

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

YOUR SUPPORT

MEANS CHAPLAINS LIKE GRANT CAN SUPPORT KIDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

CHAPLAINCY IS MORE THAN A JOB. It's a critical role for the wellbeing of students of all ages, and their families. School chaplain Grant Maynard recalls the humbling and heartening day he was told that the government wouldn't be funding his position - but his local community would!

I'll never forget the intensely bittersweet day when I lost my job for 30 seconds. I had worked as a chaplain at Evandale Primary School for five years when the state government's funding model changed. On the last day of school for the year, I knew I would learn about the fate not just of my role (which I loved) but of chaplaincy at the school.

The principal was waiting for me at the school's entrance, where she simply said: "Grant, I think you'd better come into my office." At that moment I knew we had been unsuccessful, and I felt my heart sink. Inside the office, the principal, obviously upset, made an unforgettable statement. She told me that officially our school had been unsuccessful in securing funding but that our chaplaincy program was far too important to simply accept the process. She said that the school and our small community

needed chaplaincy. Then she sent me home to tell my wife that I had lost my job but I would be turning up for work on the first day back! And I did.

Somewhere between parents and friends, word of mouth, quirky fundraisers and good old-fashioned country generosity, enough money was found to keep me at the school. It has been uncomfortable at times, being the focus of another lap of the hat. But my discomfort has been offset...

Continued on page 2



Your support means chaplains like Grant can support kids in your community (cont..)

... by the endorsement of chaplaincy at the school.

To see the quiet, creative, whole-hearted generosity of our village has been as humbling as it is heartening. It re-doubles my resolve to serve the school community.

Recently, I helped facilitate a session for parents who are preparing their children for kindergarten. It was a privilege to articulate to the parents just what chaplaincy could offer to their child, not just as they make the big leap from home to school, but right through their primary school life. I talked about the sort of support that every child needs: holistic care, listening, a chance to wonder at the world, fostering curiosity, perhaps some help honing

their social skills or to tame their own temper. I expected a few curly questions at the end but there was only one: "Do you make home visits?"

When parents find out what chaplaincy is really all about and they see it in their local context, they become our most vocal supporters. I dearly hope chaplaincy will be available to the completely adorable kindergarten class of 2016 - right through their school life.

Thank you for supporting chaplains like Grant as they minister to students, families and communities across Tasmania!

GOD PUT YOUR GIFTS TO WORK AT SUMMER CAMP!

The long, relaxing days of summer were particularly peaceful at Family Camp North this year, as adults and kids alike soaked up the serenity in Fingal Valley. Swimming, bush-walking, games and crafts, time for fellowship and fun with new friends and old. What could be better? For the families of Family Camp North this year, the answer was clear: *nothing!*

"Campers were able to take time out from their ordinary lives, leaving busyness and health worries behind for a few moments while they enjoyed uninterrupted time with their family," says Cecily, one of the camp's organisers. "I'm confident we all enjoyed the yummy food and the chance to have a break from cooking, cleaning and all the usual chores of life."

The idyllic setting allowed the campers to take time out to study the beauty of God's creation around them, and reflect on His goodness in their lives.

"Each day we took time out for a Pause Session, reflecting on the shape and strength of [different] trees, comparing ourselves to trees and pondering our own stories. By looking at our lives as a tree we were able to see where God is at work in our lives, helping make us strong," explains Cecily.

And no summer camp would be complete without the traditional bushwalk - an annual highlight that some campers completed for the first time as a family this year.

Your support helped to give families at Family Camp North precious time to strengthen their relationships, and a chance to be refreshed spiritually, emotionally and physically. Thank you!

And Family Camp South had a bumper year with 57 people attending the fun at the Blue Lagoon campsite. One of the very positive after effects of this camp is a new Sunday club in the Derwent Valley aimed at impacting families who don't usually come to church and in fact filled with Family Campers keen to continue the learning and fellowship they experienced at camp. Your generosity has impacts far beyond just a week of camp.

The East Devonport Holiday Happening flourished under its new leader and dozens of children came each day to learn more about Jesus. The optional "Good Book Café" was a place for those with deeper questions to have them answered, and this year we saw some youngsters take their first steps in faith. Please pray for these brand new Christians as they explore what following Christ means.



Your support helped to give families at Family Camp North precious time to strengthen their relationships, and a chance to be refreshed spiritually, emotionally and physically. Thank you!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE it's been 50 years since Scripture Union Tasmania was officially incorporated in Tasmania. When we look back, we can see that a lot has changed, but it's so important to recognise that some things won't. Our goal to introduce young Tasmanians to Jesus and help them live spiritually healthy lives will remain, and so will our gratitude for your ongoing support. **WITH GOD'S GRACE, WE'LL GROW THROUGH THE NEXT 50 YEARS TOGETHER!**

50 YEARS OF SHARING GOOD NEWS

SU
TASMANIA

THANKS TO YOU!

1950's

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL SERVICE MISSIONS HOLIDAYS BEGIN

SU Tasmania was incorporated 50 years ago, in 1966, but to get the full story, we need to go back a little further than that. Even in the years before we were incorporated, it was clear that God was doing something special in Tasmania.

In the 1950s, locals with a passion for sharing the Good News launched new programs with the aim of bringing their neighbours—particularly young people and their families - to Christ. Volunteer teams initiated Children's Special Service Missions (CSSM) holidays at Tasmanian beach resorts - a program that we're still running today in the form of beach missions.

By 1966, things were buzzing. Incorporation of Scripture Union of Tasmania Inc. was an appropriate next step. In 1970, our first General Secretary, Ron Buckland, arrived - and growth and change took off.

Throughout our history, the men and women who built the SU movement in Tasmania had a vision: that for thousands of Tasmanian Christians, a daily encounter with God through Bible reading would have an impact in all of life. Not only in their local congregations, but in reaching out with the Good News, especially to children and young people in schools and on holiday.

1958

SCRIPTURE UNION WEEK START IN LOCAL CHURCHES

Scripture Union Week began in 1958, with events in local churches and large public rallies. Billy Graham's evangelistic rallies in Hobart and Launceston the next year gave us another enormous boost.

Schools have always been an integral part of our mission. ISCF (Inter-School Christian Fellowship) groups sprang up in schools around the state, and in 1962 our first travelling schools staff worker, Marian McLean, arrived from Melbourne. The next four years saw these groups blossom and we began training conferences and SU adventure camps on Maria Island.

1958

**BILLY GRAHAM'S
CRUSADES FIRED
UP A GENERATION
IN TASMANIA
GIVING SU TAS AN
ENORMOUS BOOST**



1960's

**HOBART AND
WELLINGTON SAW SU TAS
REACH OUT INTO EVERY
DAY TASMANIA LIVES.**

That vision holds good today. Our context in both church and society has changed greatly. The way in which SU carries out its aims is often different. But the vision of ordinary Christians - mostly volunteers - growing in faith and reaching out to others, remains. That's worth celebrating... and we celebrate friends like you who have made all this possible along the way!

Our first celebration event for the year will be happening in Hobart on April 30th. Please visit the Latest News section of our website, or call the office for ticket information. We'd love to celebrate the journey with you!



Ruth Pinkerton

Director's Desk

Dear Friend,

This year we mark 50 years since SU Tas became a legal entity - and there are so many reasons to celebrate!

Fifty years of sharing the Good News of Jesus with those who really need to hear it. Fifty years of demonstrating God's love to students and families at school, at church, at home, and at camps and other events. Fifty years of watching God's Spirit move in powerful (and sometimes unexpected) ways.

Sometimes I think we have the best seats in the house as He consistently takes our efforts and multiplies them for His own glory!

It's humbling to take a moment, in the midst of another busy year, to look back and be amazed at the ways in which God has challenged our ministry, and blessed us so much more than we ever thought possible. It gives me so much hope for the future, and inspires me to recommit to sharing that hope with as many Tasmanians as possible.

I want to sincerely thank you for all you do to further this vision. I know that you, too, want to see more and more young people and families given hope for the future. I'm reminded of Paul's greeting to the church of the Thessalonians:

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

Thank you for labouring alongside us in the hope of Jesus!

Sincerely,

Ruth Pinkerton
SU Tas CEO

THINGS TO PRAY FOR...

THANK GOD for His sovereignty, and for the faithful commitment of SU Tas supporters, volunteers and staff, whose tireless efforts have helped us grow through the past 50 years.

PLEASE PRAY for God's wisdom and guidance as we look toward the future and commit to continuing His work across the state.

PRAY for the families who have attended SU Tas camps this year - that they will continue to grow closer together in love for each other and for Him.

PLEASE PRAY for our school chaplains - men and women who are passionately committed to their students and to ministering to them with grace and love.

SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR YOU

Want all your SU News delivered straight to your inbox?



Your digital newsletter is just a click away! With relevant stories and updates just for you, it's the quickest, most convenient way to stay in the SU loop and see the impact of your support. **Visit sutas.org.au and subscribe today!**