

Connections

September 2016 Issue

Camping sets the pace

A year of growth, new ventures.



at Young Life we live with a fundamental belief that young people are important, valuable and worth our investment. They want to live life to the full, they want to live with purpose and they want to make a difference in the world. As they navigate their teen years, life can begin to rob them of their dreams as they encounter hurdles along the way.

Having adult mentors as part of a young person's world during these years is life-giving for many; for others lifesaving.

Young Life's relational approach to serving young people is the hallmark of what we do. We do not enter their world as consultants on success but as adults who deeply believe they are important. In doing so we demonstrate God's desire for a relationship which in turn becomes transformational.

The 2015-16 financial year has built upon the momentum of the previous year with new projects coming online.

The biggest development has been the purchase

of our Training College and Community Centre in Armidale, NSW. This facility is not about property, it is about people: training people to be effective in their work with young people, providing a place for local young people to gather and think through their faith and values, and offering a space for community groups to use as required.

Maroubra Young Life launched in February 2016 as part of the vision for Greater Sydney. The Volunteers in Schools and club programs are both underway and the area has gathered a great group of volunteers.

Volunteers in Schools and club events are our main contact with young people in local communities and we are seeing steady growth in our impact through these programs.

The chaplaincy program saw some change in NSW this year with adjustments to the government funding model, but overall it continues to deliver a valued resource to the schools with whom we partner.

Young Life's camping program has grown beyond our expectations this year with increasing numbers of youth attending. In the last 12 months, we had over 500 young people attend a camping

activity, ranging from overnight trips to seven-day experiences.

Young Life volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of this organisation. Without them, Young Life could not deliver the variety of services we provide. Our volunteers deliver over \$4 million worth of service in terms of their time and energy each year and I am personally grateful for their commitment to reaching out to Australian young people.

The growing community of supporters who serve as committee representatives, faithful donors and advocates continue to strengthen Young Life, helping us fulfil our core mission. As CEO I am grateful for everyone who stands with us.

Thank you for your partnership with us in this great adventure. I look forward to sharing the journey with you in the next year.



Glyn Henman, CEO

AREA REPORT

NEW ENGLAND

with Regional Manager Brendan Hatte

ARMIDALE

Seeing young people respond to Jesus on our different camping trips, including Summer Camp and our Water Sports Weekend has been a highlight in 2016. Seeing these same young people continue to learn in small groups and bible studies has been amazing to watch.

Looking forward, we would like to see the establishment of a second club in Armidale itself and to see more young people come to grips with who Jesus is from our current club.

One of our goals is to work with other community groups where we can and we are currently praying for a new field staff worker to focus on the work we are doing with Indigenous young people.

URALLA

Young Life has built a great rapport with the school community in Uralla and our engagement with students has been increasing over the past year. We have been running lunch time activities for students each week and our field staff worker Kate Gardiner has undertaken training so that she can deliver the Resilience Donut which is a mentoring program. Our connections at the school have had a flow on effect with club growing to almost 30 kids and many young people excited about going to Summer Camp for the first time.

Looking forward, a focus for us will be helping our Junior Leaders step into more responsibility and maturity. We are keen to see lots of kids go to summer camp and to see the community getting behind our local work.

In the meantime we are praying for a new Abide trainee and more volunteers to continue the work in Uralla in 2017.



▲ Field Staffer Kate Gardiner and Intern Katie Munro with young people from Uralla at Summer Camp.

Top to Bottom: Former Abide trainees Jacinda Durden, Alisha Zonneveld, Sophie Pullar, Cameron Murray.



◀ Armidale held its own camp in 2016: Alex Lee and Lloyd Morgan.

BAROSSA VALLEY

with Area Manager Vicki Rochow

The past year has seen continued growth for Young Life in the Barossa Valley. We have spent a lot of time visiting churches and continuing to raise awareness of Young Life's work in the area. This has resulted in increased donors and an excitement and enthusiasm among parents and supporters.

This year has also seen the beginning of Wyld Life in the Barossa. Held four times a term, we see up to 25 young people coming together to have fun, food and fellowship together. There is one young man who hasn't missed one club meeting all year and can't wait to get there every week. He tells his Mum to "drive faster, I don't want to be late"! This new program has opened up an opportunity for new people to join our leadership team which has been great to see. Our Wyld Life leaders are doing a wonderful job walking alongside and mentoring these young people.

Looking forward, we plan to reach out to more young people via new opportunities in schools; increase our involvement and interaction with the churches in the Barossa; and increase engagement with the parents of our club 'kids'.

We are very keen to increase the hours of our Area Manager and employ more Field Staff to further our work in the Barossa. Please pray that people will catch the vision and for the courage to 'ask' for more donors to allow this to happen.



▲ YL leaders, Paul, Zac, Tyla, Charles, Sam, Area Manager Vicki, Kevin, Jesse, Mark, Field Staffer Sophie, Megan, Renae and Tiffany.



Wyld Life in session – story time.

CENTRAL WEST, NSW

with Regional Manager Heather Gant



▲ Mary at Young Lives.



▲ Volunteer James Brooke getting to know some young people at water sports weekend.

▼ Amelia Hosking (left) with a Young Lifer from Warren, one of the newest areas in the network.



It has been a highlight for me in 2015/16 to have served alongside the team of staff and volunteers we have in Central West NSW as we met young people, trained and worked on building the vision for Young Life among communities across our region.

We took a double decker bus to Summer Camp for the first time, ran another successful Water Sports Tour, held two Central West staff retreats, a volunteer leaders training day and a retreat for volunteers, committee members, donors and interested community members which was attended by 36 people.

One prayer need specific to the work in our area is finding those interested individuals scattered throughout the rural communities of Central West NSW who want to give un-churched young people the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ.

BATHURST with Area Manager Ansia Klavins

There were many highlights in 2015 and 2016 including the Watersports weekend held in March and attended by 25 young people; our Trivia Night attended by 120 people from the local community; and our Camping@Newnes event held jointly with the Young Life team from Greater Sydney which saw 48 people attend between the two areas.

We also ran a successful Youth Mental Health First Aid training event which was attended by Scots, Kelso and Young Lives leaders as well as members of the public.

The Young Life clubs continued to meet in the form of Young Lives (a group for teenage mums) and at Kelso High School (where we have Young Life and Wyld Life) and at The Scots School Bathurst.

Looking forward, we plan to increase the small groups – (Young Lives will start their first one), attend NSW Wyld Life camp and continue our consolidation of the ministry model.

Our prayer is for the ongoing process of growing and renewing our committee membership.

DUBBO with Field Staff Karla Stait

At our second year of Summer Camp we had four cabins of young people, including several first time campers. They had the time of their lives and are currently busy convincing friends they should come to Summer Camp 2017.

Laura Mansell has had a terrific year catching up with a group of four girls every week to strengthen their friendship and have a positive input on their life.

At club this year we made up a new game called “Thong Bowls”. It’s just like Lawn Bowls, but on wooden floorboards and with heaps of thongs. It was pretty competitive!

Looking forward, we will attend the camp at Newnes and the new Wyldlife camp for the first time ever and we are currently planning to “go back to school” with a couple of Young Life volunteer leaders having a presence in a Dubbo school for the first time.

We are also looking to start a second club in another part of Dubbo to reach even more young people.

A specific need for Dubbo is an increase in monthly donors so we can extend our programs and positively impact even more teenagers in our community.

WARREN with volunteer Hanna Commins

This year Warren Young Life kicked off with a group of young people going to Summer Camp 2016 and as a result we commenced Young Life in Term 2. Our young people were able to join in the Ultimate Water Sports Tour which was fantastic. Young people in Warren have little to do and so we feel Young Life has a lot to contribute. We are looking forward to seeing more teenagers attending Young Life events in the coming year.

One need is for adults to come on board as leaders for Young Life club to continue. We also hope that in time we will have the resources to employ field staff and have the opportunity to serve in the High School. For now our team needs prayer for the energy and wisdom to establish Young Life firmly in the community of Warren.

AREA REPORT

GREATER SYDNEY

with Regional Manager Ben Staunton

The start of a new Young Life region covering Greater Sydney has allowed us to set a big vision. We have established a regional committee and these men and women have been meeting to plan and pray to help things move forward. Their particular focus this last year has been the Eastern Suburbs. They have helped to organise and run the Bondi to Malabar Prayer Walk and brought a number of tables to the National Fundraising Dinner.

This year we are looking forward to meeting with people in other parts of Sydney who want to help young people in their areas. We hope to see Young Life activities launched in other areas and a great fundraising event in 2017.

Our prayer for the year ahead is that we can work for both depth and breadth as we oversee development in Greater Sydney.

RYDE

The highlight for Ryde area has been Wyld Life, a Young Life club for students in Years 5 to 8. Led by Anne Henman and a group of volunteers, the club has grown to 25 regular members.

Ryde farewelled Rebekah Donders who served as Area Manager for nine months. Bek has chosen to pursue her Masters in Counselling and we wish her well. We recently welcomed Holly Lim and Ben Hura who have stepped into staff roles and will focus on Ryde and Parramatta respectively.

Looking forward, plans for Ryde include continued investment in Wyld Life, exploring new ways to serve the school community and building up the volunteer base to meet opportunities we have in the schools.

MAROUBRA

The Volunteers in Schools program has begun in Randwick Girls High School. Churches in the area have been really helpful and supportive and we have begun to pull together a great team of volunteers.

Club was launched in August and is meeting at the library in Maroubra. We are looking forward to beginning work in a second high school in the area and getting the local committee up and running.

Right now our prayer is for club to grow and that many young people will be able to come on Summer Camp in 2017.



▲ Regional Manager Ben Staunton, intern Kasey Sisson and Field Staff Becki Simadas on Maroubra Beach.



▲ Moustache night at Wyld Life in Ryde.

HOBART

with Committee Chair Fudge Jordan

Key events in the past year include the arrival of Jacinda Durden on field staff in January 2016 and an increase in regular volunteers from seven to 13 as we merged with the youth team from City Church of Christ.

Weekly club attendance has grown from 20-25 to 30-25 and 35 young people came along to our local Easter camp.

This year, a new small group began to meet with 10-12 young people meeting for an hour prior to club each Friday.

We also received a grant from Clarence City Council and the Churches of Christ to purchase a BBQ trailer.

Looking forward, we plan to continue to grow and develop the small groups; we will be putting our new BBQ trailer to good use in the community and local schools; and developing our involvement in a new high school 'Clarence High' where a lot of our new young people in Club have come from this year.

A prayer request is the ongoing employment of our field staff worker Jacinda for 2 days a week. We don't have the funds to sustain this long term unless more financial support is raised. There was a need for us to hire someone to sustain and grow the ministry but it has been a step of faith – one we believe God wanted us to take.



▲ Hobart club is gathering momentum with new volunteers and young people from Clarence High School attending.



➤ Hanging out with friends at club in Hobart, Tasmania.

GREATER MELBOURNE



▲ At Summer Camp in 2016 were Maroondah campers Alicia, Emily, Chloe, Ellie and Taylor with former staff Mel Mitchell (front left) and Megan Sparkes (top right).



▲ The teams from Maroondah, Monash, Casey and the Mornington Peninsula at a combined gathering in April 2016.

MAROONDAH with Field Staff Megan Sparkes

Regular monthly committee meetings have been an encouraging development for Maroondah Young Life this year, including the welcome addition of a new member.

Our Volunteers in Schools have continued to meet and support students through our pancake breakfast every Wednesday and we have seen the beginning of a new partnership with Redemption Church Melbourne allowing Young Life members to join in their fortnightly youth event.

It has been good to witness growing support from the community through our fundraising efforts. Last year we ran four fundraising events in the lead up to Summer Camp including chocolate box sales, a fair stall selling wrapping paper, a movie night and a Slave for a Day initiative.

Looking forward, I will be leaving my role on Field Staff in Maroondah but am excited for Young Life to continue growing and developing in Maroondah.

Some of our students who have attended summer camp twice will return as Work Crew in 2017 and the partnership with Redemption Church promises to see more in terms of volunteer involvement in Young Life programs as well as wider opportunities for the youth.

There will be a new staff member coming on board who will need prayer and support. Further connections and partnerships with local churches are also needed as bridges for young people who have no church connections of their own. We also pray for the local community – that it will support Young Life's presence in the area.

MONASH

In Monash we farewelled Melanie Mitchell who worked with us for three years. She recently married and we wish her well. She was our field staff representative and worked mainly with students from Glen Waverley Secondary College.

Anthony Wheaton has now been appointed to the role and will be working with Donna Teekens and the Monash Committee to consolidate the vision for Monash.

Highlights of the past year include involvement in summer camp and our ongoing involvement in providing school chaplaincy at Glen Waverley Secondary College.

Looking forward, our prayer is for wisdom and opportunities to do more within the wider community.

Summer Camp
is an amazing experience

14-21 JANUARY 2017 ★ JINDABYNE NSW

Join us on summer staff and work crew



▲ Chaplain Chantelle Wilks with students.

YOUNG LIFE CHAPLAINS

with Chaplaincy Coordinator, Llew Morris

Young Life has been placing chaplains in schools since 2007. Chaplains have a distinctive role in schools, providing pastoral care within the school, linking the physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing of school community members. The ability of chaplains to connect with students in their world is an important and powerful way of extending Young Life's goal of building confidence, resilience and values in young people.

Our chaplains meet with students on demand or on referral as well as delivering a variety of values-based programs according to the need within the school – these range from anti-bullying, self-esteem and identity issues, to anger management and friendship programs. Chaplains also get involved in delivering

programs on family and child-rearing issues. Funding for chaplaincy is from a number of sources, including the federally-funded National Schools Chaplaincy Programme, supplemented by private donations and the schools themselves.

This year we welcomed Chantelle Wilks at Alexandra Hills State High School in Queensland, Helen Ellett at Bairnsdale Secondary College in Victoria, Luisa McGuire at Merrylands Public School, NSW along with Travis Barnes at Newling Public School and Lesley Vale at Minimbah Primary School, both in Armidale, NSW.

There are currently 11 chaplains working for Young Life in schools across NSW, Queensland, ACT and Victoria.

AREA REPORT

SOUTH EAST QLD

with Area Manager Chantelle Wilks

REDLANDS

The response to Young Life's role in providing the chaplain at Alexandra Hills State High School has been a great encouragement to me this year. The school executive, staff and parent community joined an initiative to increase my days at the school and a High Tea was held and attended by 150 people raising \$3000.

Our fortnightly club meeting called "The Preview" has been going from strength to strength. We have five leaders and regular attendance by 22 students. We meet on school grounds and it has been a wonderful way to build great relationships with the students. Many have responded to Jesus and are eager to learn more.

This year we took around 30 students to Somerset Dam for a ski day. We were also approved for a \$3300 grant to purchase a new BBQ trailer to continue our pancake breakfast ministry in Wellington Point High & Alex Hills High.

Looking forward, we are focusing on growth in our leadership team and growing our students numbers at The Preview. We are also looking to expand what we do with even more schools in the Redlands area.

Our prayer is that we will meet our finance goal for extension of the Chaplaincy role at Alexandra Hills and for more team members to support the interest and response of young people to having an adult friend who models Jesus in their lives.

IPSWICH with Area Manager Chloe Wright

Two of the most encouraging moments for Young Life in Ipswich in the past year were the Fundraising Dinner held on the 3rd of May and Summer Camp in January 2016 where members of Ipswich Young Life were able to meet with the adults who support them locally and other young people from clubs around the country.

This year we have welcomed a new member on to the local committee and while Club continues to be small with roughly six young people attending, we have one young person who is starting his leadership training by doing work crew on camp and at club.

Looking forward, Summer Camp will be important for us as a way of introducing friends and the young people we meet to Young Life. We continue to be grateful for the opportunity to work in the local school in support of the students. Our greatest need is for more volunteers.



▲ Redlands volunteers with their new BBQ trailer.



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Lead

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Visit www.younglife.org.au/abide
or phone **02 6771 1927**

SKI MISSION

with Coordinator Gregg Odlum

Last year saw Ski Mission out on the waters with young people on 26 occasions. Each trip averaged 25 skiers with 12 volunteers helping to make it happen.

As in the past, Ski Mission was involved in Young Life's Summer Camp and a residential camp at Brightwaters on Lake Macquarie in NSW.

The year ahead presents a challenge. It's time to renew some of our safety equipment to ensure young people have the best possible experience on the water. We are hoping that people who have witnessed the effect of Ski Mission in providing adventure and challenging experiences will help us meet this goal.

Looking forward we will continue to be involved in Camp Brightwaters and the work of Young Life, providing great experiences in beautiful locations to build up those communities.



>
Ski Mission is an Ultimate Water Sports Tour partner.

BELARUS & LITHUANIA

with Regional Director Mark Hamilton

We have been focusing on growing the ministry this year as we have a vision to double all our ministry influence in 2020. This meant we did two national summer camps in Belarus to reach unchurched teenagers. One of our regions also did a Young Life Servants camp, focusing on training Christian teens to reach their friends and neighbours. One exciting outcome is seeing Christian teens reach their friends. We have a discipleship program we call "Young Life 7" designed to encourage Christian teens to pray seven days a week to reach seven friends. Moving towards growth has its difficulties, but it is so worthwhile.

Another highlight is our ministry in an orphanage in Vilnius, Lithuania where we have some solid friendships with teens there. We love having them over on some weekends to hang with our family and talk about life, love and faith.

Looking forward, the Hamilton family will be taking some furlough this year visiting the USA and Australia to connect with family, and thank supporters and churches for their partnership.

We have a huge party planned to celebrate 15 years of Young Life in Belarus on Sept 24th and are looking forward to celebrating with all who have been blessed by the ministry

A prayer need for coming year: we are in short supply of full-time staff to train and care for our volunteer leaders.



▲ Contact Work in Belarus – sharing a bike journey.

▼ Leaders Marina and Kolya (second and third from left) with teenagers from a rural town in Belarus called Ivanova.



Young Life comes alongside young people to walk their journey with them.

Connecting in their world
Offering support and role-modelling

Making a difference
Instilling confidence and values

Building resilience
Empowering and equipping to navigate the challenges ahead



Our Mission Statement

Young Life seeks to build confidence, values and resilience in Australia's young people through significant relationships with adults who model the love of Jesus Christ.

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All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

We appreciate your support. It really makes a difference!

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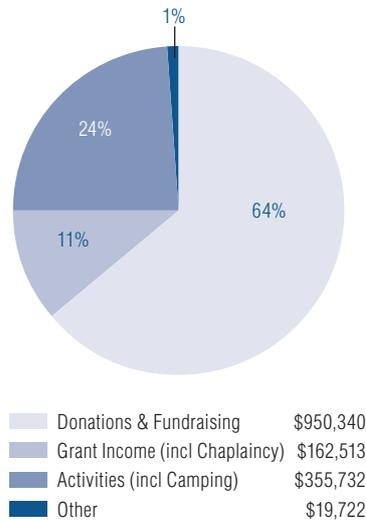
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FINANCIAL REPORT 2015-16

with Financial Controller, Llew Morris

Young Life Australia recorded another year of solid development during 2015-16. Revenue increased 13% to \$1.49 million. The surplus for the year was \$43,694, which was up 60% on the previous year.



INCOME

Income from Donations and Fundraising (\$950,340) is the largest component of income representing 64% of income and flows from the fundraising efforts and activities in the local communities in which Young Life operates. This category grew by 15% in the year.

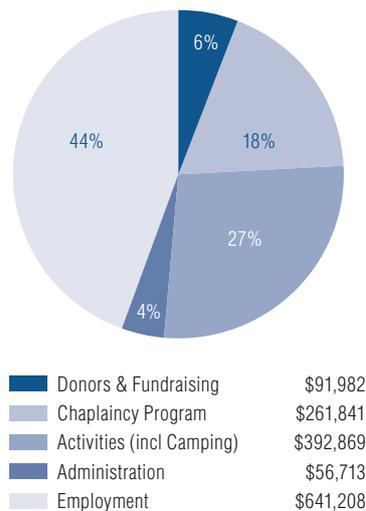
The Chaplaincy Program continued during the year with 11 chaplains placed in schools in Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria. Funding for this program is mostly via the National School Chaplaincy Program with additional support from private donations and the schools themselves.

The third major category of income is from youth activities including camping, which totalled \$355,732, representing growth of 32% during the year.

EXPENSES

Employment Expenses of \$641,208 make up 44% of Young Life's expenses. This category increased from the previous year with a number of new staff joining and successful fundraising to increase hours. At year end, the organisation employed 36 staff including 6 full-time, 25 part-time and 5 casual staff. This equated to 13 FTE positions.

Young Life continued to achieve operational efficiencies and ranks highly on standard efficiency measures for charities. Less than 10 cents in the dollar of Donations & Fundraising Income is spent on Fundraising and less than 4 cents in the dollar is spent on Administration.



PROPERTY ACQUISITION

During the year the organisation purchased a property in Armidale, NSW to be used as a Community Centre and residential Training College. The purchase was funded from donations and concessional loans.



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