

# SUSA NEWS



**"I discovered my self-worth as a girl"**

"It made sense and made me more aware of how much God values me and all women." "It made me see Christianity in a different light." "I learned how to accept myself for who I am." "I learned that you don't

have to start in a Christian family to become a Christian." "I felt much closer to God after camp and all my doubts were gone" "It was really good, they spoke on topics that everyone could relate to, Christian or not." "It made me believe more in God." "That God loved us for who we are." "Jesus is always with you." "I learned how to sustain a healthy relationship and body image." "I learned how real the sexualisation of women is." "I was impressed by the Christian input. We had great guest speakers."

## ***Jewels hits the mark!***



The inaugural JEWELS Camp was a roaring success with girls from all walks of life coming together over four days of discovery, community and fun. Activities included archery, night games, art, self-defence and a fabulous costume dance party. In between all the frivolities some serious content was covered which set the stage for growth and discovery.

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GENTS Camp SA #3 decided to pick the 50 year storm! I'm still trying to work out what purpose there was . . .

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## Aiming for the Future



How do we reach out to a society that thinks it has all it needs? How do we cut through all the pleasures, entertainment and distractions with the only message that really matters? How do we be salt and light (Matt 5:13-16) to a people who deny God's existence and denigrate Christianity?

These are the kinds of questions SU staff struggled with and reflected upon during our annual staff retreat. With the many shifts and changes across Australian culture and society, how does SUSA continue, as it says in 2 Corinthians 5:20; *"we are Christ's ambassadors, as if God were making his appeal through us."* to be an effective ambassador for the gospel?

It's worth mentioning that we are constantly praying and seeking God's will for the future. SUSA is an ambassador



organization. Through our many ministries our main aim and purpose is to share the good news of Jesus. Please keep praying for us and for the needs of SUSA.

In this edition of SU News you will read about our new campaign,

Club 100, which we hope God will use to bring much needed extra finances to support and grow our ministry efforts. Perhaps you, your church or business could become a Club 100 sponsor.

Above all our conviction is to serve Christ in all we do and say. SUSA is God's vessel, we are his servants and we hope to keep serving his will and purpose faithfully.

In Christ's service

**Chris Battistuzzi** | Executive Director

## New President for SUSA



We are excited to announce the new State President of SUSA, Kevin Hull. What does the SUSA President do? They are a volunteer who gives their time and talent to support SUSA.

At various times they may operate as an advocate for SU ministry, a mediator if required, a voice to and from SU that

offers wisdom and guidance.

Kevin Hull has a long history of SUSA involvement and a passion to see young people know Jesus. He is a Baptist Pastor (recently retired) and has volunteered to lead efforts for SA activities to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of SU.

We are looking forward to seeing how God will work through Kevin for the future of SUSA.

**Chris Battistuzzi** | Executive Director

(Kevin, pictured above, together with wife Raelene)

## From the Chair



So often as we look at the world today we look at the demands placed on us, look at how much more we could do if only we had more staff, people or money. We are in danger, perhaps, of only seeing the looming, very large mountains we think we need to climb.

Recently, Scripture Union Australia has been looking at the possibilities of how states might be able to support each other better. Nationally, there are over 10,000 volunteers and in South Australia we have around 800. That is amazing! Quite an enterprise, one might say. How is this? Well, 2 Corinthians 8:5 might give us a clue. Paul wrote about the grace of God to the Macedonians during a very difficult time.

*'The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could - far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.'*

*This was totally spontaneous, entirely their own idea, and caught us completely off guard. What explains it was that they had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives.'*

2 Corinthians 8:5 - The Message Translation

Praise God for all of you – for those who volunteer, for those who support SUSA in so many ways, who give, and continue to give, themselves unreservedly to God and to us.

**Vivien Bleby** | SUSA Chairperson



**More than at any time in our history, Australian children have little or no knowledge of the Christian faith; no idea about the Bible; no idea about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Sharing that message is the purpose of Scripture Union. Quite simply, it's why SU exists.**

If you share our heart, passion and purpose to see more children come to Christ and effectively discipled, then please seriously consider and pray about joining our CLUB 100.

Contact the SUSA office on 8235 9500, or visit our website for more information: [www.susa.org.au](http://www.susa.org.au)



### 4 ways you can donate:

Request a Club 100 Sponsorship Form

Online: [www.susa.org.au/donate-online](http://www.susa.org.au/donate-online),

Scan the QR Code with your smart phone,

Or call (08) 8235 9500 between 10am - 4pm.



# "God is there and he can change any horrible life around once we believe"

[continued from pg1]

Kel Beams (Collective Shout) held a captivating presentation on how advertising and the media sexualizes and objectifies women and the impact that has for girls in their self-esteem, value and image. She spoke on how the proliferation of pornography is impacting the current generation of girls and boys. Girls commented afterwards that this information had 'blown their minds' and had totally changed their thinking.

Chris Battistuzzi presented on how girls and boys are wired differently when it comes to sex and relationships. He emphasized how highly God valued each girl and that all girls should expect care and respect from boys.

Jo Paynter shared a powerful talk on how Jesus views women compared to how our culture views women.

Jesus was woven into all issues discussed at JEWELS and many girls gave feedback revealing a new understanding of how Jesus was relevant to their lives.

*'I saw God at work on camp when the leaders told their stories.'*

*'It was really good, they spoke on topics that everyone could relate to, Christian or not.'*

*'God comes to us where we are in our life.'*

*'God is with you. No matter what.'*

By the end of camp non-Christian girls were asking us to connect them with their local youth group and church. Most declared they would be returning to JEWELS in 2017.

**Cherith Harvey |**  
At-Risk Ministry Coordinator



*"It made sense and made me more aware of how much God values me and all women"*

**If you - or someone you know - have a story about how an SUSA Camp experience has changed your life, we'd love to hear from you. Send your story to: [stories@susa.org.au](mailto:stories@susa.org.au)**

## SU Celebrates 150<sup>th</sup>



In the annual report of the CSSM and Scripture Union in 1884, the following words were recorded: 'The great aim of our Mission, during the seventeen years of its existence, has been to use any and every means to lead children and young people to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.'

Since that time CSSM and Scripture Union merged and has become rich in its expression of ministries towards that same great aim. To acknowledge the 150th anniversary of its beginnings it has been suggested that 'an event' to mark the occasion should be planned.

I have committed myself to planning – something – or perhaps two or three somethings – or more if there is interest in regional gatherings around South Australia. I hope to start planning this year.

I am also searching for photos of past beach mission and camp teams. If you have similar photos, then please scan and send them so that they too can be posted on the SUSA FB page.

**Kevin Hull |** SUSA President

**If you have ideas or thoughts and/or are willing to help with the planning, please contact Kevin at: [kevin@susa.org.au](mailto:kevin@susa.org.au)**

## Welcome Jason & James



Jason Abbott



James Lee

We would like to introduce the NEWEST members to the SUSA team; Please welcome Jason Abbott and James Lee.

**Jason is our new Camps Coordinator.** His role will be facilitating the SUSA Camps ministry. Camps are a vital part of our ministry to young people. It's a well established fact that significant decisions for faith in Jesus are made at camps. Therefore his role is crucial to the overall strategy of introducing Jesus to young people.

**James is our new Schools Worker.** His key focus will be Primary Age ministry, but we hope to build his role to include high school in the future. James is already busy familiarising himself with COPs, SUPA, being trained in ChildSafe, and meeting SUPA team members and leaders.

Both are employed one day a week. Please keep them in your prayers, and make them feel welcome.

**If you feel prompted you can join Jason or James to grow SU's Camps or Schools Ministry. For more information call 8235 9500, or email [info@susa.org.au](mailto:info@susa.org.au)**

**Scripture Union of South Australia**  **3**



## Aflood with Blessing



GENTS Camp SA #3 decided to pick the 50 year storm! I'm still trying to work out what transcendent purpose there was in the Onkaparinga River, which split our campsite, surging from 10 metres to 300 metres wide. Nearly every activity had to be changed or rearranged. It was

through God's goodness that when we had to venture outdoors for pre-booked activities, the weather did allow us to.

It was so encouraging to hear and see campers engaged in worship and spiritual input as much as all other activities on camp. I've not seen teen boys love worship quite like they did this year on camp. Since camp, I've already heard of a camper not from a Christian background take his father along to church because he was inspired by GENTS Camp worship!

*"I learnt that being a man isn't always about muscles"*

*"I learnt that Jesus destroys death. Gents camp has helped me to recommit my life to God"*

*"The faith input was really good and I came closer to God"*

The leaders' testimonies again this year were very real and honest about the difficult journey to manhood, which set the tone for campers being honest with themselves and with others.

At least a couple of campers made significant profession of faith in Jesus for the first time, while nearly every other camper commented that camp either considerably strengthened their faith or helped a lot.

**Hamilton McNicol** | Youth Ministry Coordinator



SUSA partners with local churches to run camps and missions throughout SA during the school holidays.

To register or volunteer for an upcoming event, or for more information email [info@susa.org.au](mailto:info@susa.org.au)

*Holiday Outreach*

SCRIPTURE UNION

**BEACH  
MISSION**

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*Go on a Mission!*

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For more info call 8235 9500 or check out our website:  
[www.susa.org.au/beach-missions](http://www.susa.org.au/beach-missions)



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