



SU News

SUMMER EDITION 2022

Sowing the seeds of the *Gospel*

04 FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS: JANICE'S STORY

06 YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FINDING JESUS ON SU NSW CAMPS

08 MAKING THE GOSPEL ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE



We're not shrinking back in sharing the *Good News*



I was recently challenged by the stories of those persecuted because of their faith in Jesus. These men and women have been jailed, beaten, or even killed because they choose to follow, worship, speak and proclaim the name of Jesus.

Open Doors reports that 360 million Christians are currently suffering high levels of persecution because of their faith. In the last year alone, 5,898 Christians have been killed because they chose to follow Jesus. Very few of us in the west will ever face persecution of this magnitude.

There are certainly challenges facing Christians in Australia - doors are being closed, CEO's are losing their jobs, and we at Scripture Union in NSW are constantly hearing of Principals who are saying 'no' to lunchtime groups and SRE, in both primary and high school settings.

While this can be disheartening, it's not comparable to the reports and stories coming from Christian movements across the world.

As I observe the challenges and pushback from secular society, it seems (at least to me) that it has more to do with the church's view on specific issues that are at odds with the secular world. It's not so much about the name, person and the Good News message of Jesus.

One of the things that I am most proud of when it comes to Scripture Union is the unapologetic commitment to making the Good News of Jesus known to children, young people and families.

"It's Jesus we encourage people to commit to - and people are turning to Him. During the Spring holiday period, we saw 30 young people give their lives to Jesus at one of our camps!"

As we head towards the 2022/2023 mission season, 25 teams (around 1,000 volunteers) are preparing to take the Good News of Jesus to beaches and holiday destinations across the NSW Coast. Christians from all walks of life will come together and step out of their comfort zones to share the love of God with holidaymakers. There's excitement in my spirit as I consider what's possible!

Please join me in praying for all the volunteers and if you are able, consider partnering with us in our Christmas appeal as we make His Good News known this summer.

In His Service,



Ian Altman
SU NSW State Director

Changing World, Same Mission

Written by Paul Fitzpatrick -
Missions Committee Chair

This summer, SU NSW missions will once again take to the coastal towns, caravan parks, schools and communities to share the love of Jesus.

While the landscape in which we are working has changed as we've persevered through fires, droughts and Covid-19 – our mission remains unchanged! We are excited to see how God will use this time to open new doors for the Gospel.

We're thrilled that our mission teams with around 1,000 volunteers are going out in new ways or locations, with the same message of hope! We are also deeply encouraged by the teams

who are focusing on building momentum for the years to come.

Thank you to all who are supporting, serving and praying this summer. We appreciate the time, energy and resources you are putting towards this work.

*"Though the world changes,
Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, and
forever."*

- Hebrews 13:8

May God equip you for every good work in which He has prepared, and may you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain as you serve Him this summer, and in the future.



Prayer requests

- Pray for all our SUFM, Holiday Bible Club and Summer Life mission teams, and in particular the Directors as they lead and make decisions.
- Ask God to protect, uphold and grow our volunteers that local communities will be blessed through their presence, and that hearts will soften to the Good News of Jesus!

Donate

to help scatter the seeds
of the Gospel into the
hearts of young people.



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Online
sunsw.org.au/give



YOUR GIFT WILL ENABLE US TO FUND:



Bibles
Goal: \$50,000



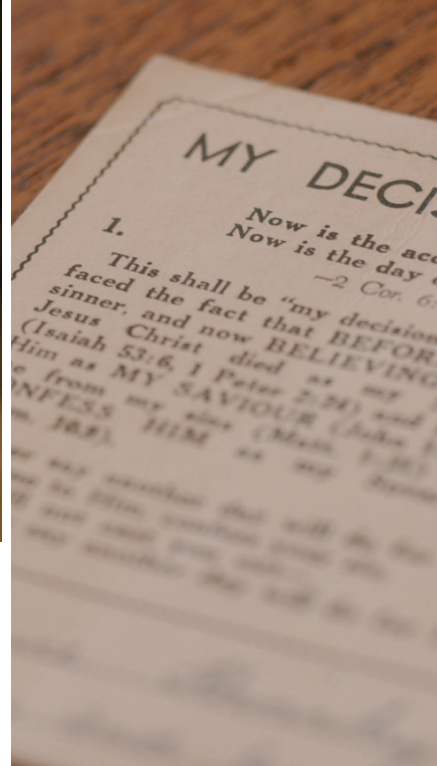
Staffing
Goal: \$180,000



Modern Evangelism
Resources
Goal: \$50,000 - \$100,000



Systems & Database
Goal: \$93,000



From Small Beginnings

Janice's Story



We recently sat down with Janice, a long-term supporter of SU NSW. Seventy years ago Janice was given a Scripture Union resource – a Bible reading plan – and it changed her life forever. The seed began to grow and grow. Since then, it has produced much fruit in Janice's life and in many others as a result.

As a young child, Janice would watch the other kids in the neighbourhood travel back and forth to Sunday school in their 'Sunday best'. She longed to join them. But even more so, she longed to know about Jesus.

In Janice's family, there was a strong belief that 'all problems were caused by religion'. She was discouraged from exploring Christianity and banned from any church connection. That didn't deter Janice – she was determined to know Jesus. However, getting a bible was going to be a challenge.

A local church had a Sunday School incentive arrangement. If you could 'prove' your weekly church attendance over a year,

you would be eligible to receive a Bible. This gave Janice an idea, and at the age of eight, she concocted a bold plan. In her eyes, this was the key to securing her very own Bible.

She would 'buy' her friend's Sunday School attendance forms – those who didn't care much about getting a Bible. And when she finally had enough, she would bravely approach the front steps of the Sunday School mistress' home, present her forms, and claim her prize. And hope she wouldn't suspect!

Janice set to work doing chores, even collecting manure from nearby fields to sell. With all her heart she wanted that Bible! And by some small miracle, Janice's plan succeeded.

She recalls:

"Finally I got a Bible, but had no idea how to read it. It fell open at Psalm 119, so I started to read that. My parents didn't worry because they didn't think an eight-year-old was going to understand anything out of a King James Bible."

Janice began waking up at 2am to read under the covers. For her, this book was as precious as treasure. God's Word became the 'light to her path' and started to take seed in her heart.

High school was a time of growth for Janice's faith. A girl in her class called Joy, was very enthusiastic about wanting everybody to have a Scripture Union card, which had a daily Bible reading schedule.

Suddenly she had a pattern for being able to read her Bible, and that was very exciting. Joy would come and check to see how she was going – and Janice thought that was wonderful!





From this point on, Scripture Union became a defining influence in Janice's life and faith.

She was invited to a SU camp - Camp Bevington in Budgewoi (NSW) and it was at this camp that she gave her life to Christ.

"Everything just clicked. I 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 the 2nd of January, 1954. That's a date I'll never forget."

Scripture Union continued to play a major role in Janice's budding faith. She attended ISCF at school and other Scripture Union programs where she made Christian friends and learnt how to read her Bible, pray, share her testimony, and was given opportunities to grow in leadership.

As Janice got married to her husband Bill and started a family, Scripture Union remained a big part of their life. The whole family attended SUFM Beach Missions.

Bill and Janice were on the leadership team and their children were 'Team Kids.' Those summer missions have formed some of their fondest memories.

Today, Janice and her family are still involved in Scripture Union in any way they can. She is so encouraged hearing the testimonies coming from ISCF and other mission programs - the same programs that transformed her life forever.

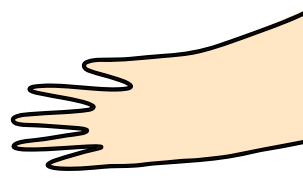
Janice shares: "Scripture Union is always there to encourage the little remnant and grow the seeds of faith. It's a real blessing to look back and see the fruit that's come from those few little seeds in this totally insignificant kid that really had nothing going for her."

"SU has been there from the very beginning. I couldn't be more thankful."



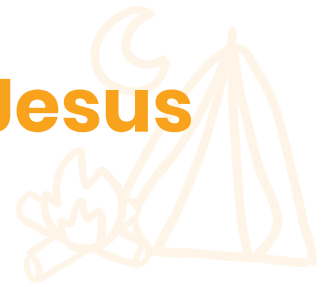
Watch Janice's inspiring story

Scan to watch video





Young people are finding Jesus on SU NSW camps



FUSE Camp Highlights

Written by Luca Kent - SU NSW Intern

Last school holidays, 64 high school students attended our four-day FUSE camp, along with the team of amazing leaders!

This year's theme, 'FUSE World Tour', encouraged campers to get involved in various challenges to win frequent flyer raffle tickets and FUSE currency for the end-of-camp picnic. The team with the least amount of currency at the end of each day saw their leaders forced to meet their fate at the dunk tank!

It was encouraging to see campers singing together, challenging themselves on the giant swing and bringing their competitive spirits to the BMX track, archery and canoeing.

Our guest speaker, Dan Heard shared the Gospel over four sessions, and campers were

given the opportunity to respond by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. For quite a few attendees, this was their first time hearing about the Gospel and the love Jesus has for each of them!

"We praise God that by the end of the camp, 37 young people made the decision, as either a first-time commitment or a recommitment, to become followers of Christ!"

Campers had the opportunity to unpack the talks and reflect in the daily discussion groups. These sessions motivated them to keep reading the Bible, grow their relationship with Christ, and share the Gospel with others.

The camp was a huge success with many seeds planted, and we thank everyone involved!



Spring Camp Highlights

Check out what we got up to on our recent camps and some encouraging messages from the community! We thank everyone who served, prayed and attended.

"My daughter came home from camp with renewed vigor for the Lord! She mentioned the talks as being a big part of what made an impact on her. She has been delightedly reading her E100 book and finding great joy in studying God's Word. It's been really exciting to see."

- Parent

"I'm thrilled that these public school students who have met Christ at FUSE Camp will now be followed up by their lunch group leader/ SRE teacher/ youth leader who can support them on the journey."

- Cheryl Burton, SU NSW Schools Ministry Team Leader



Register for upcoming camps!

Scripture Union NSW offers a wide range of overnight and day camps for kids and teens. There is something for everyone - cooking, crafts, animals, sports, tech, music, the outdoors and more!

Full 100% funding available to those in need.



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Making the Gospel accessible to everyone



Kylie Letcher (SU NSW Western Districts Regional Worker) and Noah at the Boy's Ag Camp in Eurimbla this year.

Noah was born with cerebral palsy. Like most kids starting school, he was excited about this new chapter – making new friendships and growing in independence.

Early into term one of Kindergarten, Noah started having dangerous seizures with increasing frequency and, after much consultation, it was decided that urgent surgery was required to disconnect the half of the brain that was causing constant seizures.

Since the surgery, Noah has lived with half a brain. This has limited his function on one side of his body. Noah was being home-schooled by his mother, Cath, who had to weave teaching in amidst the constant stream of doctors appointments.

Life hasn't been easy for Noah's family. A year ago, Otto (Noah's dad), was diagnosed with cancer, and tragically passed away on Noah's 13th birthday. Cath is now raising 3 boys (13, 11 and 9) on her own.

Earlier this year, Kylie Letcher (Western Districts Regional Worker at SU NSW) met with Cath and asked if Noah would consider coming to SU NSW's Boys Ag Camp. After discussions with Steve and Caitlyn (the amazing Camp Directors), they made a plan to accommodate for Noah – to create a welcoming environment where he could feel included and thrive.

Cath was overjoyed that Noah could attend. She commented, "He LOVED it! He made friends straight away! Thank you so much for the encouragement to move forward with it. I am so thankful to the whole Boys Ag team who worked hard to cater for him."

"I am grateful Scripture Union could provide a place to bring him so much joy in the midst of a very hard year. I'm thankful to God for giving our family this blessing."

Please join us in praying for Noah as he begins his next chapter at Dubbo Christian School and experiences school in a new way.

At SU NSW we want to make the Gospel message accessible to all. If finance is a barrier to attending a camp, please reach out to us. *Kids to Camp* is a campaign run in partnership between SU NSW and Hope 103.2, to offer children the opportunity for a fully-funded SU NSW Camp of their choice!

Find out more: sunsw.org.au/kids-to-camp-faqs

Dare 2B Different Camp

A five day camp for high-schoolers during the summer holidays, held in Wedderburn NSW. This camp is designed to be inclusive for all teenagers with varying forms of abilities. The games, activities and teachings are planned for everyone to be able to participate in and have fun.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss how we can accommodate for your child: 9638 9000 info@sunsw.org.au



Scan to book



Mentoring young leaders through The Hope Project

Written by Ella Peachey - 2022 Hope Project Lead

The Hope Project is an initiative born out of the 2020 lockdown that is focused on praying for, and bringing hope and encouragement to, year 12 students sitting their HSC exams. We feel there is still a deep need to minister to year 12 students across NSW.

“Scripture Union NSW has always demonstrated a passion for developing young leaders and enabling them to share the Good News of Jesus with their peers.”

I’ve always loved that about the work of Scripture Union,

they show that no one is too young to get involved in God’s work. This year it was such a joy to mentor and support Luca, one of our SU NSW interns, as she enthusiastically ran our Hope Project social media campaign.

Luca posted encouraging tips on our social media platforms and was able to share her first-hand experiences of sitting the HSC in 2021. Young people connected positively with her story and it was great to see Luca learn and thrive throughout the whole project.

A big thank you to our Prayer Partners who faithfully prayed for our year 12 students every day of

their exams, many of whom also donated to the celebration packs. We are so thankful for you and pray you were also blessed and encouraged by the experience!

“It was encouraging throughout the stress of the HSC to know that there were many people praying for each student, not just as a whole but individually. This helped me throughout my exams, and it was lovely to receive a gift from SU NSW afterwards. Thank you to those who prayed for us and to The Hope Project.”

- Allie, Year 12 student 2022



Luca’s encouraging videos on Hope Project’s social media.

Volunteer for The Hope Project in 2023

SU NSW are beginning to plan The Hope Project for 2023. We are looking for young people who have graduated high school in recent years to organise and create social media content for the project, with the support of SU NSW mentors.

If you or someone you know would like to be involved, please reach out to us:

hopeproject@sunsw.org.au

hopeproject.com.au | [@hopeproject_sunsw](https://www.instagram.com/hopeproject_sunsw)



Training student leaders to be ambassadors for Christ



Written by Janette and Brett Jackson -
School Ministry Partners

In October, student leaders, teachers, and volunteers from across NSW came together in Kingsgrove for the Sydney 'Train and Plan Day' - a day of training and planning for ISCF groups in schools for the year ahead.

We focused on a key theme from 2 Corinthians:

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

- 2 Corinthians 5:20

The group was joined by pre-service teachers (student teachers) from the University of New South Wales, who shared a range of methods to teach the Bible to young people.

Evan, a special guest speaker from 'Campus Bible Study' at UNSW, encouraged attendees in the truth of the Gospel and explored motivations to lead and serve in their schools.

Pre-service teachers enjoyed the opportunity for hands-on experience running seminars, talking with teachers and student

leaders about ISCF ministry within NSW public schools.

It was an encouraging time to connect and pray about shared experiences as Christians in these workplaces. The day provided spiritual refreshment and renewed motivation to continue to be ambassadors for Christ in school spaces.



God's work is evident in Sydney ISCF groups



Recent Highlights

Homebush Boys High School and Strathfield Girls High School

New lunchtime groups have kicked off this term! Give thanks for the Department of Education Teachers (Hanna, Martin, Erica and Janet) who supervise and support the lunchtime groups in these schools and enable them to operate. Thanks also to Victoria, Mike, Shinoy and Piri for leading these groups.

Concord High School

A thriving lunchtime group where students meet weekly to enjoy games, doughnuts and discussions about the Bible. Pray that this group will continue to grow regular attendees and provide a safe place where students can ask questions, explore faith and discover Jesus.

North Sydney Boys and Girls High Schools

In October, over 40 students from North Sydney Boys and Girls attended the North Sydney ISCF Day Conference - a student-run and organised event. With the support of the local church, graduated volunteer leaders, families and current students were able to come together to enjoy music, games and workshops.

"The conference was a great success and the students are looking forward to running more events in the future."

- Kiran Tam - North Sydney Schools Co-ordinator

A brand new SUPA Club @ Oakhill Drive Public School

Written by Dawn Tan - passionate volunteer and mum at the school.

A new SUPA Club was launched in term 3 with around 18 registered students, and by week 9 we had around 35 students! All glory and honour to God. Please continue to keep us in your prayers that the Lord will bless this ministry as we build fruitful relationships with the school, staff, parents, and students. May the seeds planted grow mightily for His purpose.

*Contact us to find more information about starting an ISCF or SUPA club in your local school: 9638 9000
info@sunsw.org.au*

A Guided Prayer for Schools Ministry

Written by Katie Stringer - Inner West ISCF Director and Scripture Team Coordinator



"Dear Lord, We thank you for the wonderful privilege it is to share the Good News of Jesus with young people in our schools. Thank you for the students who have Your Name on their lips and are ready to speak of You to their friends. We pray that these groups will be an enormous blessing to our school communities.

We pray for our students and teachers - that they will be strong in the Lord and to walk in the way of love as Your dearly loved children. May our students courageously follow You as they grow in their Christian identity; pursuing righteousness, faith, love and peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen."





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in
Vanuatu*

**November
2023**

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Questions or to Book
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