

SU News

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105



Kids Games



Sure Winner!

In this Edition...

Kids Games / SUPA Serve

This year SUSA stepped across the border into the NT to be a part of running Kids Games, a week long . . . [\[read more - pg's 2-3\]](#)

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SUSA launched GENTS Camp Romania in 2019! Yes, you read that right. You probably don't know . . . [\[read more - pg's 4-5\]](#)

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One thing that SU does really well is working with local churches across denominations for the goal of . . . [\[read more - pg 8\]](#)

 Spring Edition | 2019

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA 
Scripture Union South Australia

From the Director

Eric Liddell said,... (hang on I hear you say, Who's Eric Liddell?)

OK, the short version:

- Brilliant rugby player for Scotland.
- Olympic Gold medallist.
- Outspoken about his faith.
- Stood up for his beliefs when others tried to make him compromise.
- Retired young from sports so he could follow God's call as a missionary to China.
- Died in a Japanese prison camp in 1945.

Here's what he said: "We are all missionaries. Wherever we go we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ."

This kind of thinking is at the heart of SU ministry and volunteering. We are all missionaries. Jesus calls each one of us to go into this world, our schools, town, work, community, wherever we are, and to make Him known.

☞ We are all missionaries...

Yes these are challenging times but these are also exciting times. People are still hungry for the truth of God and at SU we are seeing more opportunities to share the gospel than we have time and capacity to support. There are more churches contacting SU for help and more open doors to go into schools and the community than we have volunteers available to do.

Part of our future hope is that as a national movement we can release more resources and staff time in order to better train and equip more volunteers to live out their faith in this world.

☞ We either draw people to Christ or we repel them...

So here's my question for all of us; Are we, through our words and actions bringing people nearer to Christ or by our lack of words and actions, are we actually repelling them away from Christ?

Only you can answer that for you. If you want to learn how SU can help you to serve others and bring people closer to Christ, give us a call or email.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



Change... inevitable but sometimes confronting and difficult. I recall a story about a minister in a parish who stood at his local railway station every week and watched the express train whiz by. When asked why he did so, he replied 'because it's the only thing in the parish I don't have to push uphill'. Unlike the minister and his parish, the changes in progress for Scripture Union do not feel like pushing uphill!

Each of the eight SU movements across Australia continue discussions around the formation of one national movement, and draft proposals have now been developed for the SUSA Council to consider following which, after feedback, these proposals will be brought to you, the members, at a later meeting.

A Transformation Agreement, which the parties will sign next year, will include guiding principles about the rationale for change, the vision for the new entity and the values behind it.

Clearly there will be a time of transition from the old structures to a new company, followed by what will probably be about three years of integration when SU national operations begin, and people, ministries, systems and processes are progressively combined to complete the formation of a national movement.

This has been and continues to be a mammoth task and SU is blessed to have many very talented and competent people working towards a national movement. Crucially all are totally committed to the vision, ministry and health of SU for the decades ahead.

For us here at SUSA there is another change. I will be stepping down as Chair at the end of the year and have great delight in announcing that David Jenkinson will step into that role as from January 2020. Dave brings many skills which are perfectly suited to this stage of the life of SUSA and the National transformation project.

I thank God for the Council members and their support over the last four years – South Australia is blessed to have such a cohesive group of people who seek to prayerfully follow the will of God.

Please pray earnestly – for the national transition and our local movement, for all the volunteers and staff who make SUSA what it is. We value your prayers. Blessings

Vivien Bleby
SUSA Council Chairperson

Why Would They Come?



They're not paid, they're not tourists, and they're not mango pickers arriving early. They've paid their own way. They're kicking footballs, playing basketball and hanging out with primary age kids. Why would they?

This team of volunteers have been living in Katherine and sleeping in tents for a whole week... in 40 degree weather!

All week Scripture Union NT have run a Kids Games program at the High School Gymnasium. More than three dozen teenagers and young adults have flown interstate to help out because our town churches are too small to do it.

Maybe your kids came along. If not, they've missed out. I've had the privilege of being there all week, mostly as an observer to the program. Four of our local churches have provided morning teas, five of our local churches have been involved, four of the pastors have been on site most of the week.

They've got to know each individual kid, cared for them, been attentive to their uniqueness, and celebrated and included each child.

Why would they do this? They're wanted to share Jesus' love with the families of Katherine. You can't buy this kind of awesome.

Rev. Kristian Slack
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Katherine

Sports Based Ministry to Children

God is certainly opening new doors of ministry. This year SUSA stepped across the border into the Northern Territory to be a part of running Kids Games, a week long sports-based outreach to children, in Darwin and Katherine.

Kids Games began over 10 years ago in Darwin and now efforts are being made to expand and take it to other states.

It's a primary aged sports focused program which presents Jesus through games, drama and small groups. As a ministry it fits perfectly with the DNA of SU: It involves working with the local churches, develops volunteers, builds mission and creates outreach. Children hear the gospel presented through bible stories, drama, song and small groups.

In July, Chris Battistuzzi spent a week in Darwin to understand how it works. He met with leaders to explore its potential and how Kids Games can be used in regional centres across Australia.

SUPA Serve!

SUPA Serve is a focused leadership component of Kid's Games. Young leaders participate as a mission and leadership development experience.

They are given the opportunity to lead all activities and co-ordinate the day's events. Young leaders are supervised, mentored and guided by experienced adult leaders.

"It impacted more than the kids, it impacted us. It was a Holy Spirit filled adventure that had way more meaning than just a trip to the NT. I'm looking forward to what God has planned for our future." Joel aged 16.

The impact on the children was very evident just by watching the joy on their faces. When prayer was mentioned for the first time, some children had no concept of what prayer is or who Jesus is. By the end of the week there were kids leading the small group prayer times.

This ministry is going right back to basics. Who is God? Who is Jesus? What is prayer? Can we talk to Jesus ourselves?

The focus was on God wanting everyone, no matter who they are, where they come from or what they've done, to become part of His team.

It was wonderful to watch some children pray, dedicating their lives to Jesus.

Please pray they continue to feel God's love and provision and pray for the future of Kids Games and SUPA Serve as we work to increase this ministry alongside local churches in 2020.

Chris Battistuzzi & Cherith Harvey
Executive Director | Gen180 Coordinator

In October, Kids Games was launched for the first time in Katherine. SUSA were well represented with Cherith and Pearl Harvey in attendance, along with Aboriginal intern, Ema Bovoro. They were fully engaged with the program, even leading one of the days.

For the local churches this was a first as they worked together with an SU team to minister to and reach out to local children and families.

The school chaplain expressed what a wonderful gift Kid's Games was to the local children who often have nothing to do during school holidays.

The program also met a practical need by feeding hungry children. During term, the schools usually provide breakfast, recess and lunch to local children who need it. However this service isn't available during the holiday periods and those children often go hungry, eating less when school is on break.



SUSA ED, Chris Battistuzzi (far left) with 'Ox' Roberts (SUNT), Andrew Parkinson (SUNSW) & Glenn Coombs (SUNSW)

Local churches provided fantastic morning teas and local Pastor's connected with the team. Kid's Games in Katherine was a real blessing, success and the local churches certainly want it to return in 2020.

Plans for Kids Games in 2020 are already underway as SUSA partners with SUNT in hosting the sporting event in Alice Springs, and again with SUNSW in Broken Hill.

A key part of this ministry is also developing young leaders, it's called **SUPA Serve**. Big things are happening.



GENTS Camps

GENTS Camp South Australia



In the spring school holidays, Gents Camp SA returned to where it started, utilising the new self-catering facilities at Mylor Adventure Campsite. Eighty campers, leaders, assistant leaders, tribe chiefs, and tribe elders had a blast without one digital device in sight for 5 days. The tribal wars, activities, small group discussions, and interactive spiritual input sessions were all enjoyed thoroughly and shaped perfectly for teen boys.

'The Shrine of Manliness' was the theme for camp. The boys loved the spiritual input sessions which explored how boys typically put their hope in objects and pursuits to prove that they are men. Each leader contributed a 'manly' item to the shrine from their late teen years. Items included a car, a gaming laptop, a phone, sporting equipment, a TV, bottles of alcohol, and more. It was a shrine that initially everyone seemed proud of.

On the second day, each leader told the full story connected with each item. The hope of maturity and respect they expected these items to help bring actually brought the opposite. They brought pride, pain, wasted months and years of life, and despair. One by one they destroyed these expensive items in front of the boys. Their mouths were agape. One boy cried, "Don't destroy it, give it to me!". Afterwards, they understood, and each boy put a post-it note on an item they identified with.

This proved to be a fantastic springboard for the exploration over the rest of camp of what makes a boy a man. Boys were hungry to know how Jesus meets this desire in them. The rest of the activities rounded out the whole camp as a great bonding experience.

In 2020, GENTS Camp SA will be held 3rd - 6th October, during the long weekend in the middle of the spring school holidays.

Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Projects Coordinator

Burden for Romania

SUSA launched GENTS Camp Romania in 2019! Yes, you read that right. You probably don't know that Gents Director and SSUSA Youth Coordinator, Hamilton McNicol, was once a missionary in Romania. Through his continued heart for that country and ongoing ministry contacts, the concept to begin GENTS Camp in Romania became reality this year.

A small team travelled to Romania and for months beforehand they worked hard to assist SU Romania pull it all together. They raised around \$10,000 and paid for many things out of their own funds, all to help a team of Romanians run their first GENTS Camp Romania, July 15-20. The Director of SU Romania, Cristi Maritan coordinated the logistics at the Romanian side, and recruited some excellent leaders.

There were many challenges to be overcome:

- Language barriers.
- Boys from Rudolph Walter orphanage came a day late and had been deceived into coming. They brought drugs and cigarettes and were angry to be there.

- Almost half of campers were orphans.
- Multicultural team, and expectations
- Largely inexperienced team
- Slightly smaller team of leaders, with 2 or 3 leaders for 12 campers
- Limited resources

But despite the challenges there were some amazing results:

- 8 boys put their trust in Jesus for the first time
- 7 boys had an awakening of a dormant faith
- Most boys said it was the best camp of their life
- The initiation and general leadership development was something the Romanians had never seen before,

and were deeply impressed how by the end of the week, they were able to make a family of a very diverse, and often challenging group (especially the orphans).

- The orphans at the end of the week were upset they had to return 'home'. They didn't want the camp to end.

Into the future:

SU Romania are very keen to run it again next year. Maybe 1 or 2 weeks later in the year to avoid clashing with exams. Here in SA we are keen to support them once more and it appears that help may also come from SU in European countries such as Norway, Switzerland and England. WOW – how great it is to be part of an international SU ministry.

Who knows, Gents camp may soon be happening in even more European nations and impacting boys lives for Christ.

If you would like to know more or to contribute towards the camp for 2020, contact Hamilton.

SU Welcomes New Chair!



Introducing the new Chairperson of SUSU, David Jenkinson.

As of January Vivien Bleby is stepping down and David will begin as Chairperson. Many of you will already know David as he has been on Council for many years, even serving as Vice Chair. David brings a great set of skills to the role and a heart for young people coming to know Jesus. Within SU ministry he has had strong involvement with Gents camp. You will hear more about and from David in the next SU News.



SA & Romania

GENTS Camp Romania!

The first GENTS Camp in Romania ran from July 15th to 20th near Timisoara, Romania. Josh Lines and Hamilton McNicol from Gents Camp SA went over with two other volunteers from New Zealand to join a team of Romanians for the inaugural event. Three days before camp a contingent of 20 campers pulled out. In the providence of God, a chance meeting with an orphanage director in the local markets 2 days before camp saw 20 orphans take their place. In total 43 campers and 11 leaders made an excellent sized group.

The week had plenty of challenges. Marrying a group of leaders together from three different countries took patience and problem solving. And, the inclusion of the orphans was a complete surprise to the orphans who were told they were going to the swimming pool for the day, only to find themselves arriving at a camp. They were angry, distrusting, and looking for a way to return to their orphanage which was familiar and 'safe'. The Romanian SU leaders also had no experience of working with orphan boys and were initially perplexed at how to manage their unpredictable and sometimes threatening behaviour.

At the end of the camp a Romanian leader, Daniel, commented, "On the training night we were told that our tribe will feel like family by the end of camp. I didn't know how that would be possible with the orphans, but it was true". Some of the final statements from the orphans at the end of camp was that they didn't want to go 'home'. It truly was a great example of how Jesus can transcend cultural and social barriers to bring unity.

The camp drew to a close with eight boys putting their faith in Jesus for the first time, and 7 other boys from church backgrounds choosing for themselves to put their trust in Jesus. In and through all the activities we were excited to have one of the Romanian Assistant Leaders, Adrian Ciuras, complete the initiation, who was determined to wear the GENTS signet ring by the end of the week.

SU Romania have invited us to come and run the camp with them one more time in 2020, before hopefully they can run it completely for themselves in 2021.

To see a summary of the first GENTS Camp Romania and comments by campers, check out: 'Gents Camp Romania 2019' on You Tube.



Prison Kids Camps Update



The final PK Primary Camp for 2019 was held at Woodhouse Activity Centre in September. Despite a weekend of downpours the children conquered a series of physical challenges including an obstacle course, giant swing, high ropes and giant tube slide.

Our volunteer leaders lead the campers on a journey through the story of Joseph and small groups were an opportunity for children to discuss their lives and faith. PK camps continue to have a life changing impact among young people who have a parent in prison

Cherith Harvey
GEN180 Coordinator

Summer Missions are coming!



Summer is on the way; the prospect of warm balmy evenings, time at the beach and family holidays. It also means Scripture Union Family Missions (SUFM's) affectionately known as "Beach Missions" are on their way too.

This season will see 6 SUFM's run over the summer: Victor Harbour, Pt. Vincent, Moonta, Tumby Bay, Kangaroo Island and a new mission on the river at Mannum. This begs the question, can SU Family missions still be called "Beach Missions", when not all our missions are held in beach locations?? Something to think about.

Each team is well into their preparations. Team members have been finalised, the Training Day has equipped and encouraged the teams and the finer details of craft preparations, child safe documentation and program particulars are being worked through. These preparations are necessary for the running of the program but what about safety and protection, strength and sustaining or maintaining unity within the team? This is where you come in.

The powerful work of unceasing prayer upholds all our missions and is the powerhouse that saturates and covers each mission. Please pray for missions.

A flyer has been included within the SU news to help you pray specifically for each of the SUFM's while they run. Your prayers are valuable and will impact each mission, as God will hear those prayers and bring about His plans and purposes. Thank you for taking the time to humbly bring these requests to Our Father in Heaven. May you know blessing as you do.

The legacy of SU Family Missions is due to the great kindness and faithfulness of God. Every year God is at work by His Spirit revealing Himself and drawing children, youth and families to Himself through the teams and the creative ways they show and share God's love through Jesus. God asks us to work with Him to make Him known. This is a great privilege; it brings joy and blessing and it reveals God's magnificence as we glorify Him.

The work of God in and through SUFM's in the past, during this current season and into the future is worth taking time to celebrate. This is what we did at our recent



Training Day event. We held a celebration service where young and old, past and present, team members and those that support missions all gathered. As we worshiped we celebrated by singing, by praying and we gave praise as we acknowledged the great and all-powerful God we love and serve. It truly was a great celebration!

Julie Calvert
Missions Coordinator



Our Newest SUFM!!

VICTOR HARBOR

**27th December
- 5th January**

PORT VINCENT

**4th - 11th
January**

MOONTA

**4th - 11th
January**

TUMBY BAY

**4th - 11th
January**

MANNUM

**4th - 11th
January**

KANGAROO ISLAND

**11th - 19th
January**

Jewels Camp and Tree Climb Picnic



This year Jewels was in the unprecedented position of not obtaining enough registrations. Cherith received many emails from parents stating their daughters would have gone had the dates not conflicted with family long weekend holidays. For 2020 we are reviewing the camp and will work towards making our Jewels ministry better than ever.

To keep our Jewels family going strong we organised a day of adventure and fun at Tree Climb Adelaide. The girls who registered, along with some of their siblings and parents, faced the Grande Tree Climb course and afterwards families and climbers enjoyed a picnic catered for by SUSA.

Many girls and parents expressed their commitment to Jewels 2020 and the need for a girl's identity camp. Families realise that today's culture is increasingly destabilising gender identity and failing to provide solid ground for young people to stand on in order to navigate the issues in our culture. SUSA look forward to providing Jewels camp in 2020 and seeing it grow into the future.

Cherith Harvey
GEN180 Coordinator



Kids Camp on Eyre Peninsula



In recent years SU has been building stronger connections on Eyre Peninsula. Our Family Mission at Tumby has gone from strength to strength and people like Glenys Sauturaga (nee Tiller) ex SU staff, keep serving God and representing SU locally.

Out of all this a new partnership ministry has begun with churches and volunteers on EP for the running of Kids Camp (KCEP)

Chris Battistuzzi travelled to Tumby Bay for the camp and got involved with their amazing team. Even giving a fire twirling and breathing display as part of their circus theme. "I was so impressed by the passion and hard work everyone put in. Jesus was always the focus and loving the kids was the key action."

There were 106 campers and a team of 40 adult and junior leaders. Many children came from non-church homes and several made decisions to follow Christ. The camp was booked out and more churches are wanting to send their kids. What a great problem to have. Do we try to squeeze more in, have a second camp or something else?

Please pray for Team Leader Val Edwards ('Superwoman') and the KCEP Team as they work to discern the best way forward so more kids can hear the good news of Jesus.

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



First Nations Ministries



In September First Nations Ministries travelled to Port Pirie to be involved in GOD'S MOB, a Tuesday afternoon children's and youth ministry.

Cherith ran games and Ema delivered an engaging message on prayer. We hope to continue to build strong relationships with the Aboriginal community and local churches in Port Pirie.

First Nations are also gearing up to run a children's program in Port Augusta in January 2020 at the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship National Convention. We will be putting together a team of young Aboriginal leaders and others.

To raise the needed funds to transport, accommodate and feed our team we are running a quiz night at Aboriginal Berean church on 23rd November. We aim to have tables from a variety of Adelaide churches represented, a range of great prizes, children's activities and a dinner provided.

If you would like to contribute towards this growing area of Aboriginal ministry please contact SU.

Cherith Harvey & Ema Bovoro
GEN180 Coordinator / First Nations Ministry Intern

Keep the flame alight

Many people whose lives have been touched by SU are so deeply grateful for it's ministry that they couldn't imagine a world without it.

Did you know that you can leave a bequest to SUSA in your will? By leaving a bequest you provide opportunity for ongoing ministry, enabling future generations to hear about God's love for them. Please consider including SUSA in your will.

Contact the SUSA office on 8235 9500 or email info@susa.org.au for more information on how you can leave a bequest to SUSA.



SUPA Clubs are SUPER Outreach!



One thing that SU does really well is working with local churches across denominations for the goal of introducing children to Jesus. The new and growing ministry of after school and holiday SUPA Clubs is a prime example of this.

What does SU do? We help volunteers from different local churches to start up a SUPA ministry that works for them and their situation. We can be flexible about this and offer expert support, training and resources for their specific setting.

Whether it's one church or many, SU can help your church to achieve SUPER outreach to children and their families through SUPA Ministry.

Recently we saw fantastic holiday outreach clubs run in Port Pirie and Victor Harbor supported through SU. This term our regular SUPA Clubs are running again, forging new church connections in their communities, while sharing and showing the love of Jesus to children and their families. It doesn't get better than that!

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director

State Director Chris Battistuzzi has over 30 years experience with children's ministry in the church, schools and various outreach programs. Contact Chris if you would like to explore how a SUPA Club might work in your area.



National CMN Meeting

This August SUSA played host to a two day national gathering of the State Chairs for the Children's Ministry Network.

Across Australia CMN works to advance the cause of ministry to children. Here in SA CMN is an important network of denominational and organisation leaders who share resources, work together on activities and share ideas and provide support.

If you would like to know more, contact Chris through the SU office.

National CMN Leaders (standing): Libby Horton (ACT), Terry Williams (QLD), Ella Peachey (NSW), (seated) Chris Battistuzzi (SA), Chris Barnett (VIC), and Jenny Cowley (TAS).

Vision Dinner 2019

Great food, great stories and great fun all came together at the SUSA Annual Vision Dinner. The dinner is always a fantastic event where SU supporters, new and old, come together and share an evening celebrating the past 12 months of serving God through SU. This year was no exception.

We heard direct testimonies from campers about how SU camps had turned their lives around. There were also several stories from schools about children hearing who Jesus is, and what Christians believe, for the very first time in their lives.

SUPA Clubs are growing. Family Missions keep reaching kids and families. New Aboriginal ministry is opening up, and much more. In other words, through the various ministries of SU, the good news about Jesus is proclaimed and is changing lives. If you didn't make it this year then hopefully you can join us for Vision Dinner 2020.



SUSA uses the ChildSafe system of safety and risk management for all our programs. We are also the sole trainer for South Australia. For more information on ChildSafe visit: www.susa.org.au/childsafes



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