

Pacific News

October to December 2015



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Once again we welcome our readers and pray-ers to this edition of Pacific News.

AUSTRALIA

ACT

Reaching out through 'On the Move'

www.suact.org.au

For the ninth year, the churches of Belconnen in Canberra, Australia, worked together to reach out to their community with the Good News about Jesus. Some people came and just enjoyed a free lunch and the glorious weather. Others took the opportunity to chat to one of the volunteers about where they were up to with God. Several people are now attending local churches. Team members commented on how easy it was to share their faith through 'On The Move'.

'I got chatting to a young man from Hong Kong. We only talked for a few minutes, but every Sunday since he's come to our church. He's not a Christian and is mainly coming to improve his English, but he has a Bible he reads and each week asks for help understanding what it means.'

New South Wales

www.sunsw.org.au

'You have nothing to lose and so much to gain...'

One of our campers returning from a camp held earlier this year was asked, *Why go on camp?* They replied, *You'll learn so much about Christ and you will meet the most amazing people who will be lifelong friends. You have nothing to lose and so much to gain...*

SU NSW is excited about what God is doing in the lives of children, young people and leaders who have been attending and serving on SU camps. But even after running camps for over 50 years there are still challenges. Over the past year there has been a growing trend for new camps - with even more on the horizon for 2016. Yes it is an exciting time! Young people are signing up for an amazing combination of fun, community, adventure, friendship and the life-changing message of Jesus.

Northern Territory

www.sunt.org.au

SUNT is very excited to have five co-workers partnering with the ministry throughout the Northern Territory. Jenny Brandon and Merrillyn Prossor work in school chaplaincy roles. Jenny works in Katherine and this year Merrillyn began working in the remote aboriginal community of Yarralin. John and Jenna Armstrong continue Scripture engagement with the aboriginal people of Ngukurr – recently assisting local leaders in a Kriol language youth camp (Yangbala Kemp). Rachel Borneman lives in Katherine and travels to remote communities along the Central Arnhem Highway working with youth and children's leaders. Rachel assisted in a July Yangbala Kemp in the remote aboriginal community of Manyallaluk. Youth also joined with leaders from Beswick and Bulman to engage with the story of Joseph and think about how he points us to God's great rescue plan in Jesus. Finally, we welcome the Letcher family as co-workers in the second half of this year. Tim and Jane will live and work in the remote aboriginal community of Epenarra.

Queensland

Community Outreach turns 40

www.suqld.org.au

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Rainbow Beach Community Outreach. We will celebrate this milestone from the 26 December to 5 January.

Rainbow Beach, in Queensland's Wide Bay region, has seen a dedicated team of volunteers visiting each year with the goal of connecting and serving the community. Volunteer, Ben Findlay, is excited about this year. 'Each year we hear of people who were on the program 15-20 years ago as children. They tell us about the lasting impact the event has had on their faith development. I would love to see more people come along, I feel so privileged to be able to invest in the lives of the people in Rainbow Beach,' says Ben.

SU QLD runs a number of these local, community-based outreaches to provide fun activities for children and their families. They provide opportunities for individuals and churches to show God's love in local communities in practical ways.

South Australia

They just don't know

www.sa.su.org.au

Earlier this year one of our school teams gave an Easter presentation. Afterwards children could request Bibles and other gospel information. A teacher requested a Bible for herself, telling one of the SU team members that she had known that Easter had something to do with the death of Jesus but, until she saw our team present the Easter message, had never realised that Jesus had come back from the dead. She had never heard about the resurrection of Christ. We often think that people at least know the basics about Christianity, but in reality they don't. We may never know the full impact of what we do and share in schools, but what we do is vital, not just for the children, but for adults as well. Now this teacher has begun her search for the truth about Christ. Please pray that she finds Him. He is waiting for her!

Tasmania

www.sutas.org.au

Training up a new generation of leaders

Our July Primary Age Camp was led by Lara who was once a primary camper herself. She became a junior leader, then a team member and now directs an event with which she has a long history. It was great to see her lead the team, blessing children and team members.

One young camper brought an unchurched friend. The new camper had a great time and their mum is full of praise for the event, talking about the positive impact it had on her child. The camper who invited her child will be a junior leader soon and has already declared, 'It will only be a few years until I am directing that event!' Praise God for such a great ambition and for the current team who have nurtured her.

Western Australia

www.suwa.org.au

Being included was an incredibly special experience

There are some amazing stories coming out of our 25 Holiday Camps across the year! Young people are being transformed! God has clearly been at work. Our Holiday Camps Coordinator, Michael Devereux, writes: 'Earlier this year we were asked if we could take a camper who experiences Down's Syndrome. After some consideration we were able to take her on camp. This proved to be an amazing experience for the whole program in which she was involved. As someone who is often not fully embraced by society, being shown love and being included was an incredibly special experience. She had an amazing time on camp. By the end of the week she knew she was created in the image of God and spoke about how she understood and believed that God loved her despite her disability.'

Victoria

www.suvic.org.au

Life to the full in Jesus

In early August, staff, interns and a number of Mission and Coolamatong volunteers met together for SU Victoria's Conference. Studies explored the story of Jesus and the man born blind (John 9-10) - in particular, Jesus' statement, 'I have come that they might have life and life to the full!'

Together, the SU Victoria team: worshipped God and prayed; focused on what we believe God is calling us to do; shared updates and stories from ministries in schools, camps and missions; and did some training. There was time for playing games, enjoying Coolamatong's beauty and having fun. This was an opportunity to connect across the ministries and form relationships, with the hope that people will increasingly collaborate in ministry. Families were invited and it was wonderful to have a group of kids having fun, keeping us young and reminding us that we seek to help children, young people and families come to life in Jesus.



New Zealand

www.scriptureunion.org.nz

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Sam Emery

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Sam continues to serve the Pacific Islands visiting and supporting the development of leadership, governance and ministry. Please continue to pray for him in this important role.

Fiji

www.scriptureunionfiji.weebly.com

SU's work continues despite many challenges

SU Fiji farewelled with sadness their National Director, Sisa Teilai, but SU's work continues despite many challenges. Their recent newsletter reports: *At Scripture Union, we see many young people maturing as young men and women in Jesus Christ. The backbone of the SU Ministry in schools is our volunteers. While these young people could have easily chosen the world, the fact that they spend their young adult life serving Jesus Christ is truly inspiring. These young people give time, money, talents and passion to take the Gospel to schools. Most were transformed by the work of SU whilst they were in high school and now they are volunteers for Scripture Union, planning weekly Bible-based fellowship to encourage students in high schools in their walk with the Lord.*

PNG

In Port Moresby, SU area leaders organised a Prayer march. About 400 students and volunteers marched and prayed for the city, acting on Jeremiah 29:7 *Seek the peace and prosperity of the city. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

An SU volunteer leader in West New Britain province who is a local Pastor, is a living testimony. When he receives money he shops for two families, then goes to a settlement, sharing food and the Gospel. His example is helping to build a quality relationship with a community God loves.

An SU teacher in Eastern Highlands Province lost his younger brother through tribal warfare and also had his house burnt down. Despite all this, he went ahead and organised SU student leaders' training for his school.

Solomon Islands

Honiara KidsGames

The 2015 Honiara KidsGames, held earlier this year, was successful despite bad weather. This year a Girls Futsal competition was included which is a breakthrough in our culture, where soccer is a boy's game. Seventy children's groups, with ninety teams participated in the competitive games (Futsal, Volleyball, 50 metres relay and World Water Bucket). Seven trophies and 178 gold medals were presented to winners during the closing ceremony.



Honiara Kidsgames is now an annual event with many volunteers taking leading organisational roles. Our next KidsGames event will be held in June 2016.

Tonga

<http://scriptureuniontonga.blogspot.com>

A better equipped office

SU Tonga are praising the Lord for a faithful supporter who recently responded to an urgent need. Quality goods were generously provided to better equip the Tonga SU office - 3 cabinets, chairs and tables. The Lord provides many resources for ministry and this will help our office meetings.

Vanuatu

www.scriptureunionvanuatu.com

Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ (Gal 6:2).

Each July SU NSW sends mission teams to SU Vanuatu. This ministry partnership sees teams visiting primary schools and sharing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Activities include puppet shows, testimonies and dramas. This program has not only been a blessing to the schools visited, but has strengthened the relationship between these SU movements, and motivated us to press on despite many challenges.

A highlight for the V15 team this year was presenting the Gospel message using the colours of Vanuatu's national flag. Students respect the national flag and using it to share the Gospel made a real impact. It will also give students something more to think about every time the flag is raised during school assemblies.

Prayer Diary

October

27 September – 3 October

- **ACT** - Please pray for the Zone 40 Adventure Primary Camp. Pray that the leaders will be well equipped to serve and that the campers will come to understand and experience God's love.
- **South Australia** – Please pray for the scheduled Youth Camps, that many young people will be encouraged to participate and that new young people will attend. Pray that God will provide the leaders that will be required to support these camps.
- **New Zealand** - The first two weeks of October are the Spring camping season. Please pray for a good number of registrations and that many lives will be changed in both the primary and secondary aged camps.
- **Tonga** – (3) Praise God for Scripture Union Tonga's 50th Anniversary, thank Him for His faithfulness throughout these years of ministry.
- **Tasmania** – The dcypher SOUTH camp is on and computer gaming enthusiasts will be getting together to play games and also talk about the deeper issues of life. Please pray for these young people to give their lives to Christ at this event.
- **Germany:** (1) Andreas Klotz the New National Director will start his ministry on 1 October. Please pray for wisdom for him as he embarks on this new role and for Norman Pescheck who started in the camp centre at Marienheide last month to be responsible for the centre's activities and administration.

4 – 10 October

- **Victoria** - M.A.D. (Make a Difference) Camp was held in the September School Holidays. Please pray for the students who attended as they return to school. Pray that they will continue to be challenged by the messages they heard and experiences they enjoyed. Pray that they will put into practise the skills they developed for making a difference in their families, their schools and their local communities.
- **Papua New Guinea** – Please pray for all the students who are sitting at this time for their Grade 10 National exams.
- **New Zealand** - The National Board meets 9 &10 October to review the Annual Meeting and integrate new board members. Please pray for a smooth transition and enthusiasm as they serve in this ministry.
- **Solomon Islands** – Please pray for all those participating in the First Level CYCAS Training (Community, Youth, Children and Sport).
- **England & Wales:** Give thanks for the successful launch of the new digital Bible engagement resource for 8-11 year olds, Guardians of Ancora (GofA). Pray that GofA will reach children and young people way beyond the normal reach of the church.

11-17 October

- **Papua New Guinea** – Please pray for all the students who are sitting at this time for their Grade 12 National exams.
- **Queensland** - Please pray for a successful South East Queensland Frontline Chaplaincy dinner event, that it will be informative and stimulate interest and support for this vital ministry.
- **New Zealand** – Please pray for God's protection over SUPAkidz and Surge clubs amidst the current debate around the place of religion in schools.
- **Tonga** – (16 &17) – Please pray for the children participating in the Children's Camp, that their time will be enjoyable and result in changed lives. Pray that the volunteers will be well prepared and equipped to share Jesus with the children.
- **Nepal** - Please pray for our staff members that they may be fruitful in their ministry. Especially pray for the newly appointed staff: Navaraj Shahi at Nepalgunj and Shiba Kumar Sawod at Dharan. Please pray for their safety and also for the wellbeing of their families.

18-24 October

- **Northern Territory** – Please pray for the SUPA camp (23-25 Oct), that the leaders and campers grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- **South Australia** - Please pray for a new school initiative being planned - a mentoring program. Pray that funding will be provided for this venture and that God will raise up volunteers who share this vision.
- **Solomon Islands** - Please pray for School month-end fellowship meetings in schools. Pray that God will make the way open for the re-establishment of Scripture Union Fellowship in the Provincial Schools.
- **Tasmania** - The 23 October is the last day of work for Andrew Turner who has worked with SU for over 11 years. Please pray for SU and the big gap Andrew leaves, and also pray for him as he sets up his own business.
- **Madagascar:** There are not enough teachers to meet the demand for Children's Clubs in various schools. There is a great need to recruit and train new instructors. Pray for the right people to come forward to be trained and for training resources to equip them.

25 – 31 October

- **ACT** – Please pray for God's guidance for the board as they discern how to best grow the ministry in the ACT. Pray for Ana Davy, our Director, as she is the only staff member working in the ACT.
- **Northern Territory** – Please pray for the AGM and wisdom in recruiting more regular donors. There is a need for funding for part-time business and program manager(s) to support the work of the Director and help expand the ministry right around the NT. Give thanks for all those supporting and partnering with SUNT and especially for co-workers working in remote aboriginal communities.
- **New Zealand** – Please pray for the continued development of the new SUNZ website. Pray that the design and content will go smoothly and that this will become a valuable resource.

- **LSDC** - (23 October– 6 November) This is a vital gathering of leaders from our movements around the world. Please pray for this valuable time of learning together: for wisdom for the facilitators; for understanding of how to apply what has been experienced; for spiritual and physical refreshment; for safety and protection for all; and for a strengthening in the SU global community.
- **East & West Asia:** A Transition Leadership Team (TLT) has begun to meet to see the transition of SU EWA through to the new global structure. Please pray for the Koh Earn Soo (TLT coordinator) together with Team members from Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, as they work out details of phasing into the new framework.

November

1 – 7 November

- **Northern Territory** - Give thanks for the return of the Glen Simpkins (State Director) after long service leave and his refreshment and renewed energy. Pray for good support, encouragement and relationships between the Darwin Office and co-workers in remote aboriginal communities engaged in chaplaincy and discipleship.
- **New South Wales** – (3) Please pray for the Finance Training Evening for Treasurers and Directors of summer teams. Pray that this session will equip the volunteers to be diligent and accurate in carrying out their roles regarding banking, accounts, record keeping and the audit process.
- **Western Australia** – Please pray for the continued recovery of State Director, Kent Morgan. Give thanks for the many faithful donors who support SUWA and pray for continued work on further income generation strategies.
- **Vanuatu** - Please pray for the ongoing redevelopment of SU Vanuatu's campsite. Continue to pray for wisdom for the SU council members during this time. Pray too for the local teams who have been visiting schools and communities to proclaim God's love
- **Russia** – Please pray for the children and team members participating in a Holiday Club in Novosibirsk (2 – 4), and for the 20th Siberian Conference for children and youth workers 3D Faith (6 – 8). Geoff Brown and Tony Bower from SU England will be the main speakers.

8 – 14 November

- **Victoria** - SU Victoria is recruiting interns for involvement in Schools Ministry and Camp Coolamatong School Camping Programs in 2016. Praise God for the impact of the Internship Program in equipping young leaders for mission and ministry. Please pray that God will provide young people to fill these vacancies.
- **Papua New Guinea** - A major fundraising event will be held on 14 November Please pray for a generosity of spirit from sponsors, corporate tables, SME, churches and families, as this provides vital funds to enable SU's ministry in PNG.
- **Tonga** – (13) Please pray that the weekly High Schools Students' Combinations program will encourage students to read the Bible daily.
- **Tasmania** - This week is SU Tasmania staff gathering. Please pray that the team will be renewed and refreshed after a hard year and pray that the Holy Spirit would inspire all planning for the future.
- **Terry Williams:** (10 -17) Pray for Terry as he serves with the International Sports Coalition to help train teams of Master Trainers from 130 countries (750 people) in Orlando, Florida. Training will happen in 7 language rooms concurrently with all resources (Videos, PowerPoints and training notes) being provided free of charge in 30 different languages. Especially pray for technology to ensure effective communication.

15 – 21 November

- **South Australia** – Please pray for the team as they prepare and train volunteers in readiness for the school Christmas Seminars. Pray that the true meaning of Christmas will be effectively communicated.
- **Western Australia** – Please pray for SU WA's Fine Edge Theatre as they perform the Christmas production "The Lost City" in schools around the state.
- **Vanuatu** – Please pray for all students sitting their final year exams.
- **Tasmania** – (21) Please pray for the council meeting that will include a couple of guests who are considering joining council. Please pray for wisdom and discernment about appointing new council members.

- **Guatemala:** The Evangelical church has turned earnestly to the Lord in prayer in the face of political corruption and the election for its country leaders. Please join them in praying. Pray for the work of Bible Club volunteers who impart Christian values in schools and pray specifically for the ministry development in Escuintla and Huehuetenango.

22 – 28 November

- **ACT** - Please pray for all ACT's volunteers, faithfully proclaiming the Good News about God through schools groups and camps.
- **Northern Territory** – Please pray for Jane & Tim Letcher as they move to the remote aboriginal community of Epenarra. Pray for their settling in, building good relationships with locals, and language learning.
- **Queensland:** Please pray for the End of High School 'Schoolies' events. Pray for our volunteers and students, that they will have a safe and enjoyable week.
- **India:** Praise God that during July- September, Vacation Bible Schools were held in about 300 places, in different languages all over India; school missions were conducted in nearly 210 schools. Please pray that the approx. 250,000 children who heard the Gospel will continue to seek to follow Jesus.
- **West Africa:** The Ebola epidemic in some West Africa Countries took many lives. Thank God that some of those countries have now been declared Ebola free, and continue to pray for those that are still battling with it.

December

29 – 5 December

- **Victoria** - Pray for the Summer Mission Teams in their final month of planning and preparation. Pray for the Directors as they lead and train their teams and explore alongside them what it means to be a missional community. Pray for each of the team members as they plan programs and develop resources to share God's Good News this summer.
- **Western Australia:** Give thanks for the many volunteers planning to serve on mission teams this summer. Pray for the Summer Missions Training Day on 5 December, that it would be a day of inspiration, connection and shaping that will lead to fruitful, effective ministry over summer.
- **TONGA** - (5) Please pray for the SUT Rally, that it will be a precious time of fellowship with God and a time of encouragement with one another.
- **Solomon Islands** – Please thank God for SU's ministry in schools throughout the year. Pray for the end of year Fellowship meetings.
- **Janet Morgan:** Please pray for Janet as she leads the FOBAI (Forum of Bible Agencies International) Executive Meeting in the USA

6 – 12 December

- **Victoria** - Give thanks for the service of SU Chaplains in 40 Primary and Secondary schools across Victoria. Praise God for this opportunity to offer life-bringing, life-changing ministry and for the many churches and volunteers who support the valuable work being done. Please pray for them as they serve students and school communities, particularly at this busy and often stressful time of the year.
- **PNG** – Please pray for Council, staff and volunteers that have served God this year in SU PNG. Pray for their spiritual and physical health, and that He will continue to lead them. Pray for their protection over the festive and Christmas break.
- **Tonga – (11 & 12)** Please pray for wisdom for Fusi Vaki as he plans and trains those serving on ministry teams in 2016.
- **Fiji:** Please continue to pray for the Fiji movement as they move forward following the sudden death of their National Director, Sisa Teilai. Pray especially for the student ministry work, that many young people will continue to pursue Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- **Scotland:** Give thanks for the two centres at Alltnacriche and Lendrick Muir, and for the thousands of children and young people who visit for SU regional weekends, week-long holidays, and school residential. Pray for Paul Bayton and Michael Cook, centre managers, and that God would provide the necessary staff to fill current vacancies.

13 – 19 December

- **Northern Territory:** Please pray that through Christmas Craft activities, primary-age children will learn about God's love in sending His Son Jesus into the world. Also pray for leaders to develop good relationships and share their lives with participants during the week.
- **Queensland - (14)** Please pray for the SU QLD Youth Work Training students who are graduating. Please pray for their future and that they will be a blessing to many.
- **Tasmania** - Please pray that the reporting requirements for the chaplaincy program will be communicated in a timely way (by the state government) and will not be too difficult to do. Pray that this will create a smooth transition from this year to next for chaplains in schools.
- **Wendy Strachan:** The first Global Children's Forum Leadership Experience begins in February 2016. Please pray that participants and their mentors will be selected wisely; that facilitators will prepare great learning experiences, and that pre-course assignments prove useful to each of the participants and their ministries. Please pray for Wendy as she leads the multi-agency, multi-national group that is designing and implementing this program.
- **Greece:** Pray for wisdom and joy in Christ in the midst of very dark and uncertain times for Greece. Please also pray for the prospect of setting up a platform for a wider ministry concerning refugees and the unescorted children that enter Greece. Pray that God would provide all the resources needed to support this opportunity of ministry.

20 – 26 December

- **South Australia:** This is the season for conducting our largest youth & children's camps of the year. Please pray for all the children and young people who will attend and that the training and preparation the leaders have undertaken will bear fruit in a strong response to the Gospel.
- **Western Australia** – As for South Australia, please pray for the volunteers as they finalise preparation for their outreach through missions and camps over summer.
- **Tonga** - Praise God for the many teachers from different high schools who have assisted with SU's ministry.
- **Vanuatu** - Please pray for a safe and peaceful holiday for SU families. Especially pray for refreshment for staff and volunteers including Rex, Glorina & Zaglin.
- **Peninsula Malaysia:** We thank God for the recent completion of a major renovation work at the campsite. Please pray for effective and efficient management and maintenance of the upgraded facilities. Pray too that more people will use and be blessed by this campsite.

27 – 31 December

- **ACT** - Please pray for Peter & Louise as they relaunch the ACT beach mission this summer. Pray for a strong team and good preparations.
- **New South Wales - (28 – 1)** Please pray for the Dare2BDifferent Camp being held for able-bodied & disabled young people in Years 7 – 12. Pray that they will experience the love of Jesus as they participate in this camp.
- **Victoria:** Summer Camps commence this week at Camp Coolamatong, with a Family Camp at Lake Camp and a Years 11 & 12 Camp at Lake Camp. Pray for a memorable experience and wonderful sense of community for those who attend - for lots of fun, safety and a powerful impact as they engage with God and His Word together.
- **New Zealand** – Please pray that all the preparations for Summer camps will be used by God's Holy Spirit. Pray that a full quota of campers will be ready to receive all that God has for them on camp.
- **Australia** – Please pray for the safety and care of all participants in summer missions and camps around the country, during the holiday season. Also pray that the Good News of Jesus will be effectively shared by the hundreds of volunteers through these programs.