



SU News

AUTUMN EDITION 2023

United in Christ's great *mission*

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“

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent me.

– John 17:20





Return to real

Real transformation at Summer missions.

The words of Jesus in John 17 were, and are, a prayer for not only His disciples but for you, me, and everyone who believes in Him. Jesus prays for our unity in Christ so that the world may see the love of God through us.

“*This is the very essence and purpose of our mission as Christians; to make Jesus known to the world, and to invite people into a relationship with Him.*”

As I reflect on John 17, it is clear that Jesus never placed the responsibility of ‘making His name known’ onto a sole individual – He commissioned us as a community brought together by our shared faith. Scripture Union NSW is committed to this mission – to be united around a single purpose to encourage others.

Mission is where we see real transformation happen, and this summer, 25 teams and 1,000 faithful volunteers had the opportunity to plant seeds of hope and make the Good News of Jesus known to people across NSW. We are already seeing the fruit of these seeds grow and are continuing to pray for many more!

The world is thirsty for genuine connection. Scripture Union’s Gospel impact is profound, because it happens when we step away from the screens and into the realness of life at a camp, mission or at school. It is returning year after year, being a steady and accessible place where people can meet Jesus.

As we approach 2023, it’s our desire to ‘return to real’ – to help people reconnect to reality by getting involved with face-to-face ministries, reading Bibles together and engaging with the local community – where real relationships can be formed that change lives.

We invite you to join us as we embark on opportunities throughout the year to ‘return to real’. Because in Jesus, we find a real, transformed life.

In His Service,



Ian Altman
SU NSW State Director



Summer Mission Highlights

 **25**
teams

 **1,000**
volunteers

 **25**
events held

 **20,000**
people reached



“

*I didn't know about Jesus before
coming to Mission, and now I
believe in Him.*

- Primary aged girl at Corrimal SUFM





From Beach to the Bush

An unexpected opportunity for Rural Mission.

Written by Andrew Parkinson, Associate Director.

What do you do when you have a team of 50 people ready for a Beach mission, and then the caravan park calls to say there has been a mix up and your team no longer has a site?

This is what happened to Bulli SUFM. However, this unfortunate situation opened the door for the team to pivot to a Rural Mission based in Narromine.

“The church community of Narromine was overjoyed at the prospect of the SU team coming out to run a camp!”

One week later, the team of 30 arrived in Narromine, while the other 20 remained behind to make day trips to Bulli so a beach mission could still take place.

There was no opportunity to advertise in Narromine prior to the team's arrival so they spent the first day door-knocking and building relationships in the community. The response was overwhelming!

Families came out in droves to the *Movies in the Park*, daily kids program, youth drop-in, inflatable water slides, and many other fun activities the community loved.

The Narromine Beach Mission was a resounding success for the team, the church, and the community as a whole. There are now plans to establish an annual rural partnership mission with the hopes to build a lasting relationship with the Narromine community.



Pray with us

- That SU NSW will continue to honour God through our ministries.
- We praise God for all the people who attended Summer missions and were impacted by His Word.
- For God's help in maintaining the highest standard in all that we do at SU NSW.
- Provision for new outreach ministries across NSW to share the Good News.

Summer *snapshot*

Our teams connected with churches and communities in new ways this season, impacting people beyond missions.



Local church connections and partnerships across Beach Missions

We are committed to see church partnerships grow well into the future. Thank you to the churches who provided accommodation for teams and partnered with us in ministry.



YAMBA BIBLE CLUB Jazz and Miriam, volunteers

The week-long program at Yamba and Maclean is aimed at engaging the rural Aboriginal Community.



MALABAR BEACH Olivia Ruigrok invited to young camper's baptism

Taylor shared her testimony before she was baptised and expressed the impact that SU NSW played in her life. It's a joy to see her owning her faith. What an honour!



BROOMS HEAD MISSION Shanae, volunteer

Shanae dislocated her shoulder while running one of the kids programs and after a trip to the hospital, was back serving on the Brooms Head Team. Nothing could stop Shanae - what a champion!



LAKE TABOURIE SU FM

Thanks expressed by a parent whose kids were so impacted by their experience that it has ignited a "mini-revival" in their family!



Summer Missions capture the attention of *Eternity News*

A heart to love the indigenous community in Yamba and Maclean through 'Bible Holiday Clubs' for kids.

This is an excerpt of the Eternity News article: "Love, Death, Grief, and Other Life Lessons this Summer." *Written by Clare Potts, published January 11th, 2023.*

"It's 11.14am on a Monday morning as we turn onto a small, paved road on the south side of Yamba, on the NSW North Coast.

Immediately the landscape changes. What were green-grassed nature strips and white weatherboard houses with frangipani trees in full bloom become sandy-dirt scrub, dunes and a littering of houses, some burnt down, others in a state of disrepair.

A sign passes on our left, painted with blues, blacks and red. This is Ngaru Villiage or 'The Mish' (short for mission) as it's known locally. It's one of two locations between Maclean and Yamba where communities of the Yaegl people live.

We park the car outside the first worn-down house. Myself and my two friends get out and exchange a nervous glance. We are all wearing identical t-shirts with

the acronym HBC printed in block letters across them. It stands for *Holiday Bible Club*, a name that can only have been dreamt up by well-meaning Christians from the 1970s. Clutched in our hands are flyers we've cut ourselves the night before.

"Every year in the week after New Year's, a group of Christians travel from Sydney to Yamba to run a week-long holiday program for Aboriginal kids of the Yamba and Maclean communities."

Think the usual stuff – a talk, games, craft, food, maybe a puppet here and there. While this would have seemed like hell-on-earth for 10-year-old me, the kids and their parents love HBC. Their reaction to our visit highlighted this.

As we walked up to the entry of the first house, we were greeted by a young woman warmly. "Oh, you are running this again! Yeah great!" As simple as that, she took our flyer and said she'd be sending some kids along.

The next house was no different. A young woman and her mum were sitting on their porch with three dogs snoozing at their feet. The younger one recognised my friend. "Jazz!" As she looked at the flyer we handed over she beamed, "Oh bless you guys. I loved going to this when I was a kid."

As we wandered down the hill to the next house I said to my friend Jazz in astonishment, "They really trust us." She looked at me, a bit confused, and kept walking.

Jazz is a local here and grew up in Maclean. She's one of those rare people who genuinely doesn't buy into stereotypes. She's just present. She shows up."



Read the full
Eternity News
article online

Scan to
read





Uniting in *faith* and creativity

Celebrating our first ONE Music Festival.

“There’s nothing quite like uniting under Jesus’ name. It really was an amazing event that brought all the local churches together.”

Written by Joanne Faletese, South Coast Regional Coordinator.

Wycliffe Ochieng (a.k.a Wicky), an ISCF director in Kiama, had the dream to see a Christian music and creative arts festival on the South Coast. Wicky has such a heart to glorify God, and envisioned bringing people of diverse ages and backgrounds together to experience and celebrate the Good News of Jesus through music and the arts.

Together with Scripture Union, Wicky joined forces with Christine Burman, who serves alongside him at Kiama High School ISCF. On 26th November, their vision came to life at The Pavilion in Kiama when the first “ONE Music Festival” was born.

The phenomenal festival was attended by 329 people of all ages, faiths, denominations and backgrounds. Festival goers were treated to live performances on

the main stage, plus an array of artists busking around the festival grounds. There was also petting zoos, games, crafts, vendors, and plenty of food to keep people of all ages entertained! There truly was a sense of ‘oneness’.

Most importantly, the name of Jesus was celebrated. The Good News was shared in songs, guest speakers’ messages, kids puppet shows, and in one-on-one conversations. We praise God for the testimonies of people committing and recommitting their life to Jesus.

Plans are already underway for our next ONE Music Festival this November! We invite you to continue to pray for this exciting new venture – that God would be glorified, and that His hand will be guiding the volunteers involved.



Pray with us in 2023



Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

- Colossians 4:2-4



Pray with us in person & online

At Scripture Union, we seek to honour God in our mission with prayerful reliance. We invite you to join us in faithful prayer, because we believe that when aligned with His Spirit, we can see the impossible unfold before us.

Prayer Encounter:

12 - 1pm in person at SU HQ office in Rydalmere OR online via Zoom.
First Wednesday of each month.

Prayer Online:

7.30pm on Zoom (via the link below).
Third Wednesday of each month.

More details - sunsw.org.au/pray



PrayerMate App

Pray privately or in your church groups using the PrayerMate App - updated regularly with SU NSW prayer requests. SU NSW points are updated via the app.

Subscribe to our PrayerMate



Prayer Calendar

The SU NSW Prayer Calendar is released quarterly with our SU News magazine (find enclosed). A digital version can also be accessed below or via our website.
- sunsw.org.au/pray

Download latest version →





True *belonging* is found in God's family

Being different doesn't mean you have to miss out.

Written by Rob Burton, Church Relationships Coordinator.

Spencer, 20, often struggled to fit in with his peers at high school. He has cerebral palsy and is unable to walk or speak. His only method of communication is through his computer. But every year while in high school, Spencer attended Dare 2B Different camp.

It was at this camp that Spencer found the love and acceptance he hadn't found in school. Spencer says,

“I knew right away that this was a camp of loving Christians who do not walk away from a challenge.”

Dare 2B Different is a unique camp for teenagers with varying forms of abilities, to participate in experiences that might otherwise be inaccessible. The ethos of this camp embodies unconditional love, inclusivity, and embracing each others' differences.

Our recent Dare 2B Different camp in December was no exception. Sixteen campers and sixteen leaders gathered in Campbelltown for a great week of adventure and making friends.

There were activities galore; from 'Moments of Madness' wide games to water activities, relays, archery, rock climbing, board games, and the giant swing – everyone got involved and had a great time! To top it off, campers and leaders enjoyed a bonfire to celebrate New Year's Eve together.

We also had the privilege of being joined by Joy Allen, one of the Founding Directors of Dare 2B Different camp.

Joy and her husband, Tom were always encouraged by the positive impact that SU camps had on their children's lives. However, Joy discovered there was no camp in their community specifically catered for teenagers with varying ranges of ability. Together with SU, they created Dare 2B Different to close that gap.

Joy says, “We love the unconditional acceptance and opportunity for growth for all people involved.”

SU's camps are built on the premise of doing life together. True belonging is certainly found in being a part of God's family.



Check out our upcoming camps

Up to 100% discounts available for those in need!
sunsw.org.au/camps

Scan to find out more



School ministry shaping young people's *futures*

Praise God that we have the opportunity to share Jesus in NSW schools.



 **NORTH SYDNEY GIRLS ISCF**
Laura Ying Bee, class of 2014

“The time I spent in my high school ISCF group and camps were so formative for my Christian growth. From deepening my understanding of the Scriptures, to providing opportunities of fellowship with other believers at my school, and ultimately shaping the trajectory of my life. I still remember my *412 courses* and *Train and Plan Days* — and am so grateful to God for those opportunities during high school.






Today, our group are mostly working and remain actively serving at our home churches in various ways, with some of us studying vocational ministry. It's been an encouragement to see the legacy of this ministry continue.”

“Thank you for supporting these school groups. ISCF shaped my future.”

Introducing our new Metro Schools Worker, David.

 **SUNSW METRO SCHOOLS WORKER**
David Krebs



-  **How did you become a Christian?** At a camp when I was in Year 12.
-  **Where did you grow up?** I'm originally from the country but moved to 'The Big Smoke' in Sydney for study.
-  **What did you study?** I undertook two bachelor degrees - in Music Education and Theology.
-  **Passions:** My greatest passion is to see people come to know who Jesus is.
-  **Favourite pastimes:** When not working, you can generally find me reading at a cafe, walking around the shops, cooking, pretending to know how to care for a garden, or spending time with my wife Pippie.
-  **What are you looking forward to in your role at SU NSW?** Working with volunteers - training and equipping people to grow in their knowledge and love of God, and see them encourage others.

Schoolies in Vanuatu

November 2023 | Paradise with Purpose

Are you completing your HSC in 2023 and want to do something impactful in your holiday break?

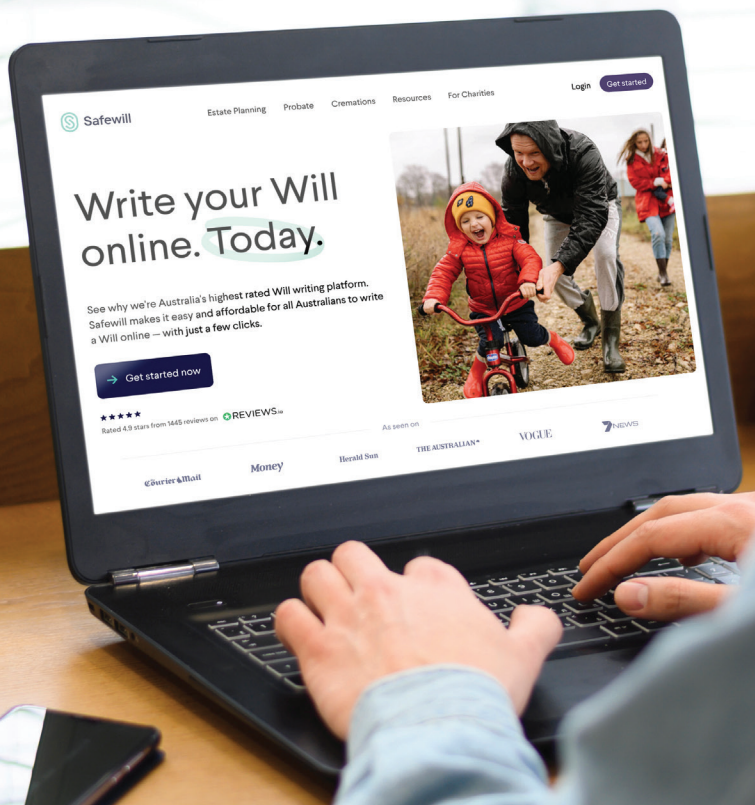
Be immersed in a new culture, make meaningful friendships and put your Christian faith into action. Get hand-on experience in sharing the Good News of Jesus while enjoying your summer in paradise!



LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

Register by April to secure your place.

Find out more 
info@sunsw.org.au
sunsw.org.au/schoolies



 Safewill

Write a Will for 50% off and share the Good News of Jesus!

Scripture Union NSW has a long history of serving the Kingdom of God in everything we do, and are proud to partner with SafeWill.

You have the opportunity to **write your will for 50% off** and continue to help SU NSW make the Good News of Jesus known by empowering volunteers, raising up leaders and encouraging children, young people and families to engage with the Bible.

Find out more 
safewill.com/sunsw

