



# SU News

WINTER EDITION 2022

## The *Legacy* of Dr Bill Andersen

*A lifetime* commitment to sharing the Gospel.

03 SU FROM OLD TO NEW

05 PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH FROM  
ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

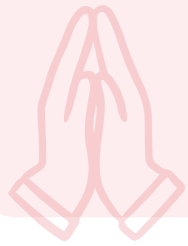
09 CAMP & MISSION HIGHLIGHTS





# Bill Andersen's Legacy

Reflecting on Bill Andersen's generational impact and how we can continue to run the race that Jesus has called us to.



Hebrews 12 speaks about being surrounded by "a great cloud of witness" and urges us to "fix our eyes on Jesus" as we run the race before us.

History is full of great Christian leaders who have gone before us, who have run the race with their eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, leaving us an example and legacy to build on as we now run the race that Jesus has called us to.

Bill was instrumental in drafting what we now call the Scripture Union Aims, Beliefs, and Working Principles\*, a document that directly influences and shapes the international movement of Scripture Union.



**For Scripture Union in NSW, one of our great witnesses was Dr Bill Andersen, a great man of faith, a great leader and a great visionary who impacted the work of Scripture Union on a global scale.**

While Bill was called home to be with our Lord in 2019, his impact and legacy on Scripture Union in NSW cannot be underestimated or overstated. At the celebration of Bill's 75 years of service with Scripture Union, he was asked:



**Ian Altman**  
SUNSW State Director

*"What do you hope and pray Scripture Union will be doing 75 years from now?"*

Bill answered by saying that he hoped Scripture Union would do two things:

1. Continue doing the things it has been doing; and
2. Discover new ways of confronting boys and girls with the Good News of Jesus and have its mind wide open for innovative things and opportunities.

Bill could see a changing world with new opportunities to impact children, young people and families with the Good News of Jesus. All of us at Scripture Union NSW are committed to doing just that, to finding new and innovative ways of making the Good News known while keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Sincerely,

## Donate to The Bill Andersen Fund

**Your gift today can help empower those who seek to serve others for Christ.**

You can help us to create practical leadership pathways for children and young people at various stages of life — from primary school to paid internships after graduating high school for aspiring young leaders.

## Ways to give



**Online**  
[sunsw.org.au/donate](https://sunsw.org.au/donate)



**Phone**  
(02) 9638 9000



**A lifetime commitment to 'make God's Good News known to children, young people and families.'**



*Dr Bill Andersen*

**When Bill was in year 7 he was told of the Good News of Jesus Christ in an SRE class at Fort Street Boys' High School.** The teacher involved was part of a new movement that had commenced that previous year in 1935 throughout Sydney high schools. This was called Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF).

His ISCF group met regularly during lunchtime and Bill became one of the students who was encouraged to grow in leadership and profited greatly from attending statewide leadership training conferences.

During his senior years of schooling and while studying at Sydney University, Bill was involved in many ISCF camps and began to lead monthly meetings of student

leaders from various ISCF groups around Sydney.

His involvement with Scripture Union began to increase and after serving in the war, he took on the role of General Secretary of SU Queensland running the office and also leading Camps, Beach Missions and Children's Missions. All this, and Bill was only in his 20s!

Bill returned to Sydney to finish his Psychology degree and became involved with the Evangelical Union at Sydney University serving as President. He began to teach at Wyong High and Punchbowl Boys High where he started the ISCF group and trained student leaders.

He married his wife Ruth, and together, they were extremely committed to the ministry of SU.

Bill was given leadership responsibilities with Scripture Union in the East Asia-Pacific region. During his time serving as Chairman, he attended the first International SU Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, held in 1985. At this conference, Bill presented drafts of the SU Aims, Beliefs and Working Principles document, which were discussed and

accepted. Some see this as one of Bill's greatest achievements.

Scripture Union was – and still is – a diverse organisation made up of people from various denominational backgrounds and Christian traditions. But through his extraordinary leadership, Bill was able to bring people together under a statement they could all agree to. Even more than that, Bill was able to create a document that would anchor and inspire SU work for years to come. The Statement of Belief, in particular, bears Bill's fingerprints in its artful and poetic language. It reflects the core tenants of the Bible – something that Bill was keen to capture and in a non-divisive way. This document is still in use internationally today.

In 2010, Bill was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the Scripture Union Movement. His response was;



**It's actually Scripture Union's service to me which has been fundamental and highly formative in who I am. I was caught up in this movement; a current with an orientation towards Jesus. I am the one who has been served well.**

\* <https://sunsw.org.au/volunteer-guidelines/aims-beliefs-and-working-principles/>





# SU from old to new



Bill was extremely involved with SU throughout his life, and he leaves a profound legacy for our organisation. Bill is remembered as a man of great integrity, faith and humility.

## Dr Bill Andersen's notable achievements



- Chairman, Scripture Union International Council, 1987-1992; Regional Chairman, East Asia-Pacific, 1981-1987.
- Chairman, Scripture Union Australia Council, 1970-1978.
- Chairman, NSW Schools and Camps Committee, 1958-1963.
- Lecturer, Morling College, Baptist Theological and Bible College of NSW and ACT, 1971-2006; Vice-Chairman, 1981-1987; Warden/Interim Principal, 1988-1989.
- Lecturer in Psychology, Moore Anglican Theological College, Sydney, 1970-1999.
- President, Baptist Union of NSW, 1991-1992.
- Associate Editor, Journal of Christian Education, 1958-1992; Guest Editor, 2004 and 2007.
- Author of numerous articles on education, philosophy and Christianity published in a variety of journals. Associate Editor, Journal of Christian Education, 1958-1992; Guest Editor, 2004 and 2007.
- Patron, Scripture Union of NSW, 2003-2008.
- Member (AM) of the Order of Australia\* - For service to religious education through a range of academic and professional roles, and to the Scripture Union movement.

\*<https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/awards/1141716>



Jean Porter, Bill Andersen (middle) and Alan Langdon.



Bill passed the baton of SU Patron to Simon Flinders...



**When I was chair of the board, Bill was an advisor to me. He was incredibly thorough, unbelievably sharp and a thoughtful mentor.**

- Simon Flinders, current SUNSW Patron



**I found Bill's energy and commitment to the development of our Schools and Camps ministry gave me a real sense of purpose that it was worth all the time and work involved as we developed this work across the state.**

- Dr David Claydon, Former General Secretary of SUNSW



David Claydon and Bill Andersen (right)



**I've met and worked with a handful of genuinely brilliant minds over the years. Bill is one. Bill Andersen walked alongside me, wisely and gently helping me to follow Jesus with my head, my heart and my hands. I am, in the full sense of this phrase, eternally grateful.**

- Rev Andrew Palmer  
Manager of Missional Communities, Wesley Mission



Bill Andersen (left) and Peter Jensen



**Scripture Union, in my view, has a double task of putting a lot of energy into what it's already been doing, and also having an imagination wide open for new innovative things.**

- Dr Bill Andersen

## A few of Bill's Ministry Highlights



1. His time in a Peruvian City on the banks of the Amazon, an area where the plight of street children was deplorable. Scripture Union was able to build a Centre where kids could be occupied in helpful and interesting ways, commence regular schooling and find protection. All of this was funded by SU children in Germany!
2. Another great experience was to accept an invitation from a group of Christians in Ukraine to provide training seminars for those particularly interested in working with children.



**SU has helped develop leadership and creative skills I didn't know I had. Leading small groups on camps or assisting volunteer teams - it's an exciting space that I hope to see more young people step into.**

- Latisha Buttsworth, current SUNSW Intern



**Bill recognised the growing challenges in sharing God's Good News through SU's work. However, he had an unshakable hope that a way forward would be found. His prayerful dependence on God has inspired me in that same hope.**

- Robyn Gillespie, current Board Chair of SUNSW



Watch Bill Andersen's interview on his **Hope for SU NSW for the next 75 years.**





# Passing the baton of faith from one generation to the next

How a life-changing year with Scripture Union NSW led Jeremy Kidd to pursue a career in sharing the Gospel and growing young Christian leaders.



Jeremy Kidd

### What did your SU internship involve?

Throughout my internship, I was able to get ministry experience across every area that Scripture Union supports. I led on many camps, missions, conferences and helped in training student leaders in my old high school lunchtime group as well as a local SUPA Club.

At SUNSW, interns can learn through hands-on experience alongside key SU team members, while being paid for their valuable part-time work and pursuing formal studies. Throughout my one year internship, I had the privilege of engaging with many inspiring people who use their various passions to make God's Good News known.

### How has SU impacted your personal faith in Jesus?

I can confidently say that SU was foundational in my growth as a young Christian. My time with SU has led me to pursue full-time ministry through an MTS Ministry Apprenticeship and study with Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC).



*Serving as a volunteer and intern with SU has developed me as a leader. It has created in me a deep desire to make disciples. I really want to continue being involved in the Great Commission of Jesus.*

Listen to episode 2 of *The Lamp Podcast*, featuring Jeremy.



A highlight of my internship was accompanying 'Parko' (Andrew Parkinson, Regional Team Leader) to encourage and support ministry in country towns across NSW. When I visited Broken Hill in 2017, the community were facing an intense drought. It dawned on me during that visit that it was not only the land that was dry. Our country is spiritually dry. There are so many who have not come to Jesus, the Living Water, and the only one who can save and truly satisfy. My eyes were opened to the importance to share the Gospel message.

### How do you feel that SU has helped you develop as a leader?

Serving as a volunteer and intern with SU has developed me as a leader. It has created in me a deep desire to make disciples. I really want to continue being involved in the Great Commission of Jesus.

That's also why I continue to volunteer as co-director of the SU Leadership Conference in Springwood.

### How has Bill Andersen's work with SU impacted you?

Despite not having known Bill personally, his passion for raising young leaders continues as a priority for SUNSW. So in that respect, he has paved the way for SUNSW to give me the opportunity to learn leadership skills.

### Why do you think people should donate to SU and in particular to The Bill Anderson Fund?

There is no greater privilege than to use our wealth for eternity. I would encourage people to be generous, enabling more leaders to be trained and equipped so that many more people might hear the name of Jesus - the only name that saves.



## SU Leadership Conference



Leadership Conference  
July 4th - July 8th 2022

2 locations in NSW:  
Springwood & Tamworth

Book your place now!  
[sunsw.org.au/  
resources/training](http://sunsw.org.au/resources/training)

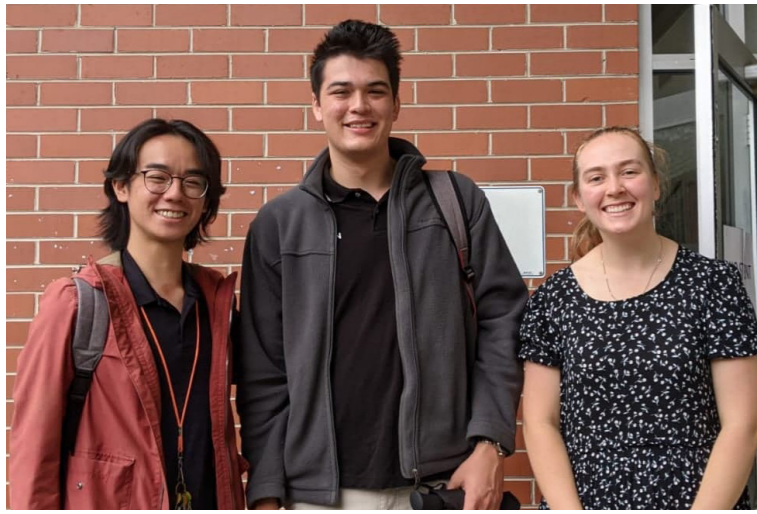


Leadership Conference is an epic, five-day conference operated by Scripture Union NSW. It's programmed to deliver a range of leadership training skills for established as well as emerging high school student leaders in grades 9-12.

A fun opportunity for student leaders to get creative and be challenged in how they can lead in their local school, church, community and beyond!

Up to 100% discount available for those in need!





Kate Ryan meets with former ISCF students who return to be guest speakers at ISCF.



Tricia and Christopher are the current ISCF Camp Directors for Normanhurst Boys and Hornsby Girls High Schools.

# Supporting young Christian leaders in Schools

God works in wonderful and often unexpected ways. It is a joy to witness how God continues to use the school setting to bring young people to know Jesus.

I first came to know Jesus at a local youth group where the Gospel was spoken clearly and faithfully from the Bible. God was also at work in the public high school I attended. The Scripture teaching helped me to understand more of the Bible as I started to put my faith in Jesus, and the ISCF group fostered a space of fellowship where I could serve by teaching younger students what I had been taught. I am so grateful for these ministries that have shaped me as a follower of Jesus.

thinking it would be only application writing experience. However, God opened the door for me.

**As one of the only Christian teachers at the school, I am so glad that I can provide supervision and support to this group of teenagers who want to know about Jesus. Praise God for this ministry! It fostered my growth as a young Christian when I was in high school, and now it's a joy to be a witness to the same thing happening at the school where I work.**

God is at work everywhere and works in wondrous ways. Four years ago I applied for this job

Written by:  
Kate Ryan, Christian high school teacher in North Sydney and ISCF Director.

Our ISCF group is run by senior student leaders. They write and run Bible studies for younger students, support Christ-centred fellowship in the school setting, meet together to make decisions for the group, and organise additional SU activities (like camps and day conferences) in holiday periods.

As COVID restrictions have eased, years 7-12 students have been able to meet again in person. Our ISCF group partners with another local school, allowing us to organise larger combined gatherings which the students really enjoy. As ISCF student leaders transition from year 11 to 12, the older leaders have been mentoring the younger ones, meeting together to plan gatherings and Bible studies.

During the autumn holidays, Luke and Ling Shooter from St Thomas' Anglican Church North Sydney ran a leadership training day for the ISCF leaders from both high schools. Luke broke down the book



of Ephesians and the students were supported in developing main points and Bible studies from passages in the book. The studies the students develop will be used during Term 3 in combined ISCF gatherings.

It is such a blessing to have this church oversee Scripture teaching and support the ISCF groups.

Last year, I was greatly encouraged when I received an email from some of the parents of the ISCF students, sharing with me that there was a collection of 10 or so parents who meet fortnightly via zoom to pray for school scripture and ISCF meetings. God is at work and it's a privilege to partner with him to share the Good News with young people in schools.

## 'Christian Teachers Connect' Update

We were delighted to have over 70 DoE Christian teachers attend our online *Christian Teachers Connect* event in March.

Our two guest speakers shared some wonderful stories of seeing God at work in their schools, and wisdom on how teachers can shine God's love and care in their community. A great encouragement resulting from this event was a group of teachers committing to meet regularly to pray for their local schools.

**Our next *Christian Teachers Connect* event will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 10 August, 7:30pm-8:30pm**



Guest Speaker: Athena Cladis



Guest Speaker: Steve Billington

**An excellent opportunity to meet with teachers who undergo the same challenges in living out their faith in the public education system. I was encouraged by testimonies of God's continuous work. It came at a time when I have often felt alone in my witness at school.**

- Primary school teacher

## Support school ministry

- Pray ISCF groups would continue to grow in number and also maturity in Christ.
- Pray that many more people can come to know Jesus through school ministries.
- Donate to our Schools Ministry Fund at [sunsw.org.au/donate](https://sunsw.org.au/donate)



Register for our next *Christian Teachers Connect*: [sunsw.org.au/christian-teachers-connect](https://sunsw.org.au/christian-teachers-connect)



# Autumn Camp & Mission Highlights

Check out reviews and testimonies from our recent ministries over the school holidays.



## Created Camp

Created Camp was held at the Shoalhaven Zoo over the ANZAC weekend. Fifteen campers in years 7-10 and twelve leaders came together to engage with God's creation and His word.

Over the weekend we experienced a taste of zookeeping, worshipped around a campfire, bushwalked, deepened relationships in small groups and delved into His Word. The theme was "light" and we reflected on Psalm 8, discussed Jesus as the light of the world (John 9:5), and considered how we can shine God's light (Matt 5:14).



*I loved the bible study and talks, getting to know our groups and early morning walks.*

- Esther\*, camper



*My favourite part of the camp were the discussion groups and music worship/jam.*

- Angelique\*, camper

## Director Wendy's Praise Points

- An awesome team of people to work with, each gifted in unique ways.
- God's leading when plans were changed last minute.
- Positive growth seen in kids who attended last year.
- Watching leaders connect positively with the campers.
- Seeing a young girl with severe anxiety leave camp inspired and full of hope.
- Witnessing God at work in a child who initially was oppositional and seeing her find acceptance in her group as she responded to the love poured out.
- Sensing the presence of the Holy Spirit during talks and the power of God's Word.



*Bible stories aren't boring. Jesus is always ready to forgive His children and transform them with His Spirit if we don't give up.*

- James\*, Junior Leader

## Glenbawn Fishing Camp

The inaugural Glenbawn Fishing Camp (March 18-20) saw over fifteen boys and girls have the opportunity to camp, catch fish, and explore the Gospel of Mark at picturesque Lake Glenbawn in the Upper Hunter. Though exciting to see a number of fish were caught, hearing God's Word preached by Hughie McCowen was the highlight.

Glenbawn Fishing Camp is yet another weekend camp that has shown how even over a short period of time, community can form and deep conversations around matters of faith have plenty of opportunities to emerge.



*The best part was the talks.*

- Erin\*, 12 yr old camper



*I was really encouraged by how everyone welcomed us as family.*

- Mission Visitor



## Country Music Mission

Country Music Mission was held in Tamworth from April 20-23 and Scripture Union volunteers from over 15 local churches came together to serve refreshments and hot drinks to all who attended.

From the music of generous artists on the Jubilee Cafe stage, to the kids club run by enthusiastic volunteers and staff, or the thoughtful conversations held with visitors beneath the marquee, God's love was made evident to many during the week of country music celebrations.

The quality of the atmosphere at the mission was very encouraging, and opened doors for deeper conversations about faith and Jesus to unfold.

Along with hundreds of zooper dooper ice-blocks, the seeds of the Gospel were also distributed.



Check out upcoming camps & missions: [sunsw.org.au/events](https://sunsw.org.au/events)

\* pseudonym used



# Register for Winter Camps

Scripture Union NSW offers a wide range of overnight & day camps for kids and teens. There is something for everyone - from cooking and crafts, sports fun, tech and more! Scan the QR code to register now.

Express your interest & find out more about upcoming camps: [sunsw.org.au/events](https://sunsw.org.au/events)



Full 100% funding available to those in need.



**KIDS to CAMP**

Up to 100% discount available for those in need!



## SU Pray



We are excited to launch our new monthly prayer gatherings to support each other. Find out more: [sunsw.org.au/pray](https://sunsw.org.au/pray)



Search 'Scripture Union' on PrayerMate to see our prayer requests

## SU Encounter

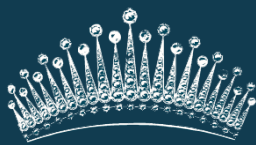
First Wednesday of every month in person at SU HQ.

Details: 12.00-1.00PM  
223 Victoria Road,  
Rydalmere NSW 2116  
Host: Rob Burton

## SU Online

Third Wednesday of every month on Zoom.

Details: 7.00-8.00AM  
Meeting ID: 884 2133 4167  
Passcode: supray  
Host: Andrew Parkinson



# All the Treasures

A conference to equip and inspire women to serve on Craft and Creative Camps.

Jenny Salt, a Christian academic, a graduate and former lecturer at Sydney Missionary and Bible College, is coming to share from God's Word on the book of Colossians and all the treasures we have in Christ. Women will be nourished by God's Word, trained in camp ministry and enjoy time out being creative and connecting with each other.



Lead by Jenny Salt

18 - 20 November 2022

Bonny Hills,  
Mid North Coast of NSW

Book now:  
[sunsw.org.au/events/all-the-treasures](https://sunsw.org.au/events/all-the-treasures)

