



SU News

SPRING 2023



Putting Wheels on *Dreams*

CAMPS EDITION

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Indispensable force



Meeting Jesus on Camp

For Scripture Union, camps are more than new adventures—they're transformative.

I remember the moment as if it were yesterday. It was January 1985, I was 17 years old and attending a camp on the outskirts of Sydney. I should have been preparing to head back to high school, but instead, I was already working.

My last few years at high school had been difficult so I left school at the end of year 9 to take a job with the State Rail Authority. Being adopted, I really struggled with understanding who I was and where I was going. Leaving school early and getting a job seemed, at least to me, like a good option. I would finally have control.

But when I attended that camp, I realised I still had very little control over my life. I don't remember much about the camp in terms of its programs, talks, or even who

was there. What I do remember was the final night. I was feeling troubled, and God had begun to do His work in me.

It was around 1am, and I was in a clearing surrounded by tall gum trees. A leader at the camp found me, and I began to share how I felt unloved, unwanted, and worthless. The leader opened the Bible and read John 3:16 to me. He then read it again and inserted my name.

"For God so loved Ian...."

"In that moment I felt the love of God. I felt fully loved for the first time."

That revelation rang through my spirit and I went from feeling worthless, to knowing that I am worthwhile - worth dying for.

It was, and still is, life-changing. Right there, in the early morning hours, I committed to being all-in for Jesus. That decision has guided my life ever since.

My story is one that has been experienced by many young people in every one of Scripture Union's camps. These moments are the reason that Scripture Union in NSW is committed to enabling children and young people to attend a camp; so that they might hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,



Ian Altman
State Director

An opportunity to hear the Gospel at every camp

By Dave Tankard - Associate Director, Camps & Missions

SU camps are a fun and affordable place for young people to hear the Gospel - where they can be themselves, engage with activities they love, or explore new interests.

Each camper returns home with more than just memories; they carry the imprint of a "wow" experience within the embrace of a Christian community and a deepened connection with God.

Cost should not be a barrier.

We believe cost should not be a barrier for a young person to hear the Gospel, and financial assistance is available through our 'Kids to Camp' fund.

Creating safe places for genuine connection.

Camp volunteers are positive role models, speaking truth and ministering through intentional conversations. These God-centred relationships can have a lasting impact. Our camps are places for friendships to flourish, with many going back each year to reconnect with friends they've made.

An opportunity to grow.

Not only are our camps an opportunity for young attendees to grow, but our amazing leaders look forward to serving at camps, missions and schools throughout the year. Many leaders testify that volunteering with SU not only helps them grow in Christ, but furthers their passion to serve in their local church and community.



Camp testimonials

 Camp Bevington



JANICE:

"I was invited to an SU camp, and it was here that everything really clicked. I just knew that I had to have the Lord in my life and I had to be definite. So I inked my name on the decision card on 2nd of January, 1954. That's a date I'll never forget."

 Create & Connect Forster



LATISHA BUTTSWORTH:

"I love seeing the ways God has used camps to bring those He loves to Himself. I also loved re-connecting with girls who have 'cross-pollinated' from Glenbawn Fishing Camp!"

KIDS to CAMP

At SU, we're committed to breaking financial barriers for kids to attend camp. Contact us to enquire about financial assistance, or partner with us to ensure every child gets a chance to hear the Gospel at camp.

Find out more:

(02) 9638 9000

info@sunsw.org.au



Putting Wheels on Dreams

From Idea to Reality: Ride like a Girl Camp.
Bec had a vision that went beyond the saddle – to give girls a place to ride, bond, and hear the Gospel.

Growing up in Armidale, Bec's life had always been intertwined with horses. She had a desire to combine her twin passions of horses and her work of teaching at the local high school. She saw an opportunity – a space where girls could combine their love for horses with their faith.

She shared her idea with her friend Julia, a fellow horse lover and jump marshal. Julia dropped everything, and said, 'I've been praying that God would use me for something like this.'

At that moment, Bec and Julia went out to the horse yards and together prayed a bold prayer – that if this was from God, He would make a way.

Taking the idea and making it a reality did not come without its challenges. Bec reached out to Dave at Scripture Union who shared in her excitement. He revealed that there was an available funding pool for drought-affected families, precisely targeting the demographic they had in mind. The timing was amazing.

Insurance, a colossal hurdle, seemed insurmountable. "We've seen really big claims in recent years for some horse accidents that have happened in the millions. So insurers have gone a bit quiet on wanting to fund horse camps".

Thankfully, Dave continued to encourage and reassure her that 'no rock is too large for God'.

So, they kept persevering until they exhausted all possible avenues and got a breakthrough thanks to Equestrian Australia.



Just when things seemed to start falling into place, they faced more hurdles. Heavy rains, flooding, and the onset of Covid-19 resulted in not only having to find a new venue to host the camp, but also sleeping quarters to house the campers.

In a desperate last minute attempt to find a new location, they contacted The Tamworth Pace Way, a showground with an undercover grandstand and stables for each girl. "They only had one date in 12 months available for a camp, and it just happened to be on the date we proposed and within our exact budget!"

A local church stepped in to support with accommodation. Covid restrictions forced the numbers to 20 within the space - again - the exact number of registered girls. "It seemed to us that every time we had a problem that was threatening to close the camp down, we got a solution."

"We felt like God was using our problems that were almost catastrophic, to grant us a better solution."

Bec recalls: "That first camp, we got there by the skin of our teeth, but it was such a success".

A highlight for Bec was seeing one of the girls and her mother walk into church for the first time the morning after the camp. She's been coming to church ever since! Another special outcome is seeing how the community has really gotten behind the camp - they loan horses each year for the girls to use.

The camp has been very successful and has become a space where girls not only hone their riding skills but also their understanding of themselves and their faith.

The camp is heading into its fourth year and is focused on fostering leadership and growth while connecting with girls over a shared passion of horses. The age range has now expanded to include girls up to Year 11 to create an environment where older girls can support and mentor the younger riders that attend.

Bec and her team are currently in the process of designing a follow-up program that creates built-in opportunities for leadership development.

Has God put an idea in your heart to help young people engage with the Gospel and the love of Jesus?

SU NSW can help you move from an idea to a reality. By partnering with SU, you receive strategic experience, connection to community networks, and administrative support in areas such as screening checks for volunteers, managing online registrations, budget advice and support, and insurance.

Take the next step to discuss how we can support you:

(02) 9638 9000
info@sunsw.org.au


Watch the News feature from 7 Plus Regional.



A Scripture Union camp for everyone

Over the past decade, SU NSW camps have flourished, expanding from around ten to over forty camps – a testament to God’s blessings and the dedication of the incredible volunteers involved.

SCOTT’S HEAD



Create & Connect

WESTERN NSW

PARKES



Cricket Camp



Shearing Camp

FORBES



Senior Ag Camp*

CAPERTEE



Bike Camp*



Junior Bike Camp*

MOLONG



SUPAg Camp

MUNDARLO



Girls Ag & Boys Ag Camp*

MUDGE

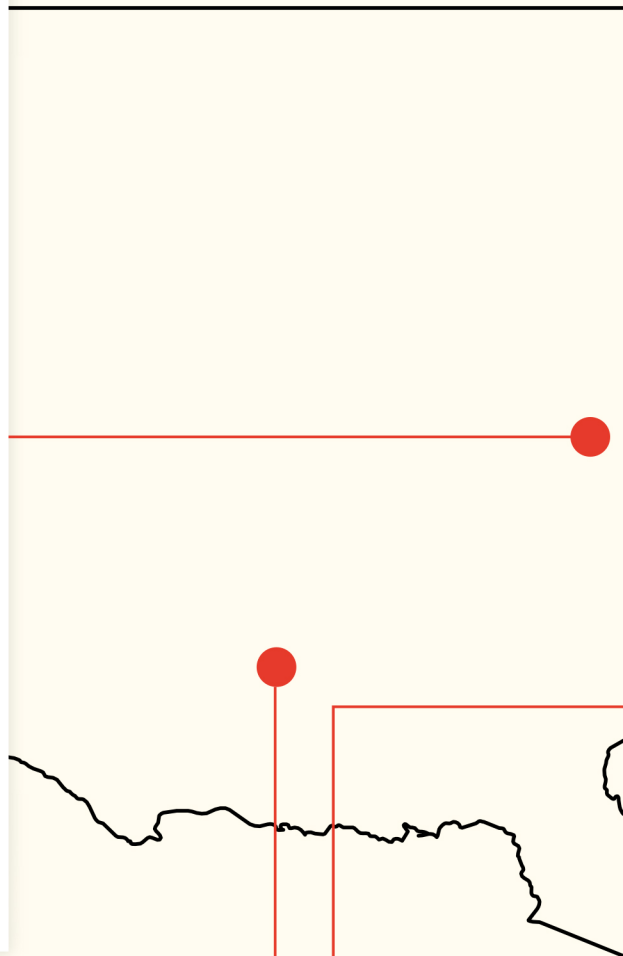


Fishing Camp

WELLINGTON



SURGE Ridgecrest



Camp Season:

- Autumn
- Winter
- Spring
- Summer

*Camp location varies from year to year

SOUTH WEST NSW

ALBURY



SURGE Riverina

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY

WEDDERBURN



Dare 2B Different

WARRIMOO

WARRIMOO



Reboot

Book for upcoming camps:
sunsw.org.au/camps

NORTH COAST

FORSTER/
PORT MACQUARIE



Create &
Connect

BEXHILL, NEAR
LISMORE



North Coast
Junior Ag Camp*

NORTH WEST

TAMWORTH



Rugby Union



Bake off



Rugby League



Pins & Needles



Leadership
Conference

INVERELL



Outback
Adventure Camp

GUNNEDAH



GENTS Camp

MANILLA



Ride like a Girl

CENTRAL COAST

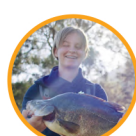
WYEE



FUSE Camp

HUNTER REGION

SCONE



Glenbawn
Fishing Camp

WALLSEND



Create &
Connect

NEAR LAKE
MACQUARIE



Soccer Camp

BLUE MOUNTAINS

FAULCONBRIDGE



Craft Camp

LAWSON



Leadership
Conference

SOUTH COAST

TATHRA



Fishing & Diving
Camp

NOWRA



Created Camp

BUDAWANG
RANGES



Camp
Conquerer

Meet some of our Camp Directors



RUSS AVERY

High school teacher

📍 Wagga

🕒 8 years directing

🗨️ **What camps do you run?**
Steve and I direct Camp Conqueror

🗨️ **What activities do you organise?**
We go on a four day hike through the awesome Budawang Ranges. Along the way we spend quality time in the Bible, getting to know Jesus better. We then wrap up the week with a trip to the beach, a game of footy and the concert night.

🗨️ **What do you love about running the camps?**
All the leaders love getting out on the hike; we get to see them work together to overcome the challenges they encounter. We love Jesus and sharing Him with others. Conqueror gives us a great opportunity to help the campers get to know and love Jesus for themselves.



JENNY SPEER

Science Teacher / Counsellor

📍 Tamworth

🕒 6 years (3 directing)

🗨️ **What camps do you run?**
Leadership Conference.

🗨️ **What activities do you organise?**
Overseeing the conference, encouraging and supporting team members to fulfil their roles, and teaching young people how to write a personal testimony.

🗨️ **What do you love about running the camps?**
Spending a week living in Christian community - it is a taste of heaven. I love seeing delegates grow in their faith and leadership skills. Testimony night is a highlight each year, where delegates share how God is working in their lives. You can see the impact of applying the leadership skills they've learnt in their schools, church, SU camps and missions.



BELINDA GONSALVES

High school SRE teacher /
Primary school chaplain /
Freelance window dresser

📍 Tamworth

🕒 4 years directing

🗨️ **What camps do you run?**
Pins and Needles girls camp.

🗨️ **What activities do you organise?**
We share the skill and passion of sewing.

🗨️ **What do you love about running the camps?**
I love watching mature women sit alongside young women and not only share their skills of sewing, but share their lives and the love of Jesus. Praise God for generous hearts that overwhelmingly donate food, time and resources.



PETE & JODIE OSTE

Engineer and Psychologist

📍 Molong

🕒 13 years directing

🗨️ **What camps do you run?**
Junior Bike and Bike Camps in spring.

🗨️ **What activities do you organise?**
Bike riding, camping, bible studies, quiet times, cooking and sharing stories around the camp fire.

🗨️ **What do you love about running the camps?**
Getting out into God's creation for a week, having intentional community with young people by sharing the Good News of Jesus, and seeing them grow in faith.



WENDY KETTLEWELL

Student

📍 Nowra

🕒 3 years

🗨️ **What camps do you run?**
Created Camp.

🗨️ **What activities do you organise?**
Helping zookeepers with zoo animals, attending animal shows at Shoalhaven Zoo, Tree Tops Adventure, and bushwalks.

🗨️ **What do you love about running the camps?**
Giving young people a taste of what the christian community is about, and then seeing the campers and leaders grow personally and spiritually.

Volunteer Testimonials

📍 Camp Conquerer



ALISON LEE:

"I've been involved with Camp Conquerer since 1979 when I was a camper. It was here that I was trained to be a leader. Today, I enjoy serving as a cook alongside my daughter and husband. I love seeing the kids enjoy the hot food we prepare after hiking in the bush for four days; it's like a ministry to their interiors! I see many come back year-on-year. It really reinforces their faith and helps them know Jesus as their Saviour. This is a wonderful way of partnering in God's great mission."

📍 Camp Conquerer



MONICA CARTER:

"My first experience of Camp Conquerer was as a 10 year old. My parents were the camp cooks and took us along - I was so excited! I was always amazed at how the leaders helped every person enjoy their experience. The leaders encouraged a love of God's creation, and taught His Word. These days I'm more in the background, playing a supporting role - helping leaders focus on getting to know the kids and share the Gospel with them. After all these years, I still love being part of this ministry."

Celebrating God's work at camp

📍 Rugby Union Camp

A leader's love that points to Jesus: A young leader worked hard on this camp to connect with a very 'spirited' camper. At the end of the camp he told his Mum (who was not from a Christian background) that connecting with the leader was his favourite part of camp.

"Thank you for caring so well for my son." – Parent.

📍 Create & Connect Camp

Salvation story: Parents shared how their friend embraced Jesus after their child attended the Create and Connect Camp.

"Thank you for providing a space to encourage our friend's faith. Also praise God that kids are putting their trust in Jesus on camp!" – Parent.

Young people living with purpose



Leadership Conference 2023

Our “Living with Purpose” Leadership Conference in Tamworth saw over 35 young people dive into the book of Ecclesiastes, be challenged in their leadership skills, and form deeper friendships.

Even more exciting, was the number of delegates from previous years who were keen to continue their development by stepping up to join the team as leaders. LC is a beautiful example of how God is equipping and discipling young Christians to lead their generation!



ACTIVE Youth SUPA Club

Update by Joanne Faletose, South Coast Regional Coordinator.

This term, we’re diving into stories of impactful Christians like Eric Liddell, Joni Eareckson-Tada, and Corrie ten Boom. I shared Mary Jones’ tale, *Igniting the Bible Society’s mission*.

A boy in our group, revealed how Jesus helps him daily—his 1800+ day streak on YouVersion wowed us! Each child received a personalised Bible with a ribbon placed at Luke. We pray their love of God’s Word blossoms.



Partner with us to support HSC students!

The Hope Project is all about encouraging and sharing the Good News with students during exam time, to remind them they are loved, valued and given a hope-filled future by Jesus.

Ways to get involved

- > **Student:** receive community encouragement, prayer and a celebration pack.
- > **Prayer Partner:** support financially and in prayer.
- > **Church Partnership:** involve church or youth group.



Register now:
hopeproject.com.au
Follow on instagram:
[@hopeproject_sunsw](https://www.instagram.com/hopeproject_sunsw)





Scripture Union's Indispensable force

At the heart of our movement lies an indispensable force – volunteers. They form the backbone of Scripture Union's missional efforts.

Scripture Union is a dynamic movement that empowers individuals to live their faith in a tangible and impactful way.

We are founded on the belief that the Bible is essential for spiritual transformation, and our central mission is to make the Good News of Jesus known. We're passionate about encouraging people of all ages to encounter God's Word daily and apply it to their everyday lives.

"Volunteers are the heartbeat of this movement. Their commitment, passion, and selfless service are pivotal to Scripture Union's impact on children, youth, and families."

Without the sacrifice and service of our volunteers, we would not be able to foster transformative experiences for individuals, families, and entire communities. The impact of these actions, according to the Scripture Union historians John and Moyra Prince, is immeasurable!

Volunteering profoundly enriches volunteers too. Faith is strengthened, skills are developed, lifelong friendships are forged, and leaders, who go on to serve Jesus in powerful ways in their local church, are uncovered. Many go into full-time ministry due to their volunteer experience with Scripture Union in NSW.

Volunteer impact in 2023

Our volunteers helped us engage with approx
15,000 people



40+ camps




180 lunchtime groups in NSW public schools



30 SUFMs (Beach Missions)

Want to make a kingdom impact?

With mission teams coming together to plan for summer, now is a great time for you to explore existing volunteering opportunities.

Contact us: 
(02) 9638 9000
info@sunsw.org.au





Taste & See

An immersive experience of Scripture Union NSW

Saturday 14 October 2023

9:30am – 4pm

Parramatta Baptist Church

84-94 Kleins Rd, Northmead 2152, NSW



Special guest performer & speaker: Colin Buchanan

Register now!

Book your tickets at:
events.humanitix.com/tasteandsee

Adults: \$20

Kids: Free



+ Children's program available throughout the day for school-aged children.



Family, Friends, Food, Fun

A practical and immersive experience that captures the essence of what it means to be part of the SU community.



Elective Workshops

Dive into a diverse range of workshops designed to provide you with valuable insights and skills, inspiring you to take your interests and involvement to the next level.



Celebrate Stories

Connect with people from all walks of life who are united in their commitment to making God's Good News known.