



April 2024

works

Thanks to you, young people are engaging with God's Word and asking questions in SRE

Holly is an SRE teacher who is deeply passionate about young people growing in their faith and understanding God better. She believes,

"Creating a dedicated space for kids to explore the bible is crucial, providing them with an environment where they feel comfortable asking questions."

Holly loves fostering an atmosphere of curiosity in her classroom, where students are encouraged to explore the Bible and express their doubts openly. She says:

"The best part is witnessing those "aha" moments when they grasp the core concepts and truly understand God's Word for the first time."

Building relationships is Holly's key strategy, and she often starts her classes with fun games to break the ice and set a tone different from their regular lessons. She says:

"I had a challenging Year 2 class with various behavioural issues, including a student who was consistently disruptive. To engage the class, I brought in my guitar and taught them 'Jesus is the Boss' by Colin Buchanan. Amazingly not only did the disruptive student enjoy the lesson, but he also expressed a newfound desire to love Jesus! And this marked the beginning of a transformative journey for him, asking me numerous questions over the following weeks."

Holly's commitment to creating an open and inclusive atmosphere in her classroom allowed students to ask questions and express doubts freely. Reflecting on the impact of SRE, Holly noted that she had seen positive changes not only in students but also in classroom teachers.

Holly says:

"The opportunity to speak with teachers on a weekly basis strengthened their understanding and rapport."

Holly's prayer for young people in her SRE class was that they would know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, continuing to grow in their love and knowledge of Him.

(Continue reading...)



Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for SRE teachers like Holly (pictured left). We are also grateful for the many notes of encouragement which were shared at the recent SRE conferences to 1,300 new and returning teachers gathered to hear God's Word and to be equipped for this vital ministry in schools in the year ahead.

Youthworks Ministry Update

Here's what our various ministries have been up to in the last quarter!

Conference Centres

Give thanks to God for the 3,200 guests who stayed at **Youthworks Conference Centres** over the summer holidays, and the many youth that drew closer to God through summer camps.

Ministry Support Team

Leaders in Training (LiT) had two summer camps at the end of January to go with the Spring camp in September 2023. We now have 1,030 leaders and senior high youth attending these 3 camps! Students come from over 160 churches across NSW over the LiT season annually. Students are being encouraged in their personal discipleship, trained in youth and kids ministry skills and principles, and provided with tools for schools ministry and personal evangelism.

Youthworks College

Last year, Youthworks College launched **Centre for Christian Education (CCE)** where Christian teachers have the opportunity to grow in their role by studying at College. Since then, two students have completed the Diploma of Theology for Christian teachers.

Youthworks Media

Youthworks Media released their new children's book in partnership with Anglicare – **The Forgetful Prince**. This book serves as a reminder of God's goodness, ensuring that God's children never lose sight of their precious worth in Him.

Christian Outdoor Education

Year 3 and 4 students from Wycliffe Christian School stayed at Blue Gum Lodge. In their Christian Discovery session, Outdoor Ministry Leader, Bethany had the opportunity to help her group know the joy of having a relationship with Jesus. She says:

"Students learnt that God comes and rescues us from sin and how wonderful it is to have a personal relationship with our creator. To finish their time together, one student shared how sad she was that she didn't have a Bible and when I offered to gift her one, another 5 students asked if they could have one too!"

In the following rock-climbing session, Bethany had another 12 students ask for Bibles, handing out a total of 18 Bibles to students eager to read about our great God.

Year 13

Year 13 has been blessed to welcome new staff, Director Steve Carlisle and Pastoral workers Brad Vidilini and Jaedon Scott. Brad and Jaedon have both completed LiT, are Year 13 alumni as well as graduates of Youthworks College. What a joy to see the development of leaders within Youthworks, but even more significantly, in the harvest field of God. Please pray for a fruitful year of discipleship with our newly minted team.



Christian Outdoor Education sheds new light into young hearts thanks to your prayerful support.

Camps provide opportunities for students to hear the gospel afresh ... sometimes with unexpected results!

During a recent Christian Discovery session, Rathane Lead Guide Cameron Blight presented the story of creation and how we were made to be in relationship with God. He says:

"We looked at how sin separates us from God and how God had a plan to bring us back into relationship with him. Afterwards, when I sat down with my small group, they all seemed to know and understand the story of creation. So I thought, 'Great, let's move on to God's plan', because I was sure they would know that part too."

To Cameron's surprise when he explained to them that God sent Jesus to take the punishment we deserve by dying on the cross, he was met with, "What! How have we never learnt this before...This changes everything...That makes so much more sense!"

Cameron was overwhelmed by their reactions. They were filled with such joy and excitement over God's Good News. Next day, his presentation focused on Jesus' sacrificial death and that through faith in him, our relationship with God is restored.

And the response? Every student in Cameron's group asked for a Bible! And when he asked what they'd learnt, they said:

"Jesus died for us so that we can be forgiven of all our sins."

How good is the message of God - often in unexpected ways!

From Craig's Desk



Dear Friend,

It brings me great joy that young people are growing in their faith through ministries like SRE, Leaders in Training (LiT), Christian Outdoor

Education (COE), and church camps over the summer break. These stories are showcasing the impactful role your partnership plays in the lives of young people.

Your support of Youthworks is giving SRE teachers, such as Holly, confidence to creatively engage God's Word with children and is providing opportunities for students to grow in their relationship with Jesus on camps.

Through your prayers, purchase of training and resources, and giving of your time and financial gifts to God through Youthworks, you are not only participating in a great mission for God, but also contributing to the varied ways He is positively influencing the lives of young individuals, and through them building His church.

Your continued partnership fuels our mission to orient young people to a life in Christ. Your dedication to the growth of young disciples in the Christian faith is truly valued. Together, we are building a foundation for a resilient and faith-filled future for young individuals.

Your brother in Christ,

Canon Craig Roberts
CEO, Youthworks



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Dates for your diary

Square One Winter

Exodus – The Second-Best Rescue – 31 May-2 June 2024

Youthworks Square One is a weekend camp for children in Years 3 - 6 and their church leaders. Youthworks Ministry Support Team, in partnership with a committee of volunteers, plans a full weekend of age-appropriate Bible teaching and fun activities, freeing church leaders to invest in discipling their kids.

Registrations open now! Visit youthworks.net/squareone

House Conference

Sin – The Uncomfortable Truth – 27-29 August 2024

This annual conference for youth and children's ministry is held at Youthworks Conference Centres Port Hacking. The conference is focused on theological reflection for best practice in ministry to youth and children within a community of youth and children's ministers.

Registrations are open now! \$40 early bird discount is available until 31 May, 2024 on full-time dorm room tickets. Visit youthworks.net/house

Leaders in Training (LiT) Spring 2024


Our Crucified King – 30 September-4 October

Youthworks' Leaders in Training (LiT) is a camp for students in Year 9-12. The whole week is about growing young people in their faith, as a leader and as a servant of Jesus and His people.

Registration opens Monday 13 May, 10am.
Visit youthworks.net/lit

Have you listened to The Effective Ministry Podcast?

Join the Youthworks Ministry Support Team as they discuss how to have an effective youth and children's ministry in every church, in conversation with local ministry workers including national and international voices.

Listen on:  Apple Podcasts |  Spotify



Prayer Guide April to July Available Now

If you would like to request more copies of the latest Prayer Guide, please contact (02) 8268 3325 or info@youthworks.net