

## FAMILIES EXPERIENCING

# Jesus' Love

*Photos: children and families enjoying the activities at Family Camp North in January 2021*



**“To share Jesus’ love with families who desperately need it”. A few years ago we took stock of the aim and purpose of SU Family Camp North, and we came to the conclusion that this simple line summed it up.**

This year’s camp, held on the Australia Day weekend in January, had a record of 48 people, including 27 children with ages ranging from two to fourteen, and 10 leaders. The team was acutely aware that due to numbers this camp completely depended on the Lord’s strength and blessing. This year’s theme was “My Story Matters” which we explored in four different age groups and we learned how our personal story matters to Christ.

Once again the Fingal Valley camp site was a marvellous base for swimming, kayaking, river rafting, craft, low ropes obstacle course, water balloon volleyball, games, bush walking and swimming at a waterfall. But besides the fun, there were some particular



highlights which demonstrate how the camp is impacting participants with Jesus’ love:

- One evening, we ran our “Talent Show”. We were blown away by Nathan\*, an inspiring young man with special needs, who sang and danced to “Real Love” by Hillsong and got the whole audience rocking. Two mums also performed a duet called “Oceans Deep” in Chinese and English which was a real surprise because we weren’t aware that they were Christians yet.
- There were two families of which the father is currently in prison. It was heart-warming to see the Lord use our two male team members to be His hands and feet by being wonderful “dads” on loan. This became particularly clear when we saw how blessed, joyful and content the kids and mums looked.
- One of the mums, Amy\*, shared that it had been a miracle that she actually made it to camp because she had never done anything like that ever before and is too anxious to leave home.

It was only due to Irene, a grandmother who came with her grandson last year, that Amy had been encouraged enough to overcome her crippling anxieties.

- Amy also shared on one of the mornings of the camp, that she and her two sons had managed to lock themselves out of their cabin. Amy did not want to disturb the leaders as they had started meeting for devotions. So she contemplated what to do. After a number of ideas her 5 year old son, Ben\*, suggested just pushing against the locked door again. When Amy did so the door unexpectedly opened and Ben said: "See mum, Jesus will let us in when we are ready to go through the door!". Amy was crying when she told that story.
- After camp an eleven-year old camper, Keira\*, decided she really wants to support Scripture Union and help other people come to next year's camp. She came up with an idea entirely on her own to make bookmarks which she sells for gold coin donations. She enjoyed herself so much that she would love to bless others!

**There were many other stories at camp that we cannot fit in this report, but we know that this has only been possible through the Lord. Praise God for the fruit we are seeing through this ministry and for your support.**

\*Names changed for privacy reasons.

## SMALL CHURCH INSPIRED BY CHAPLAINS

**This year, on Schools Sunday, four chaplains and a SUPA club leader took part in the service at Claremont Baptist Church in Hobart.**

This church, though small in number, has supported School Chaplaincy since 2005. They currently prayerfully and financially support the Chaplaincy programs in five schools.

Christine (Collinsvale, Goodwood) led the service. Trish shared about the SUPA Club program at Collinsvale school. Chris shared about her new season as chaplain at Windermere Primary School. Naomi (Ogilvie) gave us an insight into working with teenage girls. Cameron (Elizabeth College) spoke about how he was able to serve the school community during COVID.

The service was inspiring as hearing these chaplains share these insights gave us hope for the future of our children.

**This little church was inspired to continue to support school chaplaincy. Perhaps your church can get on board (if they aren't already)?**



## EAST DEVONPORT HOLIDAY HAPPENING – 30 YEARS

**East Devonport Holiday Happening was a particularly special one this year as we celebrated 30 years of continuous ministry to the local Devonport community.**

It was not without challenges - at one stage we were doubting whether we would be able to run the program at all. Our traditional location used for most of our 30 years was unavailable, as was most of our previous team from 2020. It was looking quite grim even into December that a program was even possible. Yet we felt a strong encouragement to push ahead.

It was then that God began to answer our prayers. It turned out that the East Devonport Football Club, just next door, was available. We then unexpectedly received a phone call from Daniel, the Tasmanian Adventist Youth Director, to say they had a whole team of young people ready to go. And some of the churches volunteered again to provide morning tea. Praise God!

So we arrived on the first day of Holiday Happening excited, albeit a bit under-prepared, but ready to adapt "on the fly". Over the course of the program we had 48 primary aged children turn up, with at least 30 on each day, enjoying various activities, games, craft, drama, and music. The theme this year was 'Champions Challenge', using sporting themes to tell the story of Jesus based on Luke's Gospel. The team was fantastic, coming up with activities and games, plus some great worship and drama. We had a great mixture of kids coming from the local community, and were able to send kids home with Christian material and plenty of prayers and blessings.

So, a brilliant team effort! Special thanks to Pastors Daniel and David, the whole team and the support of local Devonport churches in this event. Despite the challenges, God showed on our 30th year that all things are possible through Him and blessed our time together.

## FAMILY FUN DAY (FAMILY HOLIDAY SOUTH)

This year's **Family Holiday South** at Dodges Ferry campsite in January had a different format. Instead of a sleepover camp, it was decided to run a **'Family Fun Day'**, which catered for families who would ordinarily be unable to afford the camp or attend for the entire time.

This year's camp theme was "Black and White": no matter who we are, we are loved and special to God. Activities included beach activities, family games, craft, banquet, teaching time, but still allowed an opportunity for families and friends to take a break from normal everyday routines. For one holiday maker, it was the first time in years that she could let her hair down and relax. Through this it was great to see her opening up and sharing her walk with God.



Jaco Classen, our Regional Coordinator in the South, reported that everyone seemed to enjoy the event, which was sponsored by approximately \$2000 in donations from local churches. Plans are underway to include similar days at different intervals throughout the year.

## CHAPLAINCY WEEK 2021:

### Friends care



**Chaplaincy Week is a time to highlight the vital and diverse work that is done by school chaplains in our community. This year Chaplaincy Week is from 23-30 May with the theme of 'Friends Care' and we would love for you to get involved.**

To help celebrate Chaplaincy Week, schools, churches and community groups will take the opportunity to support this program through activities such as community and fundraising events, our annual art and media competition, special church services and more.

**We will be again holding an online Chaplaincy Networking event on 25 May 2021. Here you can meet chaplains in your local area, and hear from guest speaker, Dr Jenny George, from Converge International. Log in details will be available soon. To find out more about Chaplaincy Week visit [www.sutas.org.au/chaplaincy-week](http://www.sutas.org.au/chaplaincy-week).**

# celebrating

## A GREAT SUMMER OF MISSION

Thank you for helping young people and families hear the gospel through our SU events over Summer. Be encouraged by our reports featured left and below.



Photos: Fun at East Devonport Holiday Happening

### STANLEY BEACH MISSION

**Stanley Beach Mission** was a big hit with the locals this year. Our theme was "Mission Possible", and with our new prominent position near the entry of the caravan park, we drew a lot more interest. It has been so exciting to build bridges into the community and to have friends who return year after year.

The program featured a multitude of afternoon activities and some powerful guest speakers and talented musicians at our coffee shops each evening. This year we hired a big marquee for the main parts of our program, and we were so thankful for such a sturdy shelter, as we had some damp and windy days. Laser tag was held at the Stanley Recreation Grounds and had record crowds, and we were thrilled to share with people why we were there, mentioning Jesus during each session.

Some of the highlights at Mission included a teenage boy, who said, "You know I used to think all this was a bit sketchy, but after listening to that 'dude' speak, and watching that movie (*Breakthrough*), I think I'm starting to get it." At another time we quietly shared over devotions about needing funds, and then two separate families came into the tent with donations to Beach Mission! On our last day, as another family left the park, a mother said at our church service in the tent, "Thankyou so much for looking after my son all week. I've wanted to tell him about Jesus but didn't know where to start, and it was too hard."

**We are so excited to see what God will do in coming years, as we completely place Stanley Beach Mission in His hands. A huge thanks to our volunteers and all who donated, visited and prayed. We truly value your support, and welcome new team members, anytime!**



### ST HELENS BEACH MISSION

This years' **St Helens Beach Mission** was a delightful experience again. Held at the Portland Hall, we kicked off with the theme "Noah, Super Hero Squad", exploring how God used the person of Noah to rescue people and achieve his purposes.

We had a skit each day, including participants and team, as well as singing, craft and games.

Although we were a little down on numbers, there was no shortage of fun and we ended the event by blessing the community through a free barbecue at the St Helens foreshore.

Give thanks for the ministry director, Barrie Cole: his energetic, enthusiastic and thoughtful leadership, and his faithful team. It was a pleasure to see the team members, including a local 25 year-old young woman who first connected with the program 20 years ago and she is still a part of it!

**We are so thankful as we shared the love of Jesus with these precious young people and the wonderful support of the local churches in St Helens.**



## OUTREACH TO THE LAUNCESTON COMMUNITY

The **SU Northern Suburbs Kids Games** began on Tuesday 9 March, a weekly afternoon program for 8 to 14 year-olds held at Heritage Forest in Invermay. The events went well, with great atmosphere and lots of food being consumed. Numbers grew from 20 people at the beginning to nearly double those numbers at the final Kids Games for the term. With four chaplains and two other leaders involved, we are looking forward to an exciting second term.



The intercultural outreach ministry, **Many Cultures One Team**, was held over the Easter Holidays at Newstead Baptist Church. This event was held after the successful pilot events held in association with Newstead Baptist and Summerhill Baptist last year. The concept is to minister to the children of the Hazara community and other ethnic groups in Launceston, running on Sunday afternoons in two of the Launceston suburbs. The program offers basketball clinics, games and craft, and afternoon tea.



Please pray that this ministry will embrace many families from different cultures and help them to feel that they belong, help the church to build connections within their neighbourhood, and bring many families to Christ.



## BUSH N' BISCUITS

This year's **Bush 'n Biscuits camp**, held in March, was particularly exciting as we were able to cater for young adults with special needs and enable them to discover God's marvellous creation. The group was diverse, aiming to explore Cradle Mountain. More news will be featured in coming publications.

## SU RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

Scripture Union has a wide range of resources for churches and community groups to equip them in their work with children. Some resources we're highlighting this month include:



### LIFEBUILDER

The *Lifebuilder* Study Guides provide biblically solid studies and thought-provoking questions for small groups. Topics include books and people of the Bible as well as topical issues.

### TIDDLYWINKS PICTURES & STORIES

*Tiddlywinks* is a range of flexible resources based on Bible stories for pre-school children and carers. Suitable for playgroups, carer and toddler groups, church children's groups and home.

Go to [sutas.org.au/resources](https://sutas.org.au/resources) to find out more.

## LEAVING A LEGACY

Did you know that you can leave a bequest to Scripture Union in your will? By leaving a bequest you provide opportunities for ongoing ministry, enabling future generations to hear about God's love for them.

Please consider including **SU Tas** in your will. Contact the office on 6244 8422 or email [admin@sutas.org.au](mailto:admin@sutas.org.au) for more information.



# YES, I would like to help give more young people and families hope for the future!

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$35  \$70  \$250  \$150  \$500  \$\_\_\_\_\_

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

## My mailing details:

**My gift is**  one-off  monthly  annual

Cheque/money order (payable to Scripture Union Schools Ministry Fund. Enclosed)

Credit Card  Visa  Mastercard

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Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like sign up for SU News via email**

Help save on mailing costs and help the environment. Fill in email details above.

**I would like further information on:**

Volunteering with SU Tas

Remembering SU Tas in my will

Regular prayer updates



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## SU CAMPS & EVENTS 2021

*For Your Diary*

### TUESDAYS, WEEKLY FROM TERM 2

#### NORTHERN SUBURBS KIDS GAMES

Free weekly after school fun, games and food for family and friends in a Christian environment at **Heritage Forest, Invermay**, every Tuesday from 4pm.



SUN 23 MAY – SUN 30 MAY

#### CHAPLAINCY WEEK

Chaplaincy Week is an opportunity for schools and churches to celebrate the work of SU Tas school chaplains working across the state and making a positive difference in local communities.



6 JUNE

#### BOOTS N ALL\* - South Arm Convict Trail

A family friendly hike. Explore this historical route with beautiful views across the Derwent and beaches at either end. For more details visit [bootsnall.sutas.org.au](http://bootsnall.sutas.org.au).



3 JULY

#### BOOTS N ALL\* – Snug Falls

A family friendly hike. A short walk to a beautiful waterfall above "an idyllic river bed" – perfect for a winter outing! For more details visit [bootsnall.sutas.org.au](http://bootsnall.sutas.org.au).



9–12 JULY

#### DCYPHER COMPUTER CAMP

DCYPHER is a camp for **Years 9-12** who love their computer a little too much! The camp involves gaming, activities, talks about life and lots of other good stuff. Held at **Blue Lagoon campsite**, Dodges Ferry.



10–13 JULY

#### SUPA SOUTH PRIMARY CAMP

SUPA South is a movie-themed camp for those in **Years 4-6** held at the **Orana Camp Site**, Roches Beach.



25–28 SEPTEMBER

#### SUPA NORTH PRIMARY CAMP

SUPA North is a camp for students in **Years 4-6** held at **Carnacoo, Paper Beach**. It includes lots of fun with games, adventures, challenges, hearing about Jesus and exciting discoveries!



17 OCTOBER

#### BOOTS N ALL\* – Tamar Island

A Sunday afternoon stroll to a peaceful wetlands area on the very edge of Launceston city. For more details visit [bootsnall.sutas.org.au](http://bootsnall.sutas.org.au)



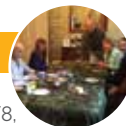
We would love for you to get involved in our events through attending, volunteering or support. If you would like to find out more please contact us at [admin@sutas.org.au](mailto:admin@sutas.org.au) or speak to our Ministry Coordinator, Jenny Cowley on 03 6244 8422.

\* Please note this represents only a selection of BNA walks. For further walks go to [bootsnall.sutas.org.au](http://bootsnall.sutas.org.au).

### SATURDAYS, MONTHLY 8.00–9.30AM

#### NORTHERN PRAYER BREAKFASTS

A gathering in Launceston for encouragement and prayer for SU Ministries and beyond. At various venues on 15/5, 19/6, 17/7, 14/8, 11/9, 9/10, 13/11, 11/12. See [sutas.org.au](http://sutas.org.au) for further details.



TUE 25 MAY 7PM

#### SCC NETWORKING EVENT (ONLINE)

An online event for the local communities and interested parties to connect with chaplains and find out how they can be involved in supporting this service. Contact [admin@sutas.org.au](mailto:admin@sutas.org.au) for details.



7 JUNE

#### REGIONAL DESSERT & PRAYER NIGHTS

An opportunity for SU office staff, chaplains and key ministry volunteers to connect in prayer and focus on regional ministry. Venues and further details TBA.



3–5 JULY

#### SUPA & BEYOND CAMP

SUPA & Beyond is a camp for those in **Years 7-9** held at **Carnacoo, Paper Beach**. It is, aimed at young people who have previously attended SUPA Primary camps.



10 JULY

#### BOOTS N ALL\* – North West Waterfalls

Drive and walk to a selection of beautiful waterfalls in the hinterland of the northwest, and venturing further south. For more details visit [bootsnall.sutas.org.au](http://bootsnall.sutas.org.au).



18 SEPTEMBER

#### BOOTS N ALL\* – Evercrech Reserve

A family friendly hike. See *The White Knights* – spectacular tall gum trees on this North-East reserve. Family day and BYO barbecue. For more details visit [bootsnall.sutas.org.au](http://bootsnall.sutas.org.au).



6–9 OCTOBER

#### ELEMENT HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

Element is a camp for those in **Years 7-10**, held at **Carnacoo, Paper Beach**. The camp is designed to help young people build teamwork, overcome challenges and explore God's Word.



OCTOBER (DATES & VENUES TBA)

#### SU CELEBRATION DINNERS

SU Dinners are an opportunity to connect regionally, to celebrate SU ministry with young people and help raise support.



# FROM THE MINISTRY COORDINATOR

# Hope FOR THE FUTURE

Having recently celebrated the risen Saviour at Easter, it is timely to reflect upon the revolutionary nature of the resurrection. Acknowledging the reality that Jesus' sacrifice for sin has been effective and the reality that we serve a living Lord, we can truly recognise that the resurrection changed the future of our world. This radical event is the basis of hope, no matter what situation we, our organisation or our times may be in. The risen Christ is the hope for the future.

And it is this hope that we seek to share in our many ministries across the state. We have been truly blessed to run all of our summer events in a relatively COVID-free environment. From our largest Family Camp North ever, to a new look Family Fun Day in the south, we have been able to do what SU does best: bringing hope through building ever stronger relationships with young people and families in need of a supportive community. We have built new ministries in partnership with local churches and given new life to some long-standing events. When I dropped into our East Devonport Holiday Happening in January,

it was encouraging to see a solid team who had overcome some significant hurdles so that they could share God's love with the local children.

With our merger into a national movement, we are well placed to build these ministries and more. Our staff have been very busy engaging in the merger process at all levels and we are excited by the potential that this will offer.

And in all of this, it is you, our supporters and volunteers who make it all possible. Although we will soon become SU Australia, we will continue to be a 'volunteer' organisation. Thank you for your commitment to SU Tasmania and may God bless you as we work together to share God's love and bring 'Hope for the Future'.

**Jenny Cowley**  
Ministry Coordinator  
SU Tasmania



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Give thanks for the impact of the summer camps and missions on participants and volunteers. Pray that this will help them grow in faith.
- Pray for Chaplaincy Week – may God use this week to make communities more aware of the vital role of the chaplaincy service and strengthen chaplains who need encouragement.
- Pray for the ministry directors and teams involved in planning the upcoming winter camps. Pray for more volunteers and for registrations to fill quickly.
- Pray for our upcoming end of financial year appeal, that many supporters across Tasmania will respond generously to reach more young people with the Good News.

## THANKS TO YOU!

A sincere thank you to many of you who gave to our appeal to support chaplaincy. With your help we raised **\$17,750** to enable us to strengthen chaplaincy across Tasmania.



## SU NATIONAL: 2021 UPDATE

## SCRIPTURE UNION AUSTRALIA APPOINTS FIRST CEO

Exciting news has come from Scripture Union Australia Chair, Alison Hunter. The national board have appointed our first Scripture Union Australia CEO. **Peter James**, former CEO of SU QLD and SUA Transition Management Executive, has been appointed to this new position.

Peter has been instrumental in guiding the process toward SU being an Australia-wide movement. He is a spiritual leader who has a heart after God and a passion to lead SUA into the future.

The SU Tasmania Council wholeheartedly support Peter's appointment as SUA CEO. Our Council has been journeying over the past four years through prayer and collaboration across the nation, as we seek to form a national Scripture Union movement. This is our opportunity to be part of what God is doing across Australia and to realise our dream to see our ministries become stronger through the national vision that:

**'Every child, young person and family in Australia has opportunities of transforming experiences with Jesus and a life-long journey of discipleship and service.'**

The new SUA Group CEO has been appointed to lead the national movement from 1 June 2021, when we have become part of the national SU movement. Before that date, the National Board has asked Peter to continue to serve us all in helping us through the merger process. The national merger is about seeking to grow our mission in all parts of our state and country. We will continue to have local leadership, but as part of a national movement with all the support and resources that this will entail.

Faith in Australia is in decline in the younger age groups, and we feel called by God to share the Good News more effectively. We believe that joining resources together nationally can enhance that.

We think the merger will strengthen our mission in Tasmania, under local leadership and a model of building upon what we already have and the heritage of faithful Tasmanians over past decades.

Our new national movement will work with churches to serve the broader body of Christ, partnering for ministry, and sharing training and resources to support their mission. As a national movement, we plan to help more Australians meet God daily through Bible reading and prayer.

We stand on the threshold of a defining moment in Scripture Union's history in Australia, and we encourage you to pray. We'll let you know more as the merger progresses.

**Helen Ridley**  
Chair – SU Tasmania Council

## CONNECT WITH US:



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## 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.