

# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

## THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING TEENS TO TRUST GOD AND LOVE OTHERS

In today's world where social media, anxiety, low self-esteem and peer pressure make many teens afraid to really open up and trust anyone, you're helping to bring hope! And we're excited to tell you about how your support helped a group of teenagers open up to God and each other as they learned about trust and respect at Element Camp in July.

These guys and girls in years 7 to 10 came to Element Camp as strangers and left "feeling like a family". This camp helped create a community of young people inspired to encourage others and become all who Christ created them to be.

When Ruth Pinkerton, CEO of SU Tas, asked some of these young people what they appreciated the most about Element Camp, she heard comments like this over and over:

"THE RESPECT EVERYONE SHOWS FOR EACH OTHER."

"THE VULNERABILITY OF THE LEADERS IN SHARING THEIR LIFE STORIES."

"HOW EVERYONE BECOMES A FAMILY DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES."

"To impact young people in this way," says Jenna, Director of the event, "it takes finding the right team with a good mix of personalities. But year after year I discover that God brings together a bunch of passionate young leaders to perfectly..."

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## Thank you for inspiring Teens to trust God and love others (cont..)

... match the group of young campers attending."

Through your gifts and prayers, you helped take these young people on an important spiritual journey – where they could discover more about themselves and others... learn to open up in small groups... trust one another... and share each other's journeys, trials and triumphs.

God worked through our partnership to make these camp highlights possible:

- One quiet camper took the bold step of volunteering to co-host talent night.
- Campers discovered their hidden creative talents, like writing poetry.
- Leaders set a great example in how to deal with life and get alongside others.
- Campers affirmed each other's 'hero-like' qualities, building self-worth.
- And our leaders prayed with campers to encourage them through difficulties or to receive Christ.

"Every year, young people tell us, 'Element Camp should go for longer', and 'It shouldn't be just once a year'," says Jenna. "There are always tears, always smiles and always reflection."

Thank you for helping to build up teens like this through Element Camps – so they can learn to trust in Jesus wholeheartedly, grow in love and reach out to help their friends find hope!

### PLEASE PRAY FOR DCYPHER CAMP COMING UP FROM OCT 1-4!

We know God has more great things in store for the guys and girls in grades 9 to 12 and the leaders who are coming, as they camp, compute, compete and spiritually connect. Thanks for your support!



## JUMP INTO BUSHWALKING BOOTS N' ALL

Boots N' All is SU Tasmania's Bushwalking Club for all ages to experience God's creation through a range of outdoor activities led by experienced Christian walkers. We run Boots N' All events all year and, now that the weather's warming up, it's an ideal time for you to get involved and immerse yourself in the beauty of God's creation.

And it can be a great way for you to invite friends and family, especially those not yet connected with God, to have fun with you and so they can experience not just God's creation but the love of His people around them.

The Boots N' All motto is "Love the bush and praise its Creator", and the walks are varied and range in difficulty from easy to more challenging, with many walks being suitable for families or youth groups. In fact, we'd love to see more young people attending!

Do you know any who would like to experience the challenge of a bushwalk? You can find details of the club and the walks at [sutas.org.au/bush-walking](http://sutas.org.au/bush-walking) on our website.

Each year we combine one walk with SU Family Camp North, and it's a great opportunity for campers – especially single mums. They come back exhilarated by having conquered a challenge and knowing that their young children have been well cared for all day.

It's too much fun to keep to ourselves, so help us get the word out – jump on [facebook.com/SUTasBootsnall](https://www.facebook.com/SUTasBootsnall) to like us on Facebook!



# You're impacting kids through Camps, Holiday Clubs and Creativity!

## CAMPER RETURNS

### "GLOWING WITH ENTHUSIASM"

#### JULY CAMPS

Rebekkah\*, a primary-school camper who regularly attends SU Tas camps, persuaded an unchurched friend to come to camp. Her friend's parents were nervous to let their daughter go, but were thrilled when she returned glowing with enthusiasm! Her mother has said she'll recommend the camp to others.

Rebekkah's dad asked her how camp had been, adding that she could be a junior team member soon. Rebekkah's response? "I'll be directing that camp in a few years!" We aim to see Rebekkah's ambition brought to fruition through discipleship and training so she can impact more young people for Christ. And your ongoing support will help achieve that!

*\*Name changed*

## KIDS ENJOY

### 'PIRATE' FUN - AND INSPIRE LOCALS!

#### ROSEBERY HOLIDAY CLUB

Many churches - especially on our west coast - lack a regular children's ministry. So we were thrilled when Daleen Pretorius joined with locals to run a pirate-themed "Landlubbers" Holiday Club for 21 kids in July. They had such a rollicking-good time that local Christians were inspired to consider how they can meet the needs of local children in the longer term. Pray that their plans bear fruit!

WHAT'S COMING UP?

# SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER CAMPS

[www.sutas.org.au/camps](http://www.sutas.org.au/camps)

For kids grade 4 to 6:

### SUPA NORTH

at Carnaroo, 26th - 29th September

For teens grade 9 to 12:

### DCYPHER

at Blue Lagoon, 1st-4th Oct

CELEBRATION UP NORTH:

# FAMILY HEALTH FORUM

With significant ties to churches and schools, SU Tas is well placed to help the community explore the importance of healthy families! Nearly 100 people from all along the northern coast of Tasmania attended the *Healthy Families: Hopeful Futures* forum on Saturday 22nd August. Renowned author and retired psychologist, Steve Biddulph, gave an engaging presentation about the importance of fathers in raising healthy boys and girls in today's world. Steve was joined by GP, Bryn Parry, psychologist, Elysia Cunningham, and chaplain/foster carer, Cecily Rosol, to form a panel, and took questions from the audience. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this event happen.



Healthy Families: Hopeful Futures forum 2015





Ruth Pinkerton

## Director's Desk

Dear Friend,

Camps, missions, forums, networking events, children coming to faith, children

and adults being equipped to serve and share their faith – it's been a busy time since our last newsletter! How have things been for you?

Sometimes in the midst of busyness it can be easy to lose sight of God as the source of all the power that equips and resources us to do the work He calls us to. When I find myself at a stretch, I find it helpful to take some deep breaths and remind myself of how powerful, loving and unchanging God is. Psalm 19 is a favourite Bible passage that helps me with that. It's not a question of me stopping everything but rather of continuing to do the things I know are right – in the power and with the perspective of God's call.

I know God called SU Tas into being and that He has been blessing us for over 50 years. In 2016, it will be the 50th anniversary of our incorporation and we plan to celebrate, as much as we can, all the things God has done for the children, young people and families of Tasmania. Importantly we want to not just celebrate the past but look forward with hope for the future – the hope we have to offer all those whom God loves – even if they don't recognise that yet. We will be having dinners and events all over the state so watch out for the details, and if you have any ideas about how we should celebrate our 50th birthday, I'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Ruth Pinkerton  
SU Tas CEO

## PRAYER POINTS

**GIVE THANKS** for the high-schoolers who were so encouraged through Element Camp. This was a result of your support!

**PRAY** for those campers who received Christ, to grow in Him.

**PRAY** that we'll be able to train and disciple young campers like Rebekkah to become camp leaders and impact more kids for Christ.

**PRAY** that more local churches will establish a regular children's ministry – especially on the west coast – to encourage families.

**PRAY** for the young people coming to SU Tas camps in September and October to personally connect with Jesus and grow to love and serve Him.

## Chaplaincy Week Art Competition Winners!

Thanks to all the creative students who entered the Chaplaincy Week Art Competition! The theme was "What makes you happy", so pictures of family, home and pets abounded. Twelve students received Highly Commended certificates from the judging panel and Danika Spinks of Parklands High School and Angel Hartman of Bracknell Primary School were the overall winners in their age categories. Congratulations!

