

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH AUSSIE KIDS! CHURCHES WORKSHOPS



encourage engagement with local schools,

These workshops provide an opportunity to promote all the good work that is currently happening in Schools based ministry through SU ACT, CRE & World Vision via Chaplaincy, Scripture programs, mentoring and breakfast clubs.

February workshops were held in Gungahlin and Belconnen and were well attended with 15-20 Churches. One outcome was establishing a connection between Gold Creek School, where we have a chaplaincy, to the Gungahlin Baptist Church. It was a productive time of sharing and we were able to celebrate school based ministry and the great things that local churches are doing.

SU, in partnership with Christian Religious Education (CRE) and World Vision-Kids Hope, is conducting a series of workshops; **Sharing the Good News with Aussie Kids** aimed at raising local churches' awareness of ministry opportunities in schools in their local area. The goal of this format of workshops is to facilitate local churches to get to know each other better and to and to pray for the students and staff.



June workshops held recently have been undertaken in Weston Creek and Woden. A particular focus for discussion has been the imminent opening up of the new Molonglo region in the next few years - with new schools!



regeneration dinner

What a great evening! The response to the SU Regen Dinner this year was almost overwhelming, with **450 attendees** at the Hellenic Club on 23 March. So in 2 years the event has doubled in size. What I find inspiring in this is that those attending see it as a priority to be concerned about the wellbeing of children and young people, and are prepared to get together to share this concern via SU. It's actually quite humbling to be part of such a group. So thank you all!

Our special guests for the night both stirred and challenged us - **Barbara Holborow**; plus exercised our grey matter with humour laced with wisdom - **Cameron Semmens**. Together with excellent local contributions, and media, provided an outstanding and balanced program. Through the great generosity of those attending, a net financial outcome of in excess of **\$53,000** has been achieved (that's after all expenses associated have been met). **Wow!** This is approximately doubled in two years also.

All aspects of the evening went very well, which is a tribute to the organizing group led by coordinator Kerry, including Beth, Meryl, Michael, Sam, Geoff and Teryl; thank you all. Plus the table hosts too numerous to mention, the 50 odd people who invited people along and hosted them. And the **Hellenic Club**, whose flexibility and cooperation make running an event there so much easier; plus friendly service and great food! I was also impressed by the large group who continued to meet and network way beyond the conclusion of the formal program. Many good links and contacts developed as a result. The sense I had was that people really enjoyed being there; a sense of being part of something special. I hope that was also your experience.

My personal reflection is that; *God wants His people to be engaged in helping the little ones-the children of His Kingdom. Especially the ones who are hurting due to circumstances well beyond their control. He brings grace and blessing to those who set out to restore these injustices; beyond measure, above expectation, and exceeding our inadequate belief systems.* **Craig Webber CEO**

Is Grace always amazing? Is there average grace? Sub-standard second rate grace? Or is unmerited mercy always pretty amazing?
Cameron Semmens



Feedback A table host's perspective

We wanted to say thank you to all the organisers who put so much work into the Regeneration Dinner. All my guests I talked to after the event, and especially the school based people said how much they had enjoyed themselves. People went out of their way to pass on their thanks. The program was very good. For Richard and me, it was unexpectantly a time to connect again with people we hadn't seen for years. Thank you for an excellent evening! - **Lyndal Rogers**



A Partnering Organisation's perspective

Congratulations on a fantastic evening of promotion and celebration for SU ACT. The networking atmosphere was great, the enormous crowd was engaged, the speakers and entertainment were excellent and the meal was delicious. God's spirit was definitely present and all those attending were richly blessed. What a night!
Karen Baron CRE Coordinator





CHILL OUT

SUPER FRUIT!

Chill Out is a camp run by Scripture Union ACT for children in primary school from Years 3-6. On Wednesday 14 April, 24 campers and 10 leaders travelled to Kooringa Coastal Retreat at Batehaven for four days of fun in the sun and an opportunity to learn more about God.

Our theme this year was 'Super Fruit' and the group looked at the fruit of the Spirit, with the help of 'Super Strawberry' who visited the camp site every morning. Through the 'God Spots' and small group times, campers were able to learn more about why God gives us these fruit, and how we can share qualities such as love, joy, peace, patience and kindness with others.

Activities included the Amazing Fruit Race, a trip to Mogo Zoo, beach games and (always a favourite) Messy Games. The last night at camp was Theme night, with campers and leaders dressing up as super heroes and fruits and creating skits based on the fruit of the Spirit. Another highlight was the delicious food provided by our wonderful cooks, Chris and Jeff Mason.



Camp was a wonderful time where campers made new friendships and learnt about why sticking with Jesus is so important. Primary School camps are an important part of SU's ministry, as the experiences and teaching that children receive when they are young help to give them a solid foundation of faith for the future. Thank you so much to those supporters who prayed for the camp. We felt God's presence with us and He blessed us all abundantly.

Caroline Clancy, Camp Director



WWWJ

DISASTER!

Wild Wee Jasper this year was awesome!
The Camp theme - **DISASTER!**

During the Easter School Holidays 20 leaders and 75 campers from Canberra and Sydney filled those GREEN Wee Jasper paddocks with fun and laughter and great memories. Our days were spent in worship, small groups, EXTREME activities and just being extremely active. Our days started with a breakfast worthy to get up for, then, being ready for the day we settled in to worship and a teaching session.

Our camp speaker this year was John Lewis who has worked as a youth pastor in Newcastle for the last 6 years. His wife, Cassie Lewis (Price), was a Jasper camper back when she was in High School! The talks each day revolved around the idea of 'disasters' and what the Bible has to say about disasters in our world and in our personal lives. We started with the original disaster in the Garden of Eden and ended with the hope of a New Heaven and a New Earth in Revelation. We were reminded along the way that God is with us in the midst of disasters, we were encouraged to persevere when disasters come our way, and we were challenged to



act and be God's agents of hope and healing in the world. It was awesome to see young people honestly wrestle with some big questions and a number of them expressed a commitment to connect or reconnect their lives with Jesus and get back to church and youth groups.

The rest of our days were taken up with abseiling, caving, scrambling, rafting, mountain biking, hiking, sleeping under the stars and, of course, Super Hoop; action non-stop. The end of each day was reached

with challenges having been faced both physically and spiritually, - a wonderful environment for young people to grow and develop towards their full potential.

The Camp Directors give huge thanks to: Rohan Reynolds for lending us the bikes and rafts and supplying us with excellent ropes staff; Maurice and Jonno for once again cooking up a delicious storm in the kitchen; the super helpful SU office for all the admin work; and the excellent leadership team who serve Jesus so faithfully and are such a pleasure to do ministry with.

**Emily Mitchell,
Moriah Hurst
Camp Directors**

Mission School directions...

In February SU in partnership with CRE, the Salvo's and Catholic Life presented our second annual conference for Christian volunteers working with children in schools.

We were abundantly provided for in our venue, yummy food and awesome speakers. Our keynote speaker was **Libby Horton**, a producer working with **Logosdor**. Special guest speakers were Sally Smith and Cheryl Clendinning from Godspace (Sydney); and Sister Helen Barnes provided a workshop on spiritual replenishment.

About 70 volunteers from many churches attended. They were encouraged through the sharing of information of how important it is to understand kids, today's challenges that they face and the importance of outreach. They were reaffirmed that their work is vital for God's kingdom and encouraged in their partnerships with one another.

A big thank you goes to **Karen Baron** and **Christine Roos** whose energy, commitment and partnership I really appreciated in putting together this event.

Sylvia Marris, Primary Schools Program Coordinator



SUPA HOLIDAY CLUBS

new SU initiative for 2010



Two holiday clubs were held during the January school holidays one at Torrens Primary and the other at Mount Rogers Primary school in Melba.

There were 47 kids, 12 volunteer leaders, and a total of 8 days of swashbuckling good fun including sea shanties, hidden treasure, craft docks, high seas adventure and a nail biting drama that in the end saw us all rescued and welcomed by the good King. We partnered with local churches that supported us in prayer and with volunteers and resources. And much appreciation goes to volunteer Chris Ball who worked amazingly hard on this initiative.



SU STAFF RETREAT



The Staff Retreat held in January at Koorunga was a special time for SU staff and their families who attended. With 65 participants; a great blend of staff, families and children.

We were led into both personal and group experiences by guest leader **Kara Potter**. We explored 'the Joy of the Lord' as it presents in both the good and hard times; with reflection on the past year, and application to the coming.

One of the significant times of personal creative reflection via art media- led to a time of group sharing which had exceptional depth and meaning. There was a great sense of trust within the group who undertook this-I have seldom experienced such, and Kara expressed this to the group also.

Inspiring, and refreshing at the soul level-despite the 40 deg heat on the final day! What a way to launch the year!

Craig Webber CEO



ON THE MOVE 2010



Three days of beautiful autumn sunshine provided the ideal backdrop for On The Move, an annual outreach by Scripture Union ACT and the combined churches of Belconnen from 14-16 April at Margaret Timpson Park opposite Belconnen Mall. A community festival atmosphere was created with music, food, and children's activities.

Each day, from 8.00am to 3.30pm, 70 or so volunteers set up tents, barbecues, tables, chairs, sound equipment and food; handed out 1,200 flyers each day in the area surrounding Belconnen Mall. A free barbecue lunch was served to the hundreds of people who came each day, where volunteers talked and lunched the barbecue guests.

Chaplain Ted Leask shares an experience he had, "A young indigenous Dad and his son wandered in to the park and watched us set up tables and chairs and get ready for the first day. We had a chat about what was happening and he said he would come back later for lunch with his son. This he did over all 3 days. On the second day he brought 2 indigenous friends with him, we talked about their heritage, where they had come from and some of their experiences with the Church over the years. The overwhelming response was that *'if this is what Church without walls looks like, this is great!'*"

About 120 kids over the three day event enjoyed a jumping castle (big thank you to Craig Midgelow), face painting, and a range of activities including icing biscuits and decorating their own show bags, while parents sat and chatted to our volunteers.

National SU Director Lloyd Carter was a special guest for Thursday and Friday and said, "There was a wonderful team spirit and enthusiasm as they worked together and engaged with the community. It was a terrific experience to see the long line up of local people making use of the opportunity and chatting in the sunshine with each other and team members. Then to hear reports of conversations and the feedback from the locals was very positive. Well done and this is well worth doing elsewhere."

We found a number of families coming back each day and bringing more family members. One family was noticed to have 12 members there from 3 generations enjoying the lunch and the company. People of all ages and walks of life came to share this community event. The response was wonderful, the volunteers superb, and everything flowed smoothly. Thanks to SU chaplains, staff and those from Belconnen churches who put so much effort into making this event so enjoyable and successful.



Meryl Hinge Youth Development Coordinator

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS!

REMINDER: End of financial year coming up! All donations to SU schools ministries are tax deductible. Please forward in time for receipting by 30 June.

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CHAPLAINCY CHANGES

We sent two chaps on maternity leave:

Jenni Sander has been a chaplain at Theodore Primary school since 2008 and is currently on maternity leave. On the 17 March 2010, Jenni along with her family welcomed Jacob Micah Daniel Sander into the world. Thanks Jenni for all your hard work over the past two years and we pray God will bless you and your family.

Katie Pratt has been the chaplain at Wanniasa School (junior site) since 2008 and she is currently on maternity leave. On the 16 February Katie and Liam welcomed Serena Chloe Pratt into the world. Thanks Katie for all your hard work as a chaplain and the Camps Program Manager for SU ACT. We pray that God will bless you in your new role as a first time mum.

We said farewell to:

Sharon Cook was the Chaplain at Kaleen Primary School for 2009. Thank you for your contribution at the school and we wish you God's blessings your future plans.

Sharon Williamson was the chaplain at North Ainslie for the second part of 2009. Thank you for contribution to the school and congratulations for gaining full-time employment this year as a primary school teacher. We pray God will continue to bless you as you move from chaplain to teacher in your new role.

Meryl Hinge has been the chaplain at Gold Creek School since early 2008 until the end of 2009. Meryl has left her chaplaincy position to take up a new position in the SU office. She is now the full-time Youth Development Coordinator for SU ACT and we welcome her in this new role. Thank you Meryl for your commitment to Gold Creek over the last two years and we pray that God will continue to bless you and guide you in your new role at SU.

Amanda France has been the Chaplain at Gordon Primary School since the middle of 2009. Thanks for your commitment to the school and all the hard work you put in. We pray God will guide and bless you and your plans for the future.

Commencing in term 1 we welcomed:

- **Ted Leask** at Kaleen Primary school
- **Joanne Dodds** at North Ainslie Primary School
- **Mary Apikotoa** at Theodore Primary school
- **Christine Hosking** at Wanniasa School (jr site)
- **Garry Bourke** at Wanniasa Hills Primary School

Current Chaplaincy Vacancies

- Bonython Primary
- Gordon Primary
- Charles Conder Primary

Contact Michael Clancy on 6275 0102,
email: michael@suact.org.au



SAM GLEDHILL has recently decided to resign from her role as Chaplaincy Support Officer, to take time out from work to focus on family and other personal matters. We will all miss Sam who has made a great contribution to SU both in her role, but also as the person that she is. We wish Sam well, God's blessings as she explores her future and trust that we can keep in touch!

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING EXPO - MELBA COPLAND SUELLA JARVIS - CHAPLAIN



On Thursday 1 April, Melba Copland Secondary School held a Health and well-being Expo.

The Youth Worker at my school organised for a number of different community groups to come to the school over a lunch time to provide information on health and lifestyle issues that might be relevant for students.

I suggested to the school that in order to attract students we provide food. So, I sent out an email to my network of local church groups. I had a fantastic response. In the end I had 4 church groups send people along. The Ministers from both North Belconnen Baptist church, Geoff Pengilly, and St Paul's Ginninderra Anglican church, Doug Newman, came with several church mem-

bers; the youth pastor from Canberra Christian Life Centre came and brought a couple of young people to help; and the leader of the Anglican outreach group 'forc' also came.

Different groups donated food, or money to buy food. We were able to provide healthy pancakes, fruit platters and hot cross buns free to students. It was a lovely day and we gave away a lot of food, which brought students to the area. I also set up a table on 'Spiritual well-being' where I displayed information on a range of different faiths, including information on local church groups.

For me, it was a lovely opportunity to show the school community that, as their chaplain, I am part of a wider Christian community who are interested in the school and happy to come along and be of service in this way.