

Autumn 2020

FAITHFUL IN PRAYER, **ACTIVE IN MISSION**

What will it mean for us to embrace God's vision for mission in 2020?

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Hope amidst the bush fires

GOD GIVES THE GROWTH

SU responds to Kids to Camp generosity with new camps in 2020

TRUTH SEEKERS TO GOSPEL LEADERS

SU provides pathways to hear and share the Gospel

More stories online!







150 years on, SU continues to be faithful in prayer and active in mission as we seek to obey the call of our Lord Jesus Christ in mission, reliant on prayer and the Holy Spirit to work through us in all that we do.

I am so grateful to those who generously gave over \$70k to our recent Summer Appeal. The sacrificial prayers and open-handed support of those who uphold this organic front-line ministry is simply inspirational.

Since our last edition of SU News, we have experienced a continued season of change and challenge amidst the national and global disasters of bush fires and COVID-19. But through God's power and providence, I believe it's during such times that we see the true innovative and persevering spirit of the SU movement. We are stronger together.

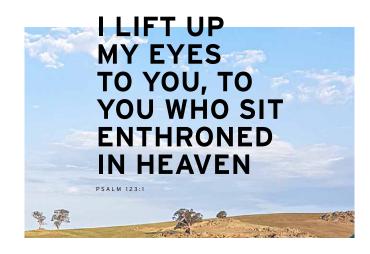
Thanks to your support, we reached and discipled thousands at Summer Missions. I continue to be amazed by the creativity of our volunteer leaders, who adapted to rapidly changing and uncertain circumstances throughout the bush fires on the South Coast of NSW. Read their incredible testimonies on page 4.

Through the unprecedented success of the Kids to Camp fundraiser with Hope 103.2 in December 2019, you helped give children and youth from drought affected NSW respite at SU summer camps. Although we have had to cancel our Autumn camps, the work to get all 538 sponsored kids to camp continues. New camps are in the pipeline so we have plenty of work to keep on with and hope to restart camps later in 2020.

Thanks to your support, SU is equipping the next generation of Christian leaders as they discover pathways of growth through SU NSW ministries, and helping move students from being truth seekers to servant leaders. Read Lucy's story on page 9!

"We hold that the Lord our God is one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that He fulfils His sovereign purposes.. by calling out from the world a people united to Himself and to each other in love." ¹ It is God's mission that we have been called to participate in, as His Kingdom is reflected on earth as it is in heaven.

Scripture Union Aims, Beliefs and Working Principles



I am confident you will be encouraged and inspired as you read about what God continues to do through SU, as we remain faithful in prayer and active in mission to bring His Good News to people, that they would encounter the risen Jesus and move from the darkness into the light of life.

As we together seek to embrace God's vision of mission in NSW this year, can I encourage you to consider the following -

- Joining us at Tea & Prayer this year (if not in person, then remotely). See page 11 for details, and more ideas!
- Having your say in important decisions about the future direction of SU NSW, by becoming an SU Member (if you aren't already). See page 10 for details!
- Making your ministry dream a reality, by starting a new camp or volunteering at an existing ministry in your community (see page 7)!
- Financially support SU ministry into the future, by becoming a regular donor today: sunsw.org.au/donate!



Glenn Coombs

Interim State Director, Scripture Union NSW

TEA & PRAYER 2020

We are the Body of Christ, brought together according to God's purposes, to do His will.

Join us this year in bold prayer for God's Kingdom in NSW and beyond (read more, page 11):

sunsw.org.au/tea-and-prayer



THANK YOU!

We're praising God that kids will get respite from the drought, as well as an opportunity to hear Gospel hope proclaimed, see God's love in action and make new friends for life. Despite the current disruptions, we believe God has big plans for SU camps with new ideas and leaders volunteering ready for when we can restart again.



With 99.4% of the State in drought at the end of 2019, many regional families were doing it tough.



In December 2019, Hope 103.2 partnered with us again to call on listeners to help get country kids to SU Camps for FREE for some respite.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of those who gave, we raised enough for 538 kids to get to the SU Camp of their choice in 2020!

Whilst we praise God for rain in parts of NSW, we also recognise the long-term impacts of the drought on families and therefore celebrate this opportunity to bring practical relief to those who need it.

FAQs, stories and other ways to help:

sunsw.org.au/kids-to-camp



SU NSW Camps FREE for kids in drought!

Let someone know full-funding is available for anyone in drought, drought-affected and intense drought areas in NSW, for any Camp!*

Apply & register online!

sunsw.org.au/camps



Keep in touch with stories of Gospel transformation, go to **sunsw.org.au/pray** to receive regular updates from SU ministries, including Camps.



There is no doubt that last Summer was one of the most challenging ministry seasons due to the bush fires, excessive smoke and water restrictions. Interim State Director, Glenn Coombs, reports:

Yet there is so much to celebrate as SUFM, SUmmerife, SUmmerkids, Holiday Bible Clubs and Summer Camps were bursting with life, as thousands of passionate gospel-centred SU volunteers focused on sharing the love of Jesus, in all circumstances.

The testimonies have been pouring in about God turning up in surprising ways and people's lives being changed for good. Here are a few:

"We had a lady pray to accept Jesus into her life with one of our team members. We also gave out many gospels, and whole Bibles. About seven people have continued to read these and they're sending through the questions they have! For others, we pray that God will use his Word in their hands to accept Him into their lives." - Summerlife Byron Bay

"When we had no power at the park, we were able to practically help people, for example with food, water, first aid. We also saw lots of campers become more open to conversation when we were all stuck and the team was so creative in working out how to live without power and be useful in the park. We were very encouraged by so many answered prayers in terms of safety, health and protection over critical equipment." - Bawley Point

Whilst I appreciate this is only a small sample that doesn't give full insight into the incredible Summer ministry season, many of you would of course remember how so many teams gave practical help and hope during the volatile bush fire situation.

Counselling has been offered and provided for those affected, and an independent review of all our bushfire policies and procedures is currently underway with the report due to be released in July 2020.

Read volunteer Emmanual Chua's story: sunsw.org.au/emmanuels-story



Andrew Flaxman's family and friends lost all their camping and surfing gear in the Summer South Coast bush fires, however, God rescued and provided for them in the most miraculous and surprising way. Glenn shares his story:

Andrew recounted to me (Glenn) that although he had been checking the proximity of the fires to their camping site on various apps all day, out of nowhere, the next thing they knew, they were running for their lives down to the water's edge with a wall of flames behind them. All 11 of them were rescued by Michael Cripps and his son, Brett, in their small boat, who themselves were fleeing from their burning house. When they saw the Flaxman kids playing on the adjacent beach, with no idea of the danger they were facing, they quickly turned back to rescue them all.

When the Flaxmans finally returned to their camp site, after spending five hours in the Cripps' small boat on Lake Conjola,

they found that every one of their earthly camping and surfing possessions were now ash. Andrew said however, "We actually didn't lose anything, we gained everything. Ours is a story of hope: our family was safe and God had declared, I AM WITH YOU!"

After a very uncomfortable evening, they headed into Lake Conjola the next day with no cash, phones, or showers. The kids were understandably restless. Andrew thought, 'How will I provide for the family?' He says, "And then I saw the most beautiful sight, the *SUFM* marquee. I am sure it was glowing. Immediately I knew we would be OK, we were safe. The team welcomed us, fed us, honoured us, loved on us and even offered us some cash to get by. I said to all my kids, 'This is real Christianity in action.' It was like being delivered from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, an experience we will never forget.



"WE ARE SAFE
NOW, THANKS
TO GOD AND THE
LAKE CONJOLA
SUFM TEAM."

Images (top, down): Flaxman family at Lake Conjola; burnt our car and surrounds; Flaxman family and others flee bush fires at Lake Conjola; getting relief from Lake Conjola SUFM (circle) Flaxman family being interviewed.

Andrew's story has been published with permission.

YOUR SUPPORT REACHED THOUSANDS OVER SUMMER



Huskisson SUFM



Yamba / McLean Holiday Bible Club



Summer ministries make an impact; Image: Yamba / McLean Holiday Bible Club



Urunga *SUFM*



Tanilba Bay SUFM



Wollongong SUFM



Tanilba Bay SUFM



Wollongong SUFM

Board Games Camp 2019



We are increasingly seeing an overlap between SU ministries, where children who attend SUPA Clubs are also attending SU Camps during the school holidays, and then going on to serve. Regional Coordinator for North West NSW, Dave Tankard, tells us more and shares his vision for further expansion of SU ministries in the North West and across regional NSW.



New Year, New Endeavours: Janelle's Story

Janelle Tongue runs Rugby League Camp, two SUPA Clubs at Timbumburi and Nemingha Primary Schools and, this year, has inspired the creation of a brand new Camp! Here's how God has been working through Janelle and others to multiply Gospel reach and impact in the North West:

FOR MISSION."

Janelle began Rugby League Camp in 2017 as a camp for boys aged 10-15. It has been especially popular amongst

Year 5 and 6 boys, many of whom she personally invited either during one of the many Scripture (SRE) classes she has led over the past few years, or SUPA Clubs in their schools.

As those boys moved into High School, they returned to the increasingly popular Camp every year, and some of the older boys have even gone on to serve as junior leaders at Rugby League Camp!

Mindful of the need for a local SU Camp for girls, though, Janelle was talking recently with her friend Susan, who has a passion for helping girls create things with sewing machines. If you know Janelle, you won't be surprised to hear that a brand new SU Camp has grown

from those conversations: Pins & Needles Camp for girls aged 10-13, launching this Spring just south of Tamworth!

In the cases of each of these Camps and

SUPA Clubs, God has brought together "GOD BROUGHT two people with special interests and a **TOGETHER TWO** heart for mission, who prayed that God would make a way for them to bring the **PEOPLE WITH** Good News to children and young people SPECIAL INTERESTS in their community. AND A HEART

SU Staff were then able to support them at key points by providing guidance, resources,

encouragement, and in the case of the Camps, help recruiting leaders from different towns and churches and help to promote the Camps.





Kids Get a Break at Camps!

We are so thankful to donors who are helping drought-affected kids have a break at SU Camps. Read their stories: sunsw.org.au/thankyou.

Inspire families to register for full-funding this year, email info@sunsw.org.au with your stories from Camp!

YOUR SUPPORT GAVE RESPITE TO KIDS AT SU CAMPS



(Navy shirt, on the right) William received full-funding for Rugby Union Camp and also Cricket Camp!



Rugby Union Camp 2019



SUPA Clubs are growing



Reaching North West NSW

The Spirit of the Lord is moving in the North West

In recent years God has been growing SU Camps across NSW, with no end in sight! In 2014 we had 12 Camps, we are now approaching 40!

In the North West during these same years, God has been establishing new SUPA Clubs in local Primary Schools, with three SUPA Clubs in 2014 growing to 15 in 2020!

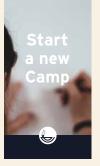
SUPA Clubs provide a weekly space for primary school students to have fun exploring the Christian faith, with friends, overseen by caring adult leaders who provide guidance from the Bible, teach the children how to pray, and model what it means to live as followers of Jesus.

Across the region, we see that God has similarly grown the number of SU Camps available each School holidays.

SU Camps are the ultimate positive and affirming community for young Christians, as well as those exploring Christianity. Camps are golden times of deep relationship-forming between the campers and their adult leaders (and oftentimes with God Himself), where campers have come together because of a shared interest or activity to have fun together and—over meals, around camp fires, on walks together, and at break times between activities—talk about their lives so that they might understand how their story fits into God's. The older children who return to Camp help set a welcoming culture each time for first-timers, creating a temporary community that has lasting impacts on the future development of their faith and maturity.

Witness our mighty God at work in North West NSW this year. Sign-up to receive regional news, email Dave today: davet@sunsw.org.au and pray for the Kingdom to come in NSW!





Do you have a passion for the Gospel?

Our 'Starting a New Camp' flyer is designed to help any person think about the steps required to start a new SU Camp.

Talk to your local Regional Coordinator to order a hard copy (or download one from the link

below). Regional Coordinators are there to help you make your ministry dream, into a reality!

- Download the 'Starting a Camp' brochure! sunsw.org.au/start-a-camp
- 2. Contact the SU team on (02) 9638 9000, or info@sunsw.org.au, and ask to speak to your local Regional Coordinator!

Or visit **sunsw.org.au/volunteer**, to apply to serve at an existing ministry in your region.





How do we move students from being seekers to leaders? How do we reach the unchurched and create pathways to hear the Gospel? What role have SU Schools and Camps ministries played? These are the questions Regional Coordinator for Far West NSW, Andrew Parkinson, has been exploring with youth leaders and pastors across the region.

ISCF groups and SUPA Clubs are great places for kids and youth to explore questions of faith and be introduced to the person of Jesus.

These fun and friendly lunchtime groups are run by volunteers and students themselves in many State schools across NSW. They are an entry point into a journey of faith where the games and activities are designed to point them to scripture where they can ultimately meet Jesus.

Another entry point into this journey can be SU Camps. At over 40 camps held throughout the year, campers participate in their favourite sport or activity, whilst exploring Christianity with other kids their age. For Christian campers, however, SU Camps can also provide a pathway for them to share Jesus with their friends.

By inviting them, they can have fun together as well as natural Gospel conversations in response to the Bible talks, devotions and testimonies shared at each Camp.

For those wishing to deepen their knowledge and relationship with Jesus, to understand their own unique shape for ministry and to begin the journey to leadership, Scripture Union NSW has been running *Leadership Conference* in Springwood and Tamworth for many years.

Here, Christian students in Years 9-12 have an opportunity to be challenged about how they make an impact for Jesus in their schools, churches and communities. They will be given a toolbox of essential leadership skills in various workshops and electives, all culminating in an opportunity to plan and lead their own practise ISCF lunchtime group.

They are then released back in to their schools and churches with a renewed passion and equipped to introduce others to Jesus and start them on the same journey.

For emerging student leaders in Years 10-12, SUPA Serve is an opportunity for young Christians to develop their leadership confidence and discover their gifts in ministry as they serve alongside local churches.

SUPA Serve was developed over 12 years ago in rural NSW. This year, SUPA Serve Broken Hill is an outback mission trip where emerging student leaders from NSW and South Australia run a week-long school holiday sports evangelism program together in Broken Hill called KidsGames, for primary school students in the area.

As students work together to share a Gospel message of hope every day, they build valuable relationships and develop a heart for mission beyond the walls of the church.

All these ministries are designed to serve Scripture Union's aim ".. to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families..." so that they can, ".. come to personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants of a world in need."

Almighty Father, grow a larger vision of Jesus in the hearts and minds of emerging and developing Christian leaders in Far West NSW, that your Kingdom would grow here.



KidsGames at SUPA Serve NT 2019



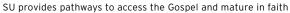
Lucy Davis at Chaffey Dam Water Sports Camp



Lucy Davis at *Leadership Conference* Springwood 2019

YOUR SUPPORT IS EQUIPPING THE NEXT GENERATION







Register now! Leadership Conference is happening soon in Springwood (sunsw.org.au/LCS) and Tamworth (sunsw.org.au/LCT)

From Truth Seeker to Gospel Leader: Lucy's Story

When ISCF leader, SRE teacher and Chaplain, Ayumi Tamsett, invited Lucy Davis to SU Leadership Conference, it was the start of a three year journey for Lucy to faith and leadership. Here, Andrew shares her story:

I had regularly made the long three hour drive to Gilgandra to support SU ministry in the High School, sharing resources with Ayumi and promoting SU Camps and *Leadership Conference*.

Three of Ayumi's students registered for *Leadership Conference* in Springwood, but first they had to get there! Lucy was one of these students. She made the long train trip from Dubbo (around an hour from home) to Springwood all by herself, where we met her and took her on to Blue Gum Lodge.

It was a brave start, but even braver when Lucy realised all the other students attending were already Christians, but she had not made that decision yet. That week was the beginning of Lucy's exploration into the claims of King Christ. Over the next three years, Lucy helped lead her blossoming ISCF, even though she still had not made a faith commitment.

Thanks to a Hope 103.2 *Kids to Camp* sponsorship (read more, page 3), Lucy attended *Chaffey Dam Water Sports Camp* as well as *REBOOT Technology and Computing Camp*. Lucy also came to *Leadership Conference* every year where she continued to hear Gospel hope proclaimed.

I continued to visit Gilgandra every term to train, encourage and equip the student leaders there, and also to support Ayumi's work in the school. Each time, I'd encourage Lucy.

Finally, on the last day of *Chaffey Dam Water Sports Camp* in 2020, Lucy surrendered her life to Christ and, upon her return to Gilgandra, proudly announced to Ayumi that she wanted to be baptised. Praise God for his mercy and grace!

Thanks to your support, Regional Coordinators like Andrew can be on the road making these connections and supporting volunteers as they reach people for Christ.

Will you pray for the Kingdom in Far West NSW? Sign-up to receive regional news from Andrew today, email: andrewp@sunsw.org.au!



COMMUNITY

We'll be in

RESOURCES

Go deeper in prayer this year, and seek God's equipping for ministry in your community. We recommend these resources:



Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God

By Tim Keller

amazon.com



Community Voices Flyer

Designed to help you have a conversation with your local

School (for example, the Principal) about starting a SUPA Club or ISCF lunchtime group. Download the flyer: sunsw.org.au/community-voices then contact the office (see back page) to speak to your local Regional Coordinator about next steps!



Spiritual Practices in **Community: Drawing Groups** into the Heart of God

By Diana Shiflett

amazon.com



A Praying Life: Connecting With God in a Distracting World

By Paul Miller

amazon.com

PARTNER WITH US

Jasmine Ruigrok is our **NEW Regional Coordinator** for Hunter NSW. She says:

"I was hooked on serving with

experience as a cook. I had done

gave me the chance to share my

a year of Bible college but SU

joy in Christ in a way that was

My greatest love is how God

reveals the Gospel story to us

uniquely and creatively, which

is why I'm so excited to be in

a role where I can help build

opportunities for God to do

Pray for ministries in the

Hunter, sign-up to news

jasminer@sunsw.org.au!

from Jasmine, email:

unique to me.

just that!"

SU from my first SU Camp

How will you embrace God's vision for mission in NSW? However you choose to partner with SU, make your next step today!



Pray sunsw.org/pray sunsw.org.au/tea-and-prayer



Pioneer sunsw.org/start-a-camp



Donate sunsw.org/donate



Volunteer sunsw.org/volunteer



Advocate sunsw.org.au/contact



Fundraise sunsw.org.au/contact

MORE STORIES ONLINE!







BECOME AN SU MEMBER

SU branches around Australia are considering what a national movement could look like for the SU movement in Australia.

Be part of the change you want to see, become an SU Member to have your say in the national conversation! A vote is scheduled later this year. Members will be kept informed with 'Inner Circle' updates straight to your inbox.

Apply today! sunsw.org.au/membership

Your application will be reviewed by the Board and confirmed by email.







God is working throughout our world to bring about His Kingdom on earth. In places and spaces created by passionate SU volunteers, God is working. As we seek to increase the depth, reach and impact of the SU ministries this year, how will you join with us in prayerful dependance on God?

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Be an SU Prayer partner!
Sign-up to receive bi-monthly
Prayer Points: sunsw.org.au/pray.

Globally, SU is working with churches to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families, and encouraging people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer, so they may come to personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become committed church members and servants of a world in need.¹

Join us at Tea & Prayer!

Join us each month, see
sunsw.org.au/tea-and-prayer.

In NSW, Gospel hope is being shared by passionate volunteers at Camps, Summer missions and in School lunchtime groups all throughout the year. We pray these leaders boldly share the hope of King Jesus and His Kingdom as they are sent out.

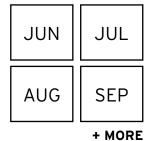
Go deeper in prayer!
Embrace the power of prayer, see resources over the page.

As we face the challenges and opportunities of ministry in a changing world, join us in bold prayer for the SU movement in NSW and beyond.

Advocate for SU!

Share what God is doing through
SU during mission week at your
Church, contact the SU office for
more (see back page).





JOIN US FOR TEA & PRAYER

Help us build this ministry in 2020!

sunsw.org.au/tea-and-prayer

COVID-19



We will be meeting online to ensure everyone's safety during COVID-19. See sunsw.org.au/tea-and-prayer for video link and other ways to connect.

COME, LET US PRAY BOLDLY AND WITH EXPECTATION FOR GOD'S KINGDOM TO GROW IN NSW, ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

WINTER CAMPS ARE **COMING UP!**

At this stage, we're praying Winter Camps will proceed as normal in 2020.

Watch our Facebook page (f/sunsw) for updates and sunsw.org.au/camps for updates on specific events, including the likely rescheduling of some Autumn camps for later in this year.

KIDS TO CAMP **FULL-FUNDING AVAILABLE***

Apply & register for any Camp!

sunsw.org.au/kids-to-camp





Pins & Needles Camp



Register now! sunsw.org.au/camp



Patron Rev. Simon Flinders Board Chair Robyn Gillespie Interim State Director Glenn Coombs

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SU NSW is a community of 3,000 volunteers and a small support team serving through local ministries including camps, summer missions, school lunchtime groups, leadership development and the production of resources for outreach and discipleship.

Our mission is to encourage people to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer so they may come to personal faith, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants of a world in need. Read more at: sunsw.org.au/abwp.

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