



SU News

SPRING EDITION 2025



SEEDS OF FAITH: WORTH THE WAIT

- 02 **Welcome**
- 03 **2024-2025 Financial Year Snapshot**
- 04 **Camps, Missions & Schools Ministry Highlights**
- 07 **For Such A Time As This**

WELCOME from the CEO

it was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. – Ephesians 4:11-13

Earlier this year as I was considering the role I would take on as Scripture Union NSW's new CEO, I reflected upon Paul's words in Ephesians 4 about the different roles and giftings that individual Christians might have, and the way that despite the differences in the nature of those roles, how they all have a singular focus and a singular set of objectives.

A singular focus: "to prepare God's people for works of service". And a singular set of objectives around building up the body of Christ, his Church, so that it might: "reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Unity, knowledge, maturity.

As a diverse movement of volunteers across NSW, we bring an incredible array of giftings and experiences to the many roles we undertake as we seek to share the good news of Jesus with people where they are and where churches may not necessarily be able to go.

Whether we are serving in frontline roles as team members and leaders on missions, on camps and in schools, developing bible-reading resources or in supporting roles behind the scenes we are to direct our energies and talents toward a singular focus and a singular set of objectives that, echoing Paul's words to the Ephesians, are articulated well in the Aims of the global Scripture Union movement:

Working with churches, Scripture Union aims:

- a. to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families and
- b. to encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer so that they may:
 - come to a personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
 - grow in Christian maturity, and
 - become both committed church members and servants of a world in need.

Thank you for being fellow workers in the harvest. Thank you for volunteering your time, energy and creativity. Thank you for upholding our ministries and our people in prayer. Thank you for your financial support to ensure this work might continue and grow as to God's glory we pursue our movement's aims.

In Christ,

Jim Wackett
Scripture Union NSW CEO



UPCOMING DATES

27/10 – SU NSW Annual General Meeting



Interested in becoming a governing member of SU NSW?
Apply here: sunsw.org.au/get-involved/su-nsw-membership

**Check out Jim's
interview at Hope 103.2**



Camps, Missions & Schools Ministry Highlights

CHECK OUT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING
THROUGHOUT OUR DIFFERENT MINISTRIES



Perfectly Timed: When Mission Hearts Beat as One



June 28 saw directors and key leaders at HQ for "Missions Day". Some in the bush comment cheekily that NSW means Newcastle–Sydney–Wollongong, but this crowd included Bathurst, Canberra, Harrington, Nowra, Tamworth & SE Queensland people! Some were unsure what would happen. By the end their transformation mirrored what happens at mission – they were tired, happy, and didn't want to leave!



Volunteerism is the human heart of SU, and it beat strongly. Bek & Will Smith (Lake Tabourie SUFM) moved gear, Jess & Max Williamson (Byron Summerlife) led worship, Missions Committee ran each session, and Directors shared their gold in interviews and talks. Faces leaned in throughout, as though saying



Wow, we should try that too!

New CEO Jim Wackett had not started, but in volunteer spirit spent the day soaking it in and recalling his days with South West Rocks SUFM. Hannah Kidson is our Missions Facilitator, and her son Zion volunteered to help Mum!

Alex Hitchcock (Shoalhaven Regional Director) opened John 13 to remind us that our love for one another is commanded by Jesus, and is vital to the success of our mission!

Martin & Martyne Kennedy have been involved with Bulli for over 30 years, and since 2022 have also directed a winter ministry, Narromine Inland Connect. At Missions Day they shared how this came about, which could be summarised as



God uses willing people!

(In July I saw the Narromine churches connecting to their work, which attracted locals of every age to be with the team forming friendships – around laser tag, a food pantry, kids and teen programs, family State of Origin nights, and honest talk about the hard things of life – and the hope which God extends to us in Christ.)

Missions Day conversations burst the banks of the program all day. New message groups pinged to life as neighbouring teams got to know one another over lunch in their regional clusters. Their prayers soared to Heaven.

Please stop and pray that every Mission team prepares faithfully, are known by their love, and faces each challenge as an opportunity to honour God.

by **Dave Tankard**
Associate Director – Camps & Missions



Check out upcoming
missions and find out more
on how to support:
sunsw.org.au/missions



The Future of Football Camp



This October we expect to see one of our newest camps continue to flourish! Football Camp (soccer camp for some of you!) began in 2023, for boys and girls in years 5-9. They have been blessed with a wonderful location, boasting accommodation on Lake Macquarie, just 2 minute's walk from lush fields!

God's blessings include gifted leaders. Local businesspeople Jon & Bel McGill are experienced SUFM Directors, at Budgewoi then Tniliba Bay. Their older children have been campers at Football Camp since it started, and this year Jon & Bel are stepping on board as Directors, along with James Thomson, a football tragic from Armidale, with a gift for leading fun songs and memory verses. They lead a team from around Lake Mac, the Hunter, Central Coast, Sydney, and across country NSW. The team has a mix of youth and experience – including Socceroo Gerry Gomez!

God has placed this camp on many hearts, who see potential for 'the world game' to bring young people into an environment where they can come to know Jesus. Our prayer is that many will go on to serve the camp – and the world – as future leaders.



Express your interest & find out more about upcoming camps:

sunsw.org.au/camps



Jon & Bel can see this camp is already uniting Lake Macquarie churches, and so is poised to advance the Gospel, bringing transformation to the region, and glory to God.

They have taken a step of faith in booking 100 places (approx. 30 leaders + 70 campers). Please pray these places fill, and God makes the camp grow in a healthy way over the coming years, perhaps even inspiring other Football Camps to spring up elsewhere!

Meet Jon & Bel McGill

We are passionate about:



- Raising up the next generation of courageous leaders of Faith
- Seeing churches across the region unite across denominations to bring Glory to God and advancement of the Gospel
- Seeing transformation across our local region in the name of Jesus





In Full Bloom: School Ministry's Season of Growth



This term has marked a significant milestone in our school's ministry, with encouraging growth across both our SUPA and ISCF programs demonstrating the continued hunger among young people for authentic community and spiritual conversations.

STEADY GROWTH ACROSS NSW SCHOOLS

The numbers tell a compelling story of a hunger in young people. This year we are celebrating the establishment of **23 new groups** across NSW, **8 new SUPA groups** and **15 new ISCF groups**. This growth represents not just statistics, but real communities of young people gathering to explore faith, build friendships, and discover their purpose.

Behind every number is a story of students taking initiative, teachers providing support, and the Holy Spirit moving in educational settings across our state.

STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

This term has also seen us deepen our collaborative approach to school's ministry through enhanced networking with Christian SRE. This partnership has proven invaluable as we work to ensure our ministry efforts complement each other. The intention is to build a cohesive Christian presence in NSW schools, sharing resources, insights, and strategies that benefit all involved.



REFINING OUR FOCUS

Growth without direction can become overwhelming, which is why we've simultaneously focused on refining our goals and clarifying our ministry approach. This intentional process of refinement has involved listening to feedback from group leaders, students, teachers, and ministry partners,

while holding to our mission to make sure every young person in NSW can hear the gospel.



LOOKING FORWARD

As we reflect on this season's achievements, we're filled with gratitude for God's faithfulness and excitement about what lies ahead. The growth we've experienced isn't just about numbers – it's about young people encountering Jesus, finding community, and developing the confidence to live out their faith in their school communities. Most importantly, we're seeing young people step into leadership, take ownership of their groups.

We thank God for His provision, for the dedicated volunteers who make this ministry possible, and for the students who engage in their schools. The growth we've experienced this term is a testament to the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in NSW schools and the faithfulness of our ministry community.

With our renewed sense of purpose and passion we do have a big goal and ask you to help partner with us – we want to see every public school in NSW have some kind of Christian presence.

To do that we need volunteers and ministry partners to step into the gap. To enquire more about our school's ministry email: schools@sunsw.org.au



[Check out episode 90 of The Effective Ministry Podcast, featuring one of our board members Katie Stringer, on public high school ministry.](#)



For Such A Time As This



THE UNIQUE MOVEMENT WE ARE

Scripture Union NSW is a unique movement. A movement defined by our volunteer-led, relational, and mission-driven nature. These dynamics give us a unique strength and agility in today's rapidly changing ministry landscape, especially as we seek to reach children and young people with the gospel of Jesus.

At the heart of SU NSW are our volunteers—people who serve not out of obligation, but out of deep conviction. This creates a culture of ownership, innovation, and authenticity. Our volunteers bring relational depth and spiritual passion, which is especially powerful in youth ministry. Whether through camps, school ministries, or missions, our focus is always on building trust and walking alongside young people in their journey of faith.

Unlike centralised organisations, SU NSW operates as a networked movement. This allows for flexibility and responsiveness to local needs and cultural shifts, while remaining united by our shared Aims, Beliefs, and Working Principles. We thrive on partnerships—with churches, schools, and other ministries—leveraging collective resources to extend our reach and deepen our impact.

THE UNIQUE MOMENT WE ARE IN

We are a unique movement—and we are living in a unique moment.

The past five years have brought profound disruption. The pandemic, global conflict, climate change, and economic instability have shaken the foundations of modern life. Social researchers describe this as a "meaning crisis," particularly affecting Gen Z—those born between 1997 and 2012. Many are struggling with mental health, a lack of purpose, and spiritual disconnection. Yet, paradoxically, this has also created a deep spiritual hunger.

Gen Z is more open than ever to exploring spirituality and faith. In Australia, they are significantly more likely than older generations to engage in spiritual conversations, explore different beliefs, and even reconsider their own views.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland



Isaiah 43:19

The National Church Life Survey recently found that more Gen Z men now identify as Christian than women—a reversal of previous trends.

Globally, similar patterns are emerging. In the UK, church attendance among young adults has risen. In France, over 7,400 young people aged 11–17 were baptised into the Catholic Church at Easter 2025—a record-breaking number. In Sweden, "Jesus" appeared for the first time in a national youth trend survey. In the US, Bible sales surged by 22% in 2024, and Gen Z is now more likely to attend church regularly than older Millennials or Gen X.

THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE

As a movement, SU NSW is uniquely positioned to respond. We must remain rooted in daily Bible reading and prayer, seeking God's wisdom and courage. We need to grow our volunteer base, invest in leadership development, and build momentum around the increasing opportunities to share the gospel—on camps, in schools, and through missions.

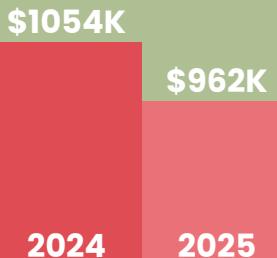
We must also reimagine how we engage digitally. Platforms like YouVersion offer new ways to connect with young people, and we must use our own digital platforms more creatively and consistently. At the same time, we must continue to innovate in face-to-face ministry—creating new, unmissable opportunities for young people to encounter Jesus.

This moment calls for boldness, generosity, and faith. It calls for a renewed commitment to our mission and a willingness to give sacrificially so that SU NSW is resourced and ready to respond.

We are a unique movement, in a unique moment, with a unique opportunity. Let us step forward—for such a time as this.

by Jim Wackett
Scripture Union NSW CEO

2024–2025 Financial Year Snapshot



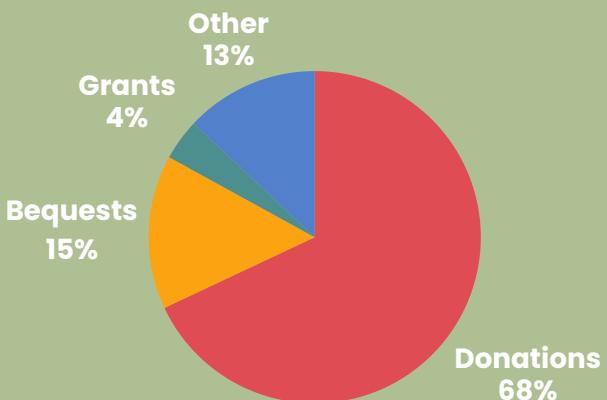
List of Schools

ISCF

Albion Park H.S
Ashfield Boys H.S
Beverly Hills Girls H.S
Cobar H.S
Dubbo College S.C
Girraween H.S
Gunnedah H.S
Kandos H.S
Kooringal H.S
Leumeah H.S
Namoi Valley C.S S.C
Picnic Point H.S
Warrwong H.S
Young H.S
Woonona H.S



Income Breakdown



Our Volunteers:

Schools – 212

Camps – 542

Missions – 1,247

Governing Members – 94



Total = 2,095

350+ Hardcopy Resources Ordered and Circulated



85 Active ISCF Groups

23 Active SUPA Clubs



30 Camps

24 Summer Missions

1 Autumn Mission

1 Winter Mission



Help Us Continue Planting Seeds of Faith



Pray

We don't do anything without God going before us, and we value the support of our prayer partners

Go

Start a lunchtime group at your local public school. Lead on an SU NSW Camp. Join a family mission team. Help behind the scenes at SUHQ. We need people with all kinds of gifts to serve in all kinds of ways

Give

SU NSW is funded entirely through the generosity of our supporters. Every donation, whether large or small, helps us resource and train our volunteers, and helps us get the Gospel out there



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