

Valuing the past JOURNEYING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Photos: young people
enjoy activities at our
SUPA & Beyond camp in
July 2021

A key feature of Scripture Union's history has been the willingness to take up new ministry opportunities in reaching out to young people and families. We look forward to journeying with you in an exciting next step for SU.

Over 150 years ago Josiah Spiers, SU's founder, saw a great opportunity on his seaside holiday in Wales to share the gospel with children playing on the beach. It was at a time in England when children were not considered essential to the life of the church, but Josiah recognised that children needed to be nurtured in their faith. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Josiah started a new and exciting way of reaching children with the gospel and the story of Scripture Union began.

100 years later that vision inspired locals in Tasmania. They saw a great opportunity to launch new programs with the aim of reaching out to their neighbours—particularly young people



and their families—with the Good News. Beach missions (CSSM), camps and ISCF high school groups were started. By 1967, Scripture Union of Tasmania Inc. was officially born, with our first General Secretary, Ron Buckland, arriving in 1970.

Throughout our 50-year history, many in the SU Tasmania family have been inspired to take up new opportunities. Ron pioneered the Christian Option Program in Tasmania in 1975, helping school students consider the Christian faith. Beach missions became suburban missions in Launceston and Hobart. We commenced Tasmanian bushwalking experiences in 1981, that still exist in the form of our statewide Boots N' All ministry today. In the 1980s we commenced many unique and varied camps for the disadvantaged, the sporty, the adventurous and creative. In the late 1990s we then took up the opportunity of commencing school chaplaincy services, and that still continues to grow from strength to strength, along with our other ministries.

Fast forward to 2015. Many among SU leadership and Councils across Australia had sensed a calling from God to consider a new opportunity - that we could potentially be more effective in our outreach if our state-wide movements formally joined together. And so, it was committed to prayer. After a four-year journey of prayer, planning, discussion and dreaming with you and the rest of our SU family, that reality has come to be.

On 1st June 2021, Scripture Union Australia officially came into existence. Seven SU state and territory entities together with ChildSafe merged into a united SU Australia movement, with Peter James as Group CEO. SU Tasmania is now part of the South Zone along with South Australia, Victoria and ACT with Ana Davy as our new Group Director. Our acting State Director, Jenny Cowley, is now Regional Manager for Tasmania, and Stephanie, James and Jaco are now Field Development Managers in their respective Tasmanian districts. All other SU Tasmania staff are working as members of national teams in their area of expertise but still participate as members of the local Tasmanian team.

As we move into this new season of SU in Tasmania, we have started celebrating as we look back with pride at our history to which all of our volunteers, pray-ers, supporters, staff and Council members have contributed. Recently, SU Tasmania Council members gathered for a lunch in Launceston (see above right) and we will be holding a number of other events throughout the state that we would like you - as our SU family - to be a part of (see right for the Northern event on 4 September).

The story of SU Tasmania is one which has been marked by creative ministries, seeking to give children, young people and families the opportunity to know who Jesus is, and how to have a relationship with God through Him. We are thankful for the support of people like you who have made this happen. As we look back at our heritage, we can now look forward to an exciting future in partnership with our fellow travellers across Australia. Together we are seeking to enhance an already strong local presence in Tasmania and reach even more in our community with the Good News. Please pray for us as we look to do so.

Helen Ridley - outgoing SU Tas Chair

THANKS TO YOU!

SU Tas would like to thank you for your gifts in our recent EOFY Appeal where we reached 95% of our \$90K target. This is a tremendous response and will enable us to continue 'planting seeds for the gospel' across Tasmania.

SU TAS COUNCIL & FORMER DIRECTORS REMINISCE

In May, SU Tasmania Council members gathered for a lunch in Launceston to reminisce and celebrate our involvement in SU Tasmania.

There was a lovely turn-out which included two past State Directors and fourteen past and recent Council members. Several of those attending shared fond memories of their experiences whilst on Council. Bruce and Deb French's hut on Mt Roland featured with its remoteness and steep driveway. So too did Leith Cowley's 'special' soup - which apparently another Council member tried to imitate with less than appetising results!

Personal anecdotes were shared throughout the luncheon with the 'older' members appreciating the opportunity to remember their time on Council. Outgoing SU Tas Council chair, Helen Ridley, expresses her thanks to the entire SU family for their support - "Thank you for your support in the past ... and thank you for your ongoing support into the future".



COMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Celebrating the past **EMBRACING THE FUTURE**

In 2021 we will be holding celebration events as we look back at some of the wonderful memories of SU ministry in Tasmania and embrace our future together as part of Scripture Union Australia. Bring your favourite SU photos and stories to share!



SU TAS CELEBRATION BREAKFAST & CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL - NORTH

Join us for a **special breakfast and then children's celebration festival** including jumping castle, face painters, kindy gym, live music, sausage sizzle and all-in games.

When: Saturday 4 September
Breakfast: 8am-10.30am
Children's Festival: 10.30-12pm
Where: Punchbowl Christian Centre
Tickets: Breakfast \$10 per adult. Free ages 0-16 (Children's Festival following is free)

To book in, visit www.sutas.org.au/celebrations

SU FUNDRAISING DINNER:

Making space **IN A DIGITAL AGE**



Are you busy and reactive? Struggling to focus? Craving time for relationships?

We would like to invite our community to this year's fundraising dinner at the Royal Yacht Club in Sandy Bay on 1 November, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets \$50.

Our keynote speaker will be lifecoach and author Daniel Sih. He will be speaking about how we need to reframe our thinking and practices around the use of digital technology in order to be healthy, happy and productive. Come along for a great meal and entertainment and hear more about SU ministries across the state.

To book in, visit www.sutas.org.au/dinners

Friends care

TAS CHAPLAINCY WEEK 2021



Photos 1-3: Pocket Hearts of Kindness at St Helens. 4. Cover of Christine's Book. 5. School chaplain Estella with Marnie.

CHAPLAINCY WEEK IN TAS - YOU'RE BRINGING HOPE TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Thank you for helping to celebrate **Chaplaincy Week** from 23–30 May by showing how much you care for your local school, and the contribution that chaplains make to the whole community. Here are just a few of the fun activities that you and SU helped make happen:

ART & MEDIA COMPETITION

Marnie Lyne in Year 2 at Campbell Town District High School was chosen as a winner for a recent art competition undertaken by many schools in Tasmania and was the delighted recipient of a \$50 book voucher that was provided by SU Tasmania. The theme for 2021 was "Friends". School chaplain, Estella, presented her with her winner's certificate and voucher at a school assembly. Marnie was surprised and pleased at gaining the award and was able to select two books from Petrarch's Bookstore in Launceston with her voucher.

POCKET HEARTS OF KINDNESS

The **local chaplaincy committee in St Helens** decided to give out more than 550 handmade felt pocket kindness hearts at St Helens District High School. These hearts were based on the original idea from 1000hearts.com.au, which has since spread Tasmania-wide and now world-wide. The hearts come with a little statement, "This pocket heart has been lovingly hand-made as part of 1000 Hearts,

to share and celebrate kindness. Keep it close and give it a squeeze when you need a reminder of love, hope, courage and comfort."

WRITING CLUB FORMED

School chaplain Christine works with Dunalley Primary. Her role is varied: supporting Breakfast Club, working in classrooms, liaising with parents and connecting with students in the playground. The Principal, on realising that Christine was and is a published author, asked Christine to work with a small group of more motivated senior students in a writers' workshop. The Principal wrote a glowing article in the school newsletter, saying, "Chaplaincy can come in many forms; it is about building relationships with young people, guiding them in their choices, being a listening ear, and an adult they can go to for support. At Dunalley, we are lucky that all these qualities are rolled into one (in our school chaplain)".

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Other highlights of the week included trivia nights, afternoon teas and BBQs held across the state, that helped to raise support and awareness of school chaplaincy. **We are so excited to see what God is doing through our chaplaincy service in Tasmanian schools. We truly value your support in this program!**

BOOTS N' ALL - NOW ACROSS THE STATE

Our Boots N' All program continues to grow strongly and has now expanded its program to include all regions of the state. The walks are varied and interesting for all ages, exploring God's stunning creation in Tasmania under the guidance of experienced Christian leaders, including time for spiritual reflection and input.

One of our recent walks was a waterfall tour in the north west of the state with around 20 people joining in. Some 'locals' were surprised to find out about waterfalls they never knew existed! To find out more about hikes in your area, go to bootsnall.sutas.org.au



PRAY FOR OUR UPCOMING CAMPS

We have just finished our Winter season of camps and we will feature some stories from these events in our next SU News (Spring). Please be in prayer for our coming camps below.

Element Camp

Years 6-10, Weymouth
25-28 Sep 2021

SUPA North

Years 4-6, Paper Beach
25-28 Sep 2021

Taking On Goliath

Years 6-8, Location TBA
29 Oct – 1 Nov 2021



Yes! TO MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Receiving an invitation can be exciting; something to look forward to. The Bible has been described as God's invitation to us.

It certainly gives us something to look forward to. In fact it shows us that this world, this time and this life are not all there is. God is at work, often in very profound ways and God invites us to join him in that work through faith in Jesus. Each time we open the Bible with a young person on an SU program, God is inviting them to say 'yes' to Jesus, to live life to the full with and for him.

In joining with other SU movements across Australia, we say 'yes' to more opportunities to open God's Word with children, young people and families. Our vision stays the same – 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.

Working with churches, we will continue to help children, young people and families experience God's love and Good News on camps, in schools and in local communities. The ministry that you have invested your time, prayer and finances in continues and we're so glad that you're a part of it.

This is a season of change and as Helen Ridley, our outgoing SU Tas chair, has outlined in her article, Peter James is the Group CEO for SU Australia and Ana Davey is our Group Director of the South Zone. We hope you will get the opportunity to meet them both before the end of 2021. The SU Tasmania staff team are finding their place in the new national structure. Kathy Schlenk (pictured right), our Chaplaincy Administrator, has decided to retire after six years in the role and we pray for God's continued blessing as she serves him in other areas. I thank Kathy for her support and diligence to her role over the years. In many ways she has been the oil that has kept the SU Tas wheel turning so she will be greatly missed.

As we look to the future, we recognise that these are exciting times. I invite you to continue to serve, pray and give generously to SU Tasmania as we join with God in ministry across our state. Pray for our future as a national movement and for children, young people and families to experience God's love and Good News through the ministry of SU Australia.

Jenny Cowley
Regional Manager
SU Tasmania



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Pray for our newly-formed ministries including the Northern Kids Games and Many Cultures One Team events (more details and photos in our next SU News).
- Pray for those who lead primary school lunchtime groups (SUPA Clubs) across Tas – pray they would be able to encourage the children, and help them to grow in faith.
- Give thanks for those who support SU financially and in other ways. Thank God for their faithfulness.
- Pray for the leadership of SU in Tasmania and across Australia – for wisdom and guidance in strategic ministry planning, and the ability to respond well to relevant needs.
- Pray for Kathy, our outgoing Chaplaincy Administrator, for God's blessings in her retirement.
- Thank God for the way he is using SU and all its activities to bring the Good News of Jesus to all people.



SU ACROSS AUSTRALIA: STORIES OF IMPACT

SU CHAPLAIN WENDY GAVE SAARAH A SENSE OF BELONGING: QLD

When Sihaam and her young family migrated to a small North Queensland community from South Africa in 2013, they worked hard to integrate into a new and foreign culture.

SU Chaplains like **Wendy** are trained and equipped to journey with families like Sihaam's. In addition to being qualified, Wendy sees each and every person she supports through God's eyes – and that makes supporting families like Sihaam's all the more special.

Wendy worked with Sihaam's daughters **Saarah** (Year 4) and her sister from their first day of school. She says, "There were some teasing and bullying issues. I made sure [the girls] knew I was always there if they needed a safe person to talk to."

For Sihaam, she knew her daughters would face challenges walking into their

new environment. "When my girls first arrived at school their accents were a bit different and they were practising Muslims. Whenever a terrorist incident was on the news, my girls would feel the repercussions".

Sihaam continues, "Despite our different beliefs [to Wendy], we formed a beautiful friendship and my girls felt comfortable with her as well."

Saarah is also very thankful for the support she received. "What I found really amazing was that even though she is a Christian chaplain, she went above and beyond for kids of other faith backgrounds like me."



FUN AND FAITH: WA

Scripture Union's **Young Adults Ningaloo (YAN) discipleship camp** in Western Australia

offers young people aged 18–25 an opportunity to enjoy God's creation, grow in their faith, and have a lot of fun too.

More than 80 young people took part in last summer's camp, and expectations are high for another great event this summer. YAN director, Matt McNulty, says he continues to be blessed by the impact the camp has on young people each year.

"We have a lot of fun, but we also have some great discussions through morning devotions, Hope Groups and the Gospel Circle each evening. You can really see God at work, challenging hearts and we had some great in-depth conversations," says Matt.

Like many Scripture Union events and ministries throughout Australia, YAN is yet another great example of the local community investing into the lives of local young people.

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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.