



# SU News

SUMMER EDITION 2025



**Now Is  
THE MOMENT**

03	Welcome	06	Spring Camps: Scripture Union is There
04	In Memory Of: John Webster	07	90 Years of ISCF
05	Upcoming Missions	08	2026 at a Glance

"OH, GIVE THANKS TO THE  
LORD! CALL UPON HIS  
NAME; MAKE KNOWN HIS  
DEEDS AMONG THE  
PEOPLES!"

- PSALM 105:1

# Welcome

As we step into the warmth and renewal of summer, I'm filled with gratitude and hope—not just for the season ahead, but for the remarkable signs of spiritual hunger we're witnessing around the world.

In November, the YouVersion Bible App surpassed a staggering 1 billion downloads since it was launched in 2008. That's not just a milestone for a digital platform—it's a powerful reminder that people everywhere are seeking truth, hope, and purpose. And it's not just online.

Around the globe, and notably in Western nations, hard copy Bible sales are surging. In the United States alone, Bible sales rose 22% in 2024 compared to the previous year, far outpacing general book sales. Here in Australia, Christian booksellers and publishers are reporting similar trends, with increased demand for Bibles among young adults and families.

What's driving this renewed interest? Many point to the rising tide of anxiety, uncertainty, and disconnection in our world. Amid this, people are turning—or returning—to the Bible as a source of hope, identity, and

meaning. For us at Scripture Union NSW, this is both deeply encouraging and deeply affirming.

**Encouraging daily Bible reading and prayer has always been at the heart of our mission. Whether it's through school programs, camps, or digital or hard copy resources, we're passionate about helping young people encounter God through His Word. And now, more than ever, we see an opportunity to meet this hunger with creativity, compassion, and courage.**

We're excited to support young people as they engage with the Bible—sometimes for the very first time. That might be through a YouVersion reading plan, a Scripture Union devotional, or the simple joy of opening a well-worn paperback Bible. However they come to it, our prayer is that they'll discover the living God who speaks, guides, and transforms.



As we look to 2026, we're committed to expanding our reach and deepening our impact. We're exploring new ways to equip leaders, partner with churches and schools, and create spaces where young people can ask big questions and encounter the bigger story of God's love.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Your prayers, support, and encouragement make it possible for us to walk alongside the next generation as they discover the life-changing power of God's Word.

With hope and gratitude,



**Jim Wackett**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Scripture Union NSW



**Now is the moment to share the hope of Christ through school ministry, beach missions, and camps.**

**Will you give today to help us reach more young people across NSW?**

## Ways to Give:

📞 (02) 9638 9000

💻 [sunsw.org.au/now-is-the-moment/](http://sunsw.org.au/now-is-the-moment/)

Or scan  
QR code



# UPCOMING MISSIONS



“WE SAW SO MANY PEOPLE PRAYED FOR, AND MANY TOOK HOME BIBLES. OUR TEAM WAS EMPOWERED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL NATURALLY!

- MISSIONS VOLUNTEER

## 1. Far North Coast

Brooms Head SUFM  
Byron Bay SUFM  
Evans Head SUFM  
Yamba-Maclean HBC

## 4. Illawarra Coast

Albion Park SUFM  
Bulli SUFM  
Corrimbal SUFM  
Kiama SUmmer Life

## 2. North Coast

Coffs Harbour SUFM  
Kempsey HBC  
Port Macquarie  
SUmmerlife  
Summer at Urunga

## 5. Shoalhaven Coast

Culburra SUFM  
Currawong SUFM  
Gerroa SUFM  
Shoalhaven Heads SUFM

## 3. Mid North Coast

Canton Beach SUFM  
Harrington SUFM  
Tanalba Bay SUmmerfest

## 6. South Coast

Conjola Entrance SUFM  
Huskisson SUFM  
Kiola SUFM  
Lake Tabourie SUFM

## 7. Tamworth

Jubilee Cafe  
(Tamworth Country Music)

“GOD PROVIDED GOOD WEATHER THROUGHOUT, AND WE'RE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE CHRISTIANS WHO PRAYED FOR OUR MINISTRY. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO RECONNECT WITH REGULARS WHO HAVE BEEN COMING FOR YEARS - THAT CONTINUITY IS SUCH A GIFT.

- MISSIONS VOLUNTEER

# In Memory of: JOHN WEBSTER

We grieve with hope at the passing of John Webster, a faithful servant of God and long-term supporter of Scripture Union Beach Missions, who passed away last December.

John began serving with Beach Missions in the late 60s at Halifax Park (near Nelson Bay) in the days of Owen Shelley. Apart from a few years on SU Technology Camps and some sabbatical years, he faithfully attended Beach Missions for over five decades – serving at Coffs Harbour for more than a decade, then Wairo Beach, Sussex Inlet, and finally Lake Tabourie.

John was a practical man, and his special contribution was in the area of Equipment. He served as chair of the Equipment

Committee for decades, continually seeking to improve the safety and usefulness of equipment for all teams. Those who served alongside him will remember John at set up and pack up days, directing team members with grace, thoughtfulness, and effectiveness.

They'll remember him rushing around tents as storm clouds gathered, tightening guy ropes and digging drainage trenches, warning all: "There's a dilly of a storm a'coming." And they'll smile at the memory of spotting John up a ladder at age 81, after he'd promised to stop climbing them at 80. When reminded of his promise, he simply replied: "I'm not 80 anymore."

But John's interest was not simply practical. His months of preparation and energetic presence at mission were always in service of Gospel proclamation.

The Word of God was central to everything John did. When reviewing how a mission went, his first comments always related to gospel proclamation and seeing unbelievers brought from darkness to light.

Equipment was simply a tool enabling that work. Yet even his equipment work had a spiritual element. He often remarked, "Our campsite is a witness to the camping community." The care taken over our tents spoke of our desire to honour our King.

**We thank God for John's life – for his faithfulness, his servant heart, and his unwavering commitment to seeing the Gospel proclaimed across NSW beaches.**



His passion for mission work and his dedication to serving others encourages us to press on faithfully as we prepare for the 2025-2026 mission season ahead.



John at Lake Tabourie Mission 2018-2019



# Spring Camps:

## SCRIPTURE UNION IS THERE

In schools, camps, and beach missions—Scripture Union NSW is meeting young people where they are. And this Spring, across eight different camps spanning two weeks of school holidays, we witnessed something remarkable unfolding.



8  
camps  
held



150  
volunteers



226  
camp  
attendees

At Zookeepers Camp, discussion groups went unexpectedly deep. Students explored God's creation up close—meerkats, giant tortoises, horses, and more—while wrestling with genuine questions about faith and life. The conversations weren't superficial; they were the kind that stick with you long after camp ends.

Football Camp told a similar story. Our leaders and former Socceroo Gerry Gomez didn't just run drills and organize matches. When campers struggled with anxiety and homesickness, leaders sat in doorways reading John's gospel aloud—a far more beautiful approach than simply managing behavior. At Cricket Camp, our leaders led 60 campers through intensive skill sessions, but their real goal was challenging students to consider what true success looks like beyond the pitch.

The Bike Camps—both senior and junior—saw students pedaling through NSW countryside, sleeping under stars (and being kept awake by hourly coal trains!), and gathering around campfires to sing and worship. At Reboot, technology met faith as students discovered how Jesus' ancient story connects profoundly to their modern, digital lives.

The Ag Camps had students milking cows, building fences, and getting their hands dirty while learning about the One who created it all.

*I SAW GIRLS CONVICTED BY THE WORD OF GOD AND SEEKING TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY IN LIGHT OF IT.*

**-Girls Ag Camp Leader**

Across all eight camps, 226 young people showed up. And so did 150 volunteers who gave their time, energy, and hearts to make it happen. Three camps sold out completely—a testament to how hungry students are for spaces where they can explore, question, and belong.

But here's what we know: the conversations that started this Spring don't end when camp finishes. The relationships built, the seeds planted, the questions asked—they're just the beginning of something longer.

**We need your partnership to continue this work. Your support enables us to follow up with students throughout the year, resource and train our volunteers, and build on the foundations laid during these camps. Now is the moment to invest in what God has started in these young lives.**

# 90 YEARS OF ISCF

Since 1910, Christian students attending Public Schools in NSW have gathered to read the Bible and to pray together. These 'school bible studies' were largely an ad hoc affair, and it wasn't until after a visit to Australia by Howard Guinness in the early 30's that these groups started to flourish.

By the beginning of 1935, a group of invested individuals—teachers, local ministers, and SU NSW workers—had recognised the need for a more coordinated approach to these 'school bible studies' to enable them to flourish and grow across all public schools in NSW, not just in a handful of schools in Sydney. Thus, ISCF (Inter School Christian Fellowship, a name borrowed from Guinness's work in Canada) was born in NSW.

**This year marks 90 years of ISCF groups meeting in public schools.**

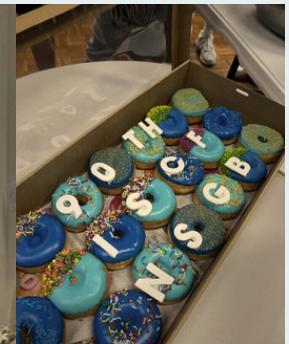
Each group is marked by students voluntarily gathering to read the Bible, pray, encourage one another in the faith, and share the good news of the gospel with their peers.

**Records are unclear on how many schools have had continuous ISCF groups over the last 90 years, but we know that North Sydney Boys is one such school. In mid-October, we held a service of thanks and celebration to thank and praise God for his work through ISCF in NSW over the last 90 years and at North Sydney in particular.**

We heard from past and present students, and overall, it was a very encouraging event for all who attended. We ask that you join us in praying for God to continue using Scripture Union school groups to enable students to meet him in the Bible and through prayer, and that he might bless us all with seeing many young people in our public schools come to know the deep love of the risen Lord Jesus.



Check out a highlight video of the NSGB celebration



For Kate, leading a SUPA club isn't just about running an in-school program—it's about continuing a legacy of hope that transforms young lives.

Watch her interview below as Kate shares how SUPA clubs create a safe space within primary schools where volunteers build meaningful relationships with children. It's about love, consistency, and showing up weekly with the message that they are valued and seen.

Could you be part of this legacy?

Watch Kate's story and be inspired to join SUPA clubs in NSW.



# 2026 at A Glance:

PLEASE PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER FOR THE YEAR AHEAD!



## January

### 24: SU Missions Season Ends

For everyone all over NSW

### 29: Train & Plan

For lunch time group student leaders (current & interested)

## February

### 28: CiPE

For anyone who is connected to ministries in public schools

### 28: Camps Day

For camp directors and leaders

## March

### 14: Global Children's Day of Prayer

For everyone worldwide

### 19: CPC (Online)

For Christian parents whose children are in public schools

### TBA: Glenbawn Fishing Camp

For boys and girls in Yr7-12

## April

### 12-18: Camp Conqueror

For boys and girls in Yr7-12

### 13-15: Rugby League Camp

For boys in Yr4-9

### 13-17: GENTS Camp

For boys in Yr7-10

### 14-18: Ride Like A Girl

For girls in Yr7-10

### TBA: Fishing & Diving Camp

For boys in Yr7-12

### TBA: Senior AG Camp

For boys and girls ages 18-22

### TBA: SUPAG Camp

For boys and girls Yr4-6

### 16: Volunteer Training (Online)

For volunteers involved in any ministry

## 20: Train & Plan

For lunch time group student leaders (current & interested)

## May

### TBA: Bake Off! Camp - Junior

For girls in Yr7-9

### TBA: Pins & Needles Camp

For girls in Yr5-10

## June

### 2: CTC (Online)

For Christian teachers in public schools

### TBA: Missions Day

For missions directors and leaders

### TBA: Create & Connect Port Macquarie Hastings

For girls in Yr5-9

## July

### 6-10: Leadership Conference

For boys and girls in Yr9-12

### TBA: Rugby Union Camp

For boys and girls in Yr5-10

### TBA: Shearing Camp

For boys in Yr7-12

### 20: Train & Plan

For lunch time group student leaders (current & interested)

### TBA: Narromine Inland Mission

For everyone who wants to serve on mission

## August

### 6: CTC (Online)

For Christian teachers in public schools

### 28-30: Create & Connect Macleay Nambucca

For girls in Yr5-9

### TBA: Create & Connect Manning Great Lakes

For girls in Yr5-9

## September

### 10: CPC (Online)

For Christian parents whose children are in public schools

### TBA: Bike Camp

For girls and boys in Yr9-12

### TBA: Bake Off! Camp - Senior

For girls in Yr9-11

### TBA: Boys AG Camp

For boys in Yr7-12

### TBA: Cricket Camp

For boys and girls in Yr5-9

### TBA: Zookeepers Camp

For boys and girls in Yr6-9

### 26: Volunteer Training

For volunteers involved in any ministry

## October

### 6-9: REBOOT Computing & Technology Camp

For boys and girls in Yr7-12

### TBA: Football Camp

For boys and girls in Yr5-9

### TBA: Girls AG Camp

For girls in Yr7-12

### TBA: Junior Bike Camp

For boys and girls in Yr7-8

### 12: Train & Plan

For lunch time group student leaders (current & interested)

### 26: SU NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For SU NSW governing members

## November

### 2-7: Global Week of Prayer

For everyone worldwide

### TBA: Boys Adventure Camp

For boys in Yr6-9

## December

### 27: SU Missions Season Begins!

For everyone all over NSW



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