

Schools Edition!



SCHOOL MINISTRY it's worth the effort!

Each year SUSA staff, along with dozens of passionate and dedicated volunteers, work to take the good news of Jesus to approx 20,000 students in state schools.

Despite the fact that it's getting harder for SUSA Christian ministry to be active in state schools, by God's grace we continue to make a positive impact on children's lives.

Figures from the ABS reveal in 2016 there were *172,000 students enrolled in government schools. SUSA is doing our bit to reach as many of them as we possibly can with the good news.

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Parting the waters

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PARTING the waters

Have you ever been reading a verse of the bible that you've read many times before but this one time something new hits you? I think it's as Hebrews 4:12 says: "For the word of God is alive and active."

What a wonderful thing that God can keep showing us new things about himself. I recently had a moment like that as I was listening to a song. It was a song I'd heard many times before, but this time, one sentence really struck me like never before: "The waters never part until your feet get wet."

It's a reference to Joshua 3:14-17, where the Israelites cross the flooded Jordan. It wasn't until the priests carrying the ark of the covenant actually stepped into the water that God acted and stopped the river, drying the ground and all the Israelites walked across safely to the other side.

"The waters never part until your feet get wet."

At SU we are facing major needs. We face our own obstacles as the Israelites did at the Jordan. God doesn't tell us to do nothing, He expects us to act according to His will, purpose and word. God expects us to get our feet wet.

So we keep doing whatever we can to be obedient, to follow the mission of SU and to represent God's truth into this world. While we do this we pray, believe and hope for God to part the waters, for God to provide all that we need.

Please pray with us as we seek God's answers for the future of SUSA.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director,



From the Chair



"You can be whatever you want to be" – this seems to be a common mantra, often told to children. It is no doubt meant to be

inspirational and lead to freedom and opportunity. But does it? It could be a crushing burden. I wonder if children actually do believe it?

If we could be whatever we wanted, then one might ask 'why is my life so difficult, why are my relationships so stressful, why am I not rich and famous, why am I not an astronaut, why....?'

If I am not what I want to be, then what have I done wrong?

What a relief to read Psalm 86:1-7 and be able to so easily acknowledge how poor and needy we are – and that God

"It is the faithfulness of God that has given us roots and allowed us to fly!"

is 'good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you'.

As Scripture Union in South Australia we may feel poor and needy when there is so much ministry to be done with limited resources. Yet we know that God is good and over these 150 years since SU came into being, it is the faithfulness of God that has given us roots and allowed us to fly!

Give thanks and praise to God that we can be whatever God wants us to be!

Vivien Bleby
SUSA Council Chairperson

"Australia has a Christian history and it's important for the students to learn about that."
School Teacher

"Despite many obstacles, the fact is, the children are so eager to learn what the Bible has to say."
Wendy | COP team leader

150th Celebration!

1867 - 2017

Date: Sunday 10th September
Time: 3pm - 8.30pm
Location: Trinity Baptist Church
Colonel Light Gardens



The SU 150th is a special thanksgiving celebration acknowledging 150 years of SU Ministry. It includes dinner, entertainment, kids' games and is an opportunity to reunite with long-lost friends. This celebration is open for all SUSA supporters (past and present).

**Please note: While this is a FREE event, a donation to cover the cost of dinner will be received.*

To find the event on facebook capture the QR Code with your enabled device, or use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/susouthaustralia/events/>



To offer your support, request more information or RSVP to this event, please contact SUSA President Kevin Hull on 0412 996 519, or email: president@susa.org.au

* School Ministry: it's worth the effort!

Statistics sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics. Actual figure is 171,809. Rounded up for illustration purposes. Includes Government, Catholic and Independent schools. 4221.0 Schools, Australia, 2016. Released at 11.30am (Canberra time) Thursday, 2 February, 2017. Table 90a Key Information by States and Territories, 2011-2016
Key Information: South Australia 2011-2016

SCHOOL MINISTRY *it's worth the effort!*

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The encouraging news is that SUSA Schools Ministry reaches about 20,000 students each year through our Christian Option Programs, SUPA programs, seminars, Christmas and Easter presentations and SUPA clubs.

We currently have 4 SUPA clubs (maintaining close ties with their school community) and we continue to have faithful volunteers persevering against the odds and presenting COPs to many children.

We are still working on redeveloping our COP material making it more relevant for today's children. This all takes time, work, training and money.

SUSA is committed to doing whatever we can, not just to stay in the school space but to expand. As one teacher recently said, "Australia has a Christian history and it's important for the students to learn about that."

We are seeking more volunteers, churches and financial supporters to partner with us so that more students don't miss out on hearing about Jesus.

The Schools Ministry Team

Here are real life examples highlighting the effort and commitment that many volunteers make to be involved in schools ministry.

Simon: is a baker and starts work at 2am. Would go home to sleep after COP.

Julie: runs a local business. End of June is really busy time for her and still she gave her time.

Rebecca: has a bursar-type job so end of June is so busy but she still came to COP

Fiona: gives up relief teaching days to be on COP team.

If you're interested in helping more students discover the life, love and hope of Jesus, please contact the SUSA office on 8235 9500 for more information.



ARK MINISTRY *Sets Sail*



Introducing A.R.K (At-Risk Kids) our new name for the At-Risk department. At SUSA we have a great vision for ARK and hope the department will grow to include new programs and new camps for disadvantaged or displaced children.

As a fantastic start, we have secured funding from the SA Council of Churches for our developing ministry with refugee children and their families.

Project Harmony will include two camps per year plus ongoing activities, connecting children from refugee and migrant families with their local community. This helps to facilitate an understanding of Australian culture, a sharing of their original culture and exposure to the basics of the Christian faith. Camp Harmony for 2017 is planned for November 10-12.

Promotion for JEWELS Camp 2017 begins in June and the theme is Garden of Unearthly Delights. The camp will illustrate that a girl's heart is like a garden which needs to be nurtured, and like the original Garden (Eden), is a sacred space to walk with Jesus. The activities will follow a festival theme and include circus skills, acrobatics, fire twirlers, parkour, dance and much more. Look out for it on our Wired Youth website.

Cherith Harvey

At Risk Kids Ministry Coordinator

If you or your church would be interested in learning more about A.R.K. Ministry contact the A.R.K Coordinator Cherith Harvey on 0409 540 398, or email: cherith@susa.org.au



AGM & DINNER *with Henry Olunga*



This is a special Annual General Meeting open for all SUSA supporters (past and present) and is not to be missed. Includes dinner and entertainment with special guest, Henry Olunga.

Henry is a former professional cricketer, a strong Christian, an advocate for justice and an accomplished singer.

When Henry made his test debut in January 1995, he became

the first black cricketer – and the youngest person – to play for Zimbabwe. Come and hear about his life, including the sudden end of his career and forced exile.

**Date: Saturday 5th August, Bethel House, City
Time: AGM from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.**

**Dinner is from 6:30pm. Cost: \$30/pp (dinner only).
RSVP by Fri 21st July.**

Seating for dinner is limited. To reserve your place it's essential that you RSVP by calling the SUSA office on 8235 9500.



EASTER CAMPS *in regional S.A.*

Two powerful camps were run over Easter, one in the South East and another in the Mid North. For teenagers living in SA's rural regions these camps can be life changing and play important roles of evangelism and discipleship.

Campers come from all over those regions, some travelling hours just to get there, for a camp filled with fun, friendship and discovering about how faith and life work together.

Chris Battistuzzi led the studies at SE Camp with a focus on living out a real faith in Christ and being careful about what we allow into our lives, as Chris said; "If you put garbage in, you get garbage out." Several campers made decisions to follow Christ and many others were deeply affected by the worship, prayer and teaching during the camp. Significant personal breakthroughs happened for campers and leaders. God was truly at work. We had a great team, great weather and most importantly we have a great God.

Grace Mattila
South East Easter Camp

Mid North camp was a truly inspirational time with studies led by Jim Almquist from YWAM. We had a Prison Break theme throughout camp with a key focus on John 8:36 – "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

A number of campers became followers of Jesus for the first time ever, so exciting! It seemed that all campers were responding to God from their hearts.

A favourite story is about one of the camper mums who took a group of 3 youth back to Pirie after camp. Whilst in the car she asked each child what they learned on camp. One child simply said, "Until now I never knew I was wanted." That is so powerful.

The camp was held together by a wonderful team of leaders. All the games, activities, worship and teaching helped the campers to understand that they are set free in Christ.

Nathanial and Natarnia Neass
Mid North Easter Camp



“Until now I never knew I was wanted.”

It appears that both Easter Camps had life changing (and we could say, 'Life Saving') effects on the lives of young people.

We thank God for all the hard work volunteers put into the camps and most of all for the salvation of those who responded. After all, that is what Easter is all about. Programs and statistics are not our priority but we praise God that in January alone, over 30 young people chose to follow Jesus for the first time in SU activities.

So much to thank God for!



WHAT is MADD Camp?



Ever wondered what happens to creative people when they're put in a campsite for a week, given the opportunity to explore, create, rebuild and go a little crazy all together? They go MADD!

MADD camp is an expressive creative camp for all who enjoy creating. It's open to everyone, whether you think you have no talent or a lot. It's a time to learn new things, meet new people and find others just as creative and crazy as you, sometimes even more crazy!

We encourage people to explore and "have a go" on camp. There are workshops each day in Music, Art, Dance or Drama, plus electives during the camp at all forms of crafty and creative things.

The highlight is the end of *camp concert for parents and family, where campers get to show off their new skills.

We offer a space in which campers can learn to use their uniqueness and creative skills but also to know that they are accepted for who they are, as a creative crazy being!

One of the greatest things about MADD camp is seeing campers grow in confidence from being with other creative people, and then taking that sense of acceptance into the rest of their lives at school / home / church.

This years theme is "Remix" so get prepared for lots of fluoro colours and lots of 80's motifs!

Cherie Jaeschke
MADD Camp Coordinator

For more info about MADD Camp, contact Cherie Jaeschke:
cherie@susa.org.au

**Camp Concert for parents begins 2pm Saturday 22nd, followed by afternoon tea. Campers leave 4pm. Emmaus Campsite, Halbury.*



MADD camp is for Yr 7-12's
July 18th - July 22nd
Early bird price is \$175.