



Making Space FOR WHAT REALLY MATTERS



Scripture Union often works closely with young people and families who are very busy and active. But how far is too far? In our digital age, what does a healthy, holistic lifestyle look like?

Life is busy and cluttered. There is more information, more emails, more tasks, and more decisions to get through everyday than ever before. Our young people are often distracted, sometimes anxious and finding it hard to stand still in our digitally saturated world, at a time in their lives when there is increased emotional reactivity and sensitivity. The makers of smartphone apps like Facebook and Instagram know this and are pleased to fulfill their appetite for anything but stillness.

The older ones amongst us are not immune. It is so easy to fill our lives with distractions such as work, the latest Netflix show, home projects, or mindless scrolling on the internet. Regardless, the quality of our lives – particularly our spiritual lives – may be in decline as we jump from one thing to another.

A great example of the consequences of busyness is showcased in Luke 10:38-42, where Martha complained to Jesus about Mary when she was overwhelmed by the preparations that had to be

made. Yet Jesus reminded her of what was important – spending time with him. Perhaps sometimes we resemble Martha more than Mary, and rush around doing “what needs to be done”. Yet the COVID-19 pandemic in the past year forced us to be uncomfortable – to be patient with external factors we cannot control, and to slow down in our fast-paced world. Perhaps this has been a reminder to look upwards and outwards rather than focusing on ourselves and what we want to achieve.

This is not to say that being busy or digital technology in itself is always unhelpful. We need to train ourselves in our time-starved, digital age, to intentionally ‘unplug’ from things that distract us and have more space for what really matters. SU’s dcypher camp for example, has time for young people to engage in computer-based activities, but also creates intentional space for outdoor and reflective activities to focus on spiritual health.

Imagine if you had a little more space each day – what would you do with that time? Whether you are younger, work with young people, or are older, we would love you to find out more about this

topic and come along to our Fundraising Dinner. Not only will you have a great meal, entertainment and be supporting SU's work with young people, you will be find out about making space and finding deep rest in your life. If you don't have time to come along, you probably need to!

Daniel Sih is this year's kenote speaker at our FutureMakers Dinner on 15 November (at 6.30pm, note the change of date) at the Royal Yacht Club. He is the co-founder of productivity consulting group, Spacemakers, and is also the team leader of Together Church, Hobart. Daniel is married to Kylie, has three children and compassionately keeps 15 noisy chickens who rarely lay eggs.



SU VOLUNTEER:

My Epiphany

My name is Warren and I have been involved in leading and directing SU camps for over 10 years. I often think about "Why do I keep doing SU camps?" and I had a bit of an epiphany during the last SUPA & Beyond camp I directed in July.

During one of our morning devotions, I read from Psalm 100, "Forever the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations". When I read this verse, I was struck by the fact that God is forever good and faithfulness to his Creation continues through ALL generations.

When we lead on camps, especially if we are return leaders, we have the awesome opportunity to see God at work through generations. There is the age generation from campers to leaders, but there is also the "camp" generation, when the child returns each year for many reasons, but one of them being that they got "something" from the last camp.

Each time that child returns is a new generation. They are a year older: they have grown physically, emotionally, and mentally. At SU we have the wonderful opportunity to help them grow spiritually.

God is faithful to these young people through every generation they attend camp – be it one or many. My epiphany was not that I get to help create that place for a generation, but that I get to be "there" when that generation happens. My desire is to see the next "camp generation" equipped and prepared for hearing the voice of God in their lives.

Would you like to be an SU volunteer - as a leader or provide support? Then please contact us today (see overleaf)!

REGENERATING LIFE - NORTHERN KIDS GAMES

The SU Northern Kids Games is an initiative that has been encouraged and enabled by City Baptist Church in Launceston who saw a need for outreach in the northern suburbs of the city.

Besides encouragement, joy and positive relationships, the church was looking for ways to share the gospel with young people in a way that is accessible and ultimately provides hope in often dire situations.

The Games were first held in Heritage Forest in Invermay, Launceston, in glorious late summer sunshine. The Forest used to be Launceston's city refuse dump, but it has been raised from death to life as a place for people to enjoy outdoor activity and the regeneration of oxygen-creating trees. In a similar manner, the life regenerating work of Scripture Union and its volunteer teams can be seen in tangible ways with this program.



As winter descended, we moved from the park to the gym of Ravenswood Heights Primary School. The school generously offered their gym for the program and we met there after school every Tuesday afternoon. Perhaps the hot dogs and donuts were the big drawcard for the children, but to see the joy on their faces as the games and activities began was heart-warming. It was also wonderful to observe some parents sheepishly join in the games and enjoy very special times with their children.

BEARING GOSPEL FRUIT

As we move into Spring and back to Heritage Forest, the program continues to bear fruit:



- We close each afternoon with a short faith thought which leads the children to get to know Jesus and consider their Creator.
- There are three girls from another local primary school who come each week and their enthusiasm especially for the Bible story time is infectious.
- One of the volunteer team members is an outstanding young woman who, step by step, has clearly abandoned her comfort zone and her face radiates the person of Jesus.

We have been fortunate that local children and young people have come in from the streets and school grounds to join in our unashamedly Christian program.

Chris Brooks - Northern Kids Games Director

REACHING THE FRINGES - MANY CULTURES ONE TEAM

It takes courage to step into a new place. Even more so for folk who don't have English as a first language. SU has taken up this opportunity to reach out with God's love to people from other cultures and help them feel part of the community.

The Northern Field Development Manager, Stephanie Sebastian, asked me a while back, "What do you think is a contemporary, relevant need for SU to focus on?" I replied, "Well, not everyone wants to or can afford to go on a camp. It would be great if there was some fun activity for the whole family, especially for those cultures on the fringes of our society such as the Hazaras." I was particularly thinking of those from a refugee background who don't, for many reasons, do very much over the holidays.

Before I knew it, Stephanie had suggested that sports ministry might be a vehicle to engage young people from a variety of cultures, contacted two churches with basketball facilities and Many Cultures One Team was born. Held at Newstead Baptist Church over the Easter holidays and at Summerhill Baptist Church in July, it was a

great way for these churches to reach out in their communities.

The older children learned basketball skills and let off energy on the court. The younger children played games like, "On the bank, In the river". There were also crafts and an afternoon tea, but the most important thing was the attention given by the interested volunteers. Parents stayed throughout the program and were given personal attention. There was no direct evangelistic content but the hospitality, love and service extended reflected Kingdom values and in God's time may lead to further openings.

All the children asked when the next one will be, and so we are hoping to organise another one this Spring. It is a blessing that God allows us as Christians to act on Jesus' teaching to love our neighbour and give a glimpse of His unconditional love to people who don't know Him, yet.

Marylou Townsend - MCOT Director





Photos: Indoor and outdoor activities at SUPA Camp South.

Going for gold!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SUPA SOUTH

It was great to be able to run SUPA Camp South again this year. During the July school holidays a dedicated team of leaders spent several days at Orana campsite with our campers. This year the numbers were smaller, only 10 campers, but that didn't stop us from having a great time together.

Our camp theme was "Go for Gold", linking in with the Olympics. We kicked off the camp with an official opening ceremony, complete with an Olympic flame, and finished up with a closing ceremony that included parents and families.

During the camp we spent time learning about Paul, his conversion, teaching and journey, as he ran the race for God. There were also various activities including a visit to Bounce, mini-Olympics, extreme games and an afternoon spent on the beach.

All of our campers were attending their first SUPA camp this year with a couple being on their first camp away from home. Despite this we had a great group of kids who bonded well together and engaged with the program. After camp we received positive feedback from several parents about how much their child enjoyed it and letting us know they were looking forward to next year's camp.

Thank you to all of the leaders who put their hand up to be on team. We had a few new leaders who joined in on their first SUPA camp. It was wonderful to see how everyone got involved and supported each other as well as the campers. As always, we were greatly blessed to be involved in SUPA camp and to see the work that God does through these programs.

Sam Whittle - SUPA South Director

CONNECTING TEENS ON THE EDGE - DCYPHER

What a spectacular camp we had in July! Dcypher 2021, a computer-based camp for teenagers at the Blue Lagoon campsite in Dodges Ferry, drew another big crowd this year. In 2021 the event involved computer games such as Mario Kart, outdoor activities, board games, dressing up, and life-challenging discussions. Some of the leaders shared their highlights from the camp:

- ★ **"Getting one camper more involved after seeing them isolated really helped them enjoy the camp and break the ice."**
- ★ **"One of the campers in my discussion group said nothing in the first session, and at the last session opened up a lot about identity and self-doubt, which helped leaders to be encouraging in that area."**
- ★ **"I think the biggest highlight was seeing people get into 'Empty Epsilon': the room was ablaze with teams talking to each other, co-ordinating attacks, teamwork, and laughter."**



Dcypher helped reach teens, who are often not attracted to usual camping programs, exactly where they were – discovering more and more that God really does love them.

Bryce Smith - dcypher Director

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!



NORTH WEST CELEBRATION AFTERNOON TEA

Join us for a special afternoon tea and entertainment:

Saturday 9 October, 2-4pm

Lifhouse Church, Main Rd, Wivenhoe

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

FROM OUR REGIONAL MANAGER

Yes! TO MORE OPPORTUNITIES

At the recent *Celebrating the Past: Embracing the Future* event in Launceston, I was struck by the warmth of the fellowship and conversation amongst the large group that had gathered.

I don't know the reasons that motivated people to come out for a shared breakfast. It may have been their loyalty to SU Tasmania, or their strong connection with Stephanie, the local Field Development Manager, or something else. But despite the motivation, we all gathered in relationship to celebrate and reminisce together.

Relationship is what matters and it is key to all that we do in SU ministries. As you read of the teens who joined with other gamers at dcypher to have fun and valuable conversations, the families who gather weekly at the Northern Kids Games for fun and interaction, the Hazara families who connect through food and sport with the local church at Many Cultures One Team, the children who made new friends at SUPA South camp, or the teens

at SUPA & Beyond who return each year because something significant happens for them when they do, you will notice that relationship is essential to all of these ministries.

The big story of the Bible is about God seeking relationship with his people. 'I will meet and speak with you ... and I will live among you as your God' (Exodus 29:42-45). This is what matters to God; worship and communion with his people. And this is what motivates all of our ministries; meeting in relationship and introducing children, young people and their families to our God of relationship.

I encourage you to join with us in the North West at our *Celebrating the Past: Embracing the Future* event on 9 October or in the south at our Fundraising Dinner on 15 November to celebrate together the important work that God continues to accomplish through SU Tasmania.

Jenny Cowley
Regional Manager
SU Tasmania



THANKS FOR CELEBRATING WITH US!

Over 100 breakfast guests celebrated with us at our Northern "*Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future*" event and enjoyed an engaging program including an insightful SU TAS history video, a message from CEO Peter James and an interactive photo display.

Jennifer Meadows, who together with her husband David, celebrated their 60th anniversary of joint SU history, shared her experience of SU. Boots N' All have reached the milestone of their 40th anniversary in 2021 and it was a privilege to have David Harvey, one of the founding pioneers, among us. The blast from the past was complete with many faithful SU volunteers present such as Judy and Wes Carpenter, who organised one of the first SU camps in Tasmania on Maria Island, Geoff Powell who directed the Beach Mission in Ulverstone many years ago, as well as Kay Hunter, a former SU Tas State Director.

In his address, David Strong helping us embrace the future by expertly justifying the hope we have in Christ and passionately reminding us of the great commission to share this hope for the future with others.

A special shout out to our volunteer committee who made the breakfast possible - Helen van der Vlist, Helen and Phil Boughton, and Kate Barnett - as well as Gabi Rogers-Smith who blessed us with beautiful music and the SU band that joined her for the finale.



Young people enjoying the Children's Festival



David Strong, Jenny Cowley and Kate Barnett and the SU Tas history wall display

Immediately after the breakfast, the celebration continued with the SU Children's Celebration and the kids had lots of fun with a jumping castle, kinder gym, face painting, games, a sausage sizzle (thanks to City Mission), and giant Zorb Balls. A highlight was the puppet show: Thanks to Ben and Jess Allen from Swansea who helped the children learn about the ultimate celebration we will join with Jesus.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Pray for our upcoming Summer holiday camps and missions as teams come together and are making preparations.
- Pray that our Fundraising Dinner on 15 November will be well attended and that people will take the opportunity to support our work and invest in children's lives.
- We are holding a retreat in October for SU chaplains and field staff. Pray for refreshment, quality reflection and prayer times, and good opportunities to connect with one another.



HELPING KIDS FIGHT HUNGER

My name is **Michelle Lovell** and I am the school chaplain at Glen Huon Primary, Cygnet Primary and Clarence High. I go to **Food Bank** every Wednesday and fill my car up with food for schools. Each week Food Bank offers something different and if you are adaptable and think outside the square you can use these resources that they have. I also collect food for Huonville Primary as my grandchildren go there too.



The last couple of weeks there have been an abundance of strawberries. I have been washing them and giving them out at Breakfast Club. At Clarence High we went one step further and made 20 litres of strawberry jam so nothing would be wasted, and used this at Breakfast Club.

The students that assisted were very helpful in giving back to others and happy that it benefited all schools. I am very blessed to be supported by Food Bank and the schools that I work with.



SU ACROSS OZ

On Saturday 28 August SU in the **ACT** hosted a **Children and Youth Ministry Training Day** and it was a big success! Ordinarily this would be held in person, but opening up this online to a national audience meant that many more participants (198 people in total) were able to come along and be encouraged, trained and equipped to do ministry. We're encouraged by how we are now using our resources nationally to bless each other. Praise God!

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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.