



Photos: children enjoying St Helens Mission (main and below left) and Family Camp North in January 2020 (below).

FRESH START CLEAR VISION

2020 vision is good news and when it comes with a new decade, then it's worth celebrating. This year sees a fresh start in much of the ministry of SU Tasmania, and with your support, we look forward to realising that vision.

We have already started the year with a new round of chaplaincy funding which has seen new schools taking up chaplaincy, some schools changing how much chaplaincy hours they can offer and sadly, others losing their chaplaincy program altogether. We have been working hard to place new chaplains into schools and helping some principals, new to chaplaincy, to understand the program. This is a busy but exciting time as new people start in new roles and new opportunities open to share God's love.



2020 also sees the start of some new ministries for SU Tas. After many years of wilderness hiking in the north, Boots N' All have recommenced bushwalks in the south of the state. Enjoying God's creation in the company of his people is worth the effort that is required for some of the walks and we thank all of the volunteers who give their time and expertise to lead these walks. Although dependent on the coronavirus situation, a new SUPA (Scripture Union Primary Age) club will eventually be starting in the north-west. A SUPA club is a time for primary school students to have fun, make new friends and open the Bible together. We are grateful for our volunteers who are seeking new ways to connect with their local schools.

Another significant fresh start in 2020 is the move to a national SU which will facilitate more ministry opportunities across the state (see back page). There is much still to be determined and

many new possibilities to explore as we join with our SU colleagues from other states and territories as a national movement.

We ask for your prayers that God will give us clear vision as we navigate these changes and new directions.

SUPPORTING ABUSE SURVIVORS

God loves justice and calls us to make recompense for those who have been wronged. Scripture Union Tasmania is applying to join the **National Redress Scheme**, along with other SU state movements, in order to provide restorative justice, recognition and support to survivors of sexual abuse. This provides redress for survivors of abuse up to an amount of \$150,000 per claim, counselling costs and the possibility of an apology from the institution. Redress is a kinder, simpler, quicker and more accessible way for an abuse survivor to seek compensation, recognition and counselling support, compared with traditional litigation. We ask for your continued prayers and support.

COVID-19 UPDATE

SU Tas is currently acting in accordance with Government advice in regards to our activities and response to the **Coronavirus situation**. At this point our winter camps are still planned to go ahead, but in a limited/modified format. We will, however, be monitoring the situation and will send any updates if these plans need to change. At this uncertain time we trust our God who never changes and is in control: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble" Psalm 46:1.

CHAPLAINCY WEEK

Chaplaincy Week is on again! This year it will be held during the week of 24-31 May and our theme is **'Fresh Start, Clear Vision'**. This is an ideal opportunity for churches and communities to celebrate the work of SU Tas chaplains, as they make a positive difference in communities across Tasmania. Many schools celebrate the week with school assemblies, special morning teas, school barbecues and more.

We are also holding a **Chaplaincy Week Art and Media Competition**. A prize for the successful student and a contribution to the school's chaplaincy program is on offer for the winning entry.

There are different ways to acknowledge your local chaplain, and we encourage you to check out the SU Tas website for more details.

FAMILY CAMP NORTH

The theme at Family Camp North, was "What Can You See?" as we explored more about God from insights from his word. The impact of the camp is best summed up by attendee, Irene:



irene

"Aside from the fun, team building activities that was offered, I found the love and support from complete strangers unexpected. Our mornings started with prayer and reflection. We were given passages from the Bible, which allowed me to question things, and I received honest and reliable answers. It also made me aware that I need to trust in God. I cried a lot, mostly because I was hearing the words of Jesus, and I felt like the passages were relating to me. I have been on a long, and slow journey to our Lord, and I was invited to attend a church in Launceston, which I am now attending on a regular basis. I would really like to thank the camp leaders for their support and encouragement on my journey to Christ"



FAMILY HOLIDAY SOUTH

We believe that God sees and knows each of us. At **Family Camp South**, participants explored the idea of 2020 Vision, examining questions like "How does God see us?" and "How do we see God?" Not only was the camp an opportunity to relax in a family environment, there were many encouraging stories to come out of the week. One mum who suffered from severe anxiety did not feel anxious throughout the week – even though she only knew one person there before camp. Another said that she felt so filled with the love of God after camp that she was immediately able to start blessing her friends when she got home. Praise God!



VOLUNTEER ISAAC:

growing in faith

East Devonport Holiday Happening volunteer, Isaac, was eager to share his experience of the event and encourage others to volunteer. He shares:

"Holiday Happening has been a time for us to show young people who Christ is, and that he is good. For Christian kids, it's been great for them to mix with others their age and similar beliefs, and for those not of faith, for them to see good Christian role models. I know a lot of kids from school, and it is awesome to be able to sit down in a comfortable environment and listen to their point view about God and who he is, which I wouldn't ordinarily get to do at school. This has impacted me personally with God because I can not only build up others but as a junior leader I am building my faith for the future".

Are you interested in volunteering as a leader or junior leader at one of our camps and missions next Summer? If so, contact us (see overleaf)!



sensational SUMMER OF MISSION

The impact of SU summer missions and camps on the continuing faith development of young people and families cannot be overstated. Through your partnership, attendees experienced the love of God. Read our reports left and below.

ST HELENS BEACH MISSION

Over 40 primary and high school children were involved in this year's **St Helens Beach Mission**. "Master Builder" was the theme, exploring the 7 days of creation, the fall and God's plan to step in and restore creation. We learned that in all situations you can trust God, and that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made".

We had a skit each day, exploring the building of a great city, all following one architect's plan. We started off with team members filling the roles but by the end had over 10 participants on stage performing the whole skit. They even did a rendition of it at the community barbecue.

One highlight was the percentage of local participants with over 10 from St Helens, a big increase from last year. One of them even waited in the library while we had a break over lunch, then came straight back for games. Another family were blessed with the left over sausages from the barbecue and the parents came back the next day to say thank you.

We are so thankful for the team that came and shared the love of Jesus with these precious kids and the wonderful support of the local churches in St Helens.



Check out more photos on our website at: www.sutas.org.au/camps

EAST DEVONPORT HOLIDAY HAPPENING

East Devonport Holiday Happening was a great time in 2020. We had a team of 20 leaders, looking after over 60 children, who really enjoyed a week of crafts, games, songs, and Bible stories. Some particular highlights were the table-sized castle which the K-P group made, seeing some of the older groups making and then showing off their own shields (personal crest included), and seeing some of our participants take new positions as junior leaders. All around, it was an awesome time!



STANLEY BEACH MISSION

Stanley Mission was again a huge success, with the theme of 'The Great Race'. Bibles were given, new friends were made, and God's love was shared. Although the weather was a mixed bag, the many varied activities brightened our days and nights with jumping castles, team devotions, craft, lasertag, a coffee shop, water fights, yummy snacks and talented presenters. Our mission ended with a movie night and the film, 'Overcomer', which was the perfect way to remind us of God helping us through the great race of life.

Many thanks to the people involved: visiting speakers and musicians, Lynden's Laser Tag, local churches, and a huge thanks to our super, fun team!



DIRECTOR'S DESK

gearing up for the future

The year 2020 has always had the feel of a new era: the notion that a fresh beginning starts now.

When you understand "the gospel" as an intricate story of God creating, man falling, Christ redeeming and a new people created, you start to see God's majestic plan for our lives and a vision for what he has in place for us.

Coming into 2020, Scripture Union Tasmania developed and implemented a clear plan and vision. Our plan is based upon the acronym 'GEARS'. We plan to be:

- **Growing** – building genuine relationships.
- **Engaging** – finding new ways of interacting and sharing the gospel, while encouraging others around us.
- **Attentive** – being aware of the needs of others. This goes beyond simply partnerships, to supporting and assisting in their growth.
- **Resourceful** – we are committed to providing resources, programs and training for Tasmanian churches and the community.
- **Sustainable** – all activities will be sustainable or have a long-term plan in which they meet this condition at a later point in time.

We have a clear vision for the future. At this time and with everything that is happening right now I challenge you to consider – what is your plan for 2020?

God has equipped us for times such as this. Now, more than ever before, Scripture Union needs people to help us serve others. In Matthew 9:36-38 we read:

When (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Where does God want you to be? Are you being called to be a part of this plan?

To all of those who have ventured with us so far, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for making 2019 the wonderful year that it was.

Chris Taylor
State Director
SU Tasmania



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Pray for the current Coronavirus situation – the global economic meltdown and recession facing Australia and other nations. Pray for wisdom for governments as they take deliberate steps to deal with the situation.
- Pray for God's protection for our chaplains, teachers and school communities during this challenging period. Pray for healing and comfort.
- Give thanks that the Summer 2019/2020 holidays was another memorable one in Tasmania with people being touched by God's love. Pray for ongoing fruitful ministry and opportunities for the remainder of 2020.

THANKS TO YOU!

A sincere thank you to many of you who gave to our appeal to support chaplaincy. With your help we raised **\$15,000** to enable us to strengthen chaplaincy across Tasmania.



MORE MINISTRY, MORE MISSION!

SU NATIONAL: 2020 UPDATE

SU Tasmania, together with other state movements, are working towards becoming a national organisation.

This isn't about a head office located somewhere on the mainland. It is about how we can do more localised ministry and effectively utilise the skills and abilities of our people. To help facilitate this, the Director of each state and territory in Australia have developed a framework that recognises the unique elements and DNA that makes us 'Scripture Union'.

Excluding factors outside our control, the SU Tas Council will sign an agreement to form a national movement on 1 October 2020. We expect that the transition to National will be gradual to ensure that the outcome matches the plan.

The most important reason for forming a national movement is to better serve Jesus in his mission with children, young people and families. **Some of the benefits for Tasmania include:**

1

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – PEOPLE

We have a range of missional challenges and opportunities and we have a need for volunteers to assist us in undertaking this work. This will also provide additional leadership training opportunities.

2

AN ABILITY TO EXPAND OUR OPERATIONS

We will be able to increase ministry by placing people into needy and developing communities.

3

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDS / CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

We are currently limited in our ability to access a range of fundraising opportunities.

4

RETAINING A SKILLED TEAM & SUCCESSION PLAN

Under National, Tasmania will retain its own identity. We have a strong and vibrant team and a clear vision for the future.

We invite you to send in your questions and we will endeavour to answer them.

CONNECT WITH US:



admin@sutas.org.au



facebook.com/sutasmania



instagram.com/su.tasmania

ABOUT US:

Scripture Union Tasmania is an interdenominational Christian organisation that works with local churches and communities to bring hope and God's love to children, young people and their families.