



SU News

WINTER EDITION 2023



Return to *Real*

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But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'

– Luke 18:16



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Picture from Camp Conqueror.

ISCF and SUPA Clubs – a Greenhouse for *Christian leaders*



Scripture Union in NSW has not wavered in its commitment to take the Good News of Jesus to young people in State Schools.

I have been reading through old copies of the SU News in our archives, some of which date back more than 60 years! It's been a wonderful reminder of our firm commitment to discipleship and leadership development in state-run schools.

The first school-based discipleship group in NSW began in the early 1930s. The name 'Inter-School Christian Fellowship' or ISCF was already being used in Canada, and it was then officially adopted by NSW in Australia in 1935.

ISCF is a name that is still used and affectionately known by thousands of NSW students who have been impacted by this

ministry. From the beginning, high school lunchtime groups have been student and volunteer-led.



“These groups have been a greenhouse for Christian leadership and development, significantly impacting churches and the Australian Christian landscape.”

Many challenges are facing young people today. It is a vastly different landscape that requires new approaches and initiatives. We are up for the challenge because we know that the work of Scripture Union in NSW is needed more than ever.

Our commitment to the mandate of Jesus, to 'go and make disciples', remains strong. We thank you for your commitment to joining us in this work.

Together, we are making a life-changing difference in the lives of thousands of school students across NSW every year.

Yours in Christ,



Ian Altman
State Director



Interested in becoming a leader at an ISCF lunchtime group or SUPA Club?

Scripture Union NSW have a number of opportunities available for you to serve and help share the Good News of Jesus to children, young people and families. Find out more about our volunteering opportunities: sunsw.org.au/volunteer-with-su

Volunteer today!

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



Flynn's story:

Stepping in the deep end and stepping up in leadership

When Covid-19 restrictions meant Armidale Secondary College's ISCF group facilitator could no longer attend school, Flynn and his two friends stepped up to the plate, leading the group with help from Scripture Union's Bible study resources.



Every Monday lunchtime at Armidale Secondary College, Flynn enjoyed the change of pace that came with attending the Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) group 'Boost.'

"At the group, you got a break from the mindset of school," Flynn says. "It was a relaxed setting where you could hang out with people and spend time growing in faith together."

Flynn says he is thankful for the 'different bubble' the group provided him and others who wanted to hear more about Jesus. "So much goes on in the world that is different from the Christian worldview," he says.

“

"In school, I think a big way we can tell people about Jesus and share this Gospel is by just being ourselves and being different."

Boost is just one in-school group that provides a precious 'reality check' for young people navigating the complexities of high school life. It's a safe place where Christian students can be encouraged in their faith and others can hear more about Jesus. For Flynn, it became a place where he could grow in leadership.

Flynn says he joined the group because he thought it was what

he 'should do' as a Christian in a public high school. "Over time, that grew into more of a desire to be there and feeling the responsibility."

The opportunity for responsibility came in 2020, when new Covid-19 restrictions meant the teacher who had facilitated the group was no longer able to be at school. "That threw us – my friends Noah, Peter and myself – into the deep end. We had to juggle the group ourselves. It was interesting at the start, but we got the hang of it."

While their teacher had previously come up with the run sheet, roster, and content – that all changed when Flynn and his friends took on leadership of the group. "It was down to us to organise who was on what and to make sure things were ready," Flynn says.

"It was a great opportunity because we got to spread the workload between one another," he says. "We could have one person read, another lead the discussion and another pray." Flynn and his friends also had to



Flynn (bottom right) with his group at Tamworth Leadership Conference in 2022.

organise the Bible content. They were grateful to be able to rely on Scripture Union resources for the Bible studies.

“It was always cool to sit down at the start of each term and look through the resources we had access to, and pick which ones we’d like to use as an overall theme. We’d do one term in the Old Testament, one in the New Testament, a term looking at difficult questions – which is important for high school students – and a term in a gospel.”

“At first, we thought it was going to be difficult, but with a bit of support from our amazing SRE teacher Matt Mulready (who had originally led *Boost*) and some great resources from Scripture Union, we shared the leadership role. Initially, it felt like I was stepping in at the deep end but stepping up in leadership was really beneficial for my faith.”

It was Matt Mulberry who encouraged us to go to the Scripture Union Leadership Camp in Tamworth. This experience was also key in the growth of *Boost* as younger students came to learn about Godly leadership, to meet other Christians and be encouraged in their faith. “You’re reminded that you’re not alone and there’s a bigger support network of Christians beyond the four walls of your school,” Flynn says.

Having physical spaces, like ISCF groups, where young people can hear about Jesus and be encouraged is so valuable, particularly to students like Flynn.



“High school is when a lot of people either come to or fall from their faith, when you’re looking for purpose. Knowing that God is with you at that time is so incredible.”

GIVE A REALITY CHECK

Help us raise up a new school worker to support 100 new school groups across NSW. SU NSW school workers are crucial in establishing new groups and training leaders to run them. Your gift can help keep God’s Good News known in NSW schools.

GIVE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:



Online: sunsw.org.au/give

Phone: (02) 9638 9000

Empowering this generation to *lead*



Adrian Tam
North Sydney Boys
High School ISCF
graduate, 2006



Watch the
interview! ↘



“Throughout my senior high school years, I witnessed the profound impact of ISCF – students responding with open hearts to the Gospel and finding connection within a Christian community.

Fuelled by a passion to see this continue, it’s a joy to still lead at ISCF camps. Being a part of Scripture Union’s legacy is a profound privilege – knowing that the time, resources, and energy invested by countless individuals now bears fruit in the lives of these students.”

Kate Ryan
Teacher and
ISCF supervisor

“It’s such a joy to see God at work in a space that is often overlooked. School groups offer a remarkable opportunity to shape lives.” – Kate



Watch the
interview! ↘



With unwavering dedication, Kate conducts a Bible study within their school, and fosters community by bringing together students from different schools to a combined group. ISCF student leaders play a pivotal role in leading and training younger, emerging leaders. Kate runs a monthly leadership meeting to support and equip these leaders, and loves witnessing the transformative power of Jesus in their lives.



**ISCF Leaders
from a recent
ISCF Camp**



Watch the
interview! ↘



“Our ISCF meets at lunchtimes and sometimes before school. We go deep into God’s word and discuss together how to apply it to our lives.”

“Through ISCF, I have learnt how loving, gracious and forgiving God is. I knew it intellectually, but within this community I started to appreciate the love that they gave me and I grew closer to God.”

“Leading has allowed me to see other people’s faith journeys. Growing alongside each other is so encouraging.”



Live with Purpose

Leadership Conference 2023

3-7 July | Tamworth

10-14 July | Blue Mountains

Leadership Conference nourishes, encourages and equips student leaders to further their existing skills and activate new possibilities on how to lead in their local school, church or community.

Our Guest Speaker will help us explore the book of Ecclesiastes and give us an understanding of how to practically “live with purpose” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Register now! 
sunsw.org.au/events
info@sunsw.org.au



Up to 100%
discount
available for
those in need.



Autumn camp snapshot

Praise God for an incredible Autumn Camp season with more than **400 young people** across the state participating in our camps and missions. Pray that the hearts of the many will continue to be open to the love of Christ.

 **12**
camps held

 **225**
volunteers

 **355**
camp attendees



 **Glenbawn Fishing Camp**

"We had a great turnout in March with a massive number of fish caught; some campers catching a fish for the very first time! 29 campers heard the Gospel taught from the book of James, and when asked what they learned about God during camp, one camper responded: *'That He is here and alive, that He is so powerful and He can change your life.'*"
- Jasmine Ruigrok, Hunter Regional Coordinator



 **Camp Conqueror**





 **Created Camp**



 **Bake-Off! Camp**

North West Regional Worker, Olivia Ruigrok speaks of her joy in seeing new leaders step up to serve:

"I met Emily when she attended Outback Adventure Camp in 2020/21. Since then, I have had the privilege of seeing her grow in her faith. She attended our Leadership Conferences and now she's enthusiastically volunteering at Bake-Off! Camp. I love seeing young people get involved in God's mission."



 **SUPAg Camp**



 **Ride like a Girl Camp**

Watch the feature interview about this camp that was on 7 Plus Regional!



 **Rugby League Camp**

Churches *uniting* for a greater purpose



Westport SUPA Club

The Westport SUPA Club in Port Macquarie is a collaborative initiative by seven churches to showcase God's incredible love and generosity to their local school community.

Written by Jenny Carnaby, Regional Coordinator, Mid-North Coast.

The Westport SUPA Club in Port Macquarie is a true blessing and privilege. Since its launch in Term 4 2022, the club has attracted around 20 regular attendees, meeting five times a term after school on school grounds.

Providing a free dinner for families has been a way of practically supporting the community. We have a different church or home group providing, preparing and serving the meals each week, catering for around 40 people.

The overwhelming support from local Christians, both practically and financially, has allowed us to

extend our impact, offering food vouchers, Christmas hampers, and even acquiring a trailer for equipment transportation.

There's a bit involved to make it happen, but this mission has blessed us more than we could have imagined. It brings unity among Christians in Port Macquarie, joy to the team serving, incredible gratefulness from the families who attend, and the opportunity to show God's love in action to people they wouldn't normally meet.

One family has begun joining our church regularly and another child is attending church (alone), because they are so keen to learn more about Jesus.



The Westport SUPA Club showcases the transformative power of collaboration as churches work together under the banner of Scripture Union NSW and exemplifies the command to love one another, while reminding us that God's possibilities are boundless.



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- John 10:34-35



Blayney Inland Connect

In April, a team of adults, teens and families from Norwest Anglican Church joined with the churches of the Blayney and Millthorpe for a Scripture Union Rural Partnership Mission (RPM).

Written by Andrew (Parko) Parkinson, Associate Director of Training and Equipping.

Over the 3 days, 54 local kids from years K-6 attended the inaugural Blayney Holiday Kids Club at Blayney Public School.

The children enjoyed music, drama, games and sport, whilst investigating the promises of the Bible about a perfect, forever King.

22 of those kids were new contacts to the churches, and likely not attending church or kids club.

The team grew in their leadership skills and confidence, and witnessed seeds of the Gospel being planted. We are so blessed to work with an incredible team of churches and volunteers to make these missions happen.



GIVE A REALITY CHECK

Help us keep SUPA clubs and ISCF groups running in NSW schools.

By giving a tax deductible gift this financial year, you will help raise up new school workers to support these groups in sharing the Good News of Jesus.

MAKE A DONATION
BEFORE JUNE 30:
[SUNSW.ORG.AU/GIVE](https://sunsw.org.au/give)



Taste and See

An immersive experience of the SU NSW movement!

We invite you to bring someone along to our all-ages experiential event. Connect with others who share your passion for making God's Good News known!

Dive into a showcase of SU NSW's Camps, Missions, Schools, Training and Resources. Learn from experts and volunteers in the field, and be inspired to explore your own ministry ideas.



Saturday 14 October 2023
Parramatta Baptist Church

Special guest speaker & performer:
Colin Buchanan

Find out more:
[sunsw.org.au/
taste-and-see](https://sunsw.org.au/taste-and-see)

