornly hang on through winter, even well and truly past their prime, brown and dried up. We can be just as stubborn, holding on to the past when that season has well and truly finished.

Jesus talked a bit about recognising seasons in Luke 21 by reminding us not to be afraid (v. 9), but to be alert, ready for what is next (v. 34-36). Although we can get very comfortable in the season we are in, like the leaf on the branch, at some stage we need to change.

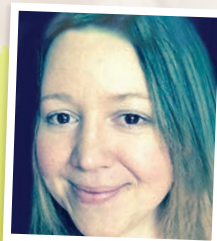
As Scripture Union Tasmania enters a period of change we invite you to journey with us on an exciting new adventure.

May God bless you richly through this time.

Chris Taylor, SU Tas State Director

MEET OUR NEW CHAIR!

At the AGM earlier in the year, the SU Tas Council appointed Elysia Cunningham as our new Chair of SU Tasmania. Elysia replaces Kate Barnett, who served as Chair for over 9 years. We interviewed Elysia to find out a bit more about her.



Could you give us some background on yourself?

My husband and I were married in October last year and only have "animal children": two cats, a goldfish, and Labrador puppy. I work as a Clinical Psychologist in private practice in Ulverstone and have recently taken over the business I have been working from for the past eight years. I attend Penguin Baptist Church, a small regional church. The people there are very much extended family to me.

How and why have you been involved in the past with Scripture Union Tasmania?

I first started my journey with Scripture Union as a child attending Beach Missions with my parents. As I grew up watching what the leaders did at Beach Mission, I wanted to be a part of it. So I started as a "junior leader" and eventually became the director of the Port Sorell Beach Mission. Eventually my studies and work meant I had to step back from active involvement with SU for a couple of years before being approached by Bruce French to join the Council.

What excites you about where Scripture Union Tasmania is headed in the next few years?

SU in Tasmania and across Australia is in a time of transition, which is both exciting and a little scary at the same time. I am excited to see the opportunities that will open up as we work more closely with the other states and share our resources, expertise, and experience.

PRAYER POINTS

GIVE THANKS for the impact of the recent winter camps and that God opened doors so many could hear the message of hope that Jesus offers.

GIVE THANKS for the Principals' Breakfasts in August. Pray for ongoing good connections and relationships through chaplaincy within schools.

GIVE THANKS for SU Tas Regional Coordinators and all they do in supporting schools, churches and SU partners. Ask God to strengthen and bless the relationships they have and to open up new opportunities for them.

PRAY for the SU State Directors and those involved in the national project, as they consider the best way of developing SU ministry for the future across Australia. Pray for ongoing wisdom and insight.

PRAY for our upcoming dinners with Nicola McDermott. Pray that they will be well-attended and strengthen relationships and support.

SU ACROSS AUSTRALIA:

Partnering Together

You may or may not be aware that Scripture Union in each state of Australia is a fully

autonomous organisation. Since November 2015 there has been ongoing conversation about how greater collaboration between state movements could further grow ministry across the country. Throughout these conversations it has become apparent that there is a shared heart and vision of SU across Australia.

In 2019, discussions have been had regarding a process by which SU can join together across Australia as a national movement, which each state movement can choose to join. The SU Tasmania Council is strongly supportive of this journey. We see that coming together in formal partnership will enable us to fulfil God's purposes for SU across this country, in ways that we just can't do as separate state movements.

Like each state movement, SU Tas has a distinctive ministry that is unique compared to other states. There's an understandable concern that in a national movement, we could lose some of our distinctiveness and missional approaches. However, the focus of the national project is that a strong priority is placed on supporting localised grassroots mission and regional leadership. As we collaborate together, our hope is that missional culture and ministry will grow in Tasmania, rather than decrease.

In these changing times, a vibrant vision is now emerging of what SU could look like nationally. Our Chair of SU Tas, Elysia Cunningham, says, "SU Tas is uniquely placed with a wealth of knowledge and experience amongst our staff, a fantastic base of volunteers and supporters, and a long history of connecting with the community. We are looking forward to more mission opportunities to further spread the gospel. We encourage you to be prayerful as we rely fully on God's provision and leading."

