

Around the Traps



Pray With Us

We believe that God loves hearing from us in prayer, and he wants us to bring all of our cares, wants, and needs to him in prayer. You will have received our quarterly prayer letter with this edition of SU News, but for those on the go, we invite you to join in praying for us on PrayerMate. To join us on PrayerMate, please search for "Scripture Union NSW" in the app.

We are also holding a week of prayer on the 17-21st of March, where each day, we will have a Zoom call between 7:30 and 8:00 am each weekday to bring the needs of SU NSW to our heavenly Father, who delights in answering our prayers. Will you join us in praying big prayers shaped by the Gospel and boldly asking for God to transform an entire generation of young people in NSW by his love? To join us in prayer, you can do so by scanning the QR code below.

Join us in PRAYING for NSW



Schools

As students return to classrooms for Term 1 2025, Scripture Union NSW celebrates the launch of six new ISCF groups across the state. These lunchtime groups provide safe spaces where Christian students can gather to read the Bible, pray together, and invite their friends to explore faith in Jesus. What excites us at SU NSW is that many groups are student-led, with young people boldly owning, sharing, and living out their faith.

We look forward to seeing what God does in and through these groups this year and ask that you join us in praying for them. Would you please pray for:

- Strong attendance as groups start up again for the year, particularly at the six new groups
- Wisdom and confidence for student leaders as they guide Bible discussions and prayer times
- Christian students to be bold in inviting their non-Christian friends
- That God will be working powerfully through these lunchtime gatherings so that many students will come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ



Camps

With autumn holidays just seven weeks away, Scripture Union NSW is gearing up for an exciting season of adventure and spiritual growth through eight activity camps. These camps offer young people unique opportunities to step outside their everyday routines and experience something extraordinary in meeting Jesus each day in the Bible.

Whether you love fishing, horse riding, baking, hiking, football, or camping, we more than likely have a camp that will cater for you. At SU NSW, we strive to create camps and environments where young people can be themselves, try new things, and encounter God. The combination of adventure, friendship, and faith formation makes these camps a transformative experience.

Ready to be part of the adventure? We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in registering your child for a camp or being called to serve as a volunteer leader. Contact our team today to learn more about our autumn holiday camps and how you can get involved. (See contact details at the bottom of the page).



SU News

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST IN NSW

SUFM 24-25 Recap



1290 Volunteers



*Each Figure Represents 500 People



7000+ People Heard the Gospel



1200+ Bibles or Christian material given away

22 people gave or recommitted their life to Christ.



Praise God for what he has done this summer in bringing the dead to life and many people hearing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ!



Welcome to 2025

As we step into 2025, I'm reminded that there's an unchanging source of hope in a world of increasing uncertainty. Hebrews 6:19 reminds us that "We have this hope as an anchor for our soul, firm and secure." This hope roots us in the profound and life-giving truth that Jesus Christ is alive and has saved us from our sins.

Today's young people face unprecedented challenges. Rising living costs, global conflicts, climate concerns, and mental health struggles leave many feeling anxious about their future. While the world struggles to provide meaningful answers, we've witnessed firsthand how the gospel transforms lives.

Take Elena's story. Battling persistent mental health challenges, she discovered hope in an unexpected place – a lunchtime ISCF group. Through a friend's invitation, Elena encountered the life-changing truth that Jesus deeply loves her, understands her suffering, and conquered death itself for her. Now, she passionately shares this hope with other young people who, like her former self, desperately need to experience God's love.

At SU NSW, we're committed to proclaiming this hope to young people across NSW who don't yet know Jesus. Our vision is to see a generation transformed by God's love, growing in their love and devotion to God's Word and finding joy in daily prayer.

As we embrace 2025, we invite you to partner with us in this vital mission. Together, we can help realise our dream of seeing young lives won for Christ, as an entire generation discovers Jesus as their friend, Lord, and Savior.



David Krebs

SU NSW Interim Director



The Kitchen: A MISSION FIELD OF ITS OWN

For many, when they hear the words “Gospel Proclamation” or “Mission”, it brings to mind preaching, being up the front, walk-up, or reading the Bible. But for 120-odd people on SUFM this past Summer, it looks more like slicing loaves of bread, preparing hearty meals, and endless amounts of washing up. Yet the kitchen team know that their hospitality is not just a support role - it's an integral part of God's mission.

A Legacy of Service

The kitchen wasn't where Sebastion (Bas) thought he would end up serving on mission. Now head cook on team, Bas' story is the latest in a long history of generational faithfulness at Evans Head SUFM, which celebrated its 70th anniversary. Bas remembers growing up immersed in mission life as he watched his parents and mentors serve. “I have the most beautiful memories of growing up through the sections,” Sebastion recalls. “Learning about God's love through songs and memory verses, inviting Jesus into my life at 12, and later sharing my testimony with friends in the Teenagers Section.”

The impact of seeing so many faithful Christian role models in his parents and mentors shaped Bas' understanding of the Kingdom of God. “SUFM gave me one of my first real opportunities to share and proclaim what I believe about the good news of the gospel,” he says. As Bas grew in faith and service, he realised that the unseen roles - like cooking - are just as much a part of Gospel proclamation as being up the front. “The Bible begins and ends with meals,” he reflects. “Jesus often used meals to teach, serve, and show love. As his followers, we're invited to continue that work.”



The Kitchen: A Mission Field of It's Own

Stepping into the role of head cook is no small task. Over 10 days, Bas and his team prepared 25 meals for over 100 people. “Despite having served on team for many years, I went from knowing how important the cooking team is, to truly understanding how vital it is.”

The kitchen has numerous challenges, like peeling enough potatoes for 100 people or ensuring the food is cooked and served on time. One of the biggest challenges this year was a delayed food delivery, requiring quick problem-solving and menu changes to ensure the team was fed promptly.

“Hospitality is an attitude that seeks to turn strangers into brothers and sisters”

Tim Keller

Hearing how well his team had served was one of the greatest joys. A team member serving at Evans Head since 1991 told Bas: “This year was possibly the best food ever!” “That meant so much to me,” Bas shares, “because I wanted to provide healthy, tasty and nourishing meals so that the rest of the team had the energy and focus to proclaim the gospel to Evans Head.”

Hospitality as Gospel Work

We often associate important ministry with upfront leadership. But we see time and time again throughout the Bible the importance of hospitality. Tim Keller says: “Hospitality is an attitude of heart and practice. It's an attitude that seeks to turn strangers into guests, friends, and eventually brothers and sisters.” We see this in the Bible time and again as God invites humanity to know him deeply, often with a meal involved.

Reflecting on John's Gospel, Bas says: “After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples by the lake, prepared a fire, and cooked them breakfast. Then he commissions them to ‘feed my sheep.’” The physical food is a tangible reminder of the spiritual need people have. That's what Bas and his team hope to do by feeding the Evans Head team, who, in turn, feed the town with the Word of God. “When I put aside my own ego to serve someone a meal, I

am uniting them in our shared need for sustenance. And through that, just maybe, I'll have the chance to point them to the true Bread of Life.”



An Invitation to Serve

Bas knows that unseen roles like cooking can sometimes feel less significant. Still, he encourages others to step into them with joy. “Different gifts aren't better or worse - they are all needed. The work of SUFM is an invitation for each part of the body of Christ to come and serve together in and through Christ for his glory.”



Thinking about Evans Head and SUFMs like it, Bas invites others to be part of something bigger. “This ministry has been a grassroots movement for decades, but it needs ongoing support to continue proclaiming the Gospel in communities across NSW. Whether through volunteering, sharing this or your own story, becoming a governing member, or by financial giving, I encourage you to join me in partnership with Scripture Union in this faithful work of proclaiming the Gospel to the unreached of NSW.”

Bas' story is one of joyful service, quiet faithfulness, and a legacy that continues to bear fruit. Yet his story is not unique, for many at Scripture Union NSW activities spend time behind the scenes, slicing bread and stirring pots, knowing that they are doing more than ‘just cooking’. They are nourishing a team that is changing lives for eternity, enabling strangers to come and meet Jesus so that they might call him friend.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who were once FAR AWAY have been BROUGHT NEAR through the blood of Christ”

Ephesians 2:13 (NIV)



You helped send beautiful feet this summer.

Thank you for your generous support of our Summer “Beautiful Feet” Campaign! This Summer, we asked you to help send messengers to share the Gospel's good news across NSW - and you responded with incredible generosity. As part of the campaign, we had one of SU NSW socks made to give as a token of our appreciation to all those who donated \$150 or more, reminding us that wherever we are - beach or beyond - we can share the Gospel's transformative message.

Together, you contributed \$163,000 (81% of our target). We praise God for your generosity and heart for wanting the Gospel proclaimed to those who don't know Jesus Christ. Your donations have and will continue to enable SU NSW to:

- Continue empowering believers to share Christ's hope,
- Develop Bible reading and prayer resources,
- Provide volunteer training in sharing the Gospel to kids and youth, and
- Maintain safe ministry practices.



While the main campaign has concluded, your support can still make a difference. If you'd like to contribute to our ongoing ministry of proclaiming the Gospel to NSW, you can donate via our website or by giving us a call (see details at the bottom of the page).

And good news for sock enthusiasts! We have a limited number of unique campaign socks available for \$20 per pair (excluding postage). To secure your pair, let us know by emailing info@sunsw.org.au or by scanning the QR code.

get your socks now!



Ways to give

Phone:
(02) 9638 9000

Online:
sunsw.org.au/give

