

# Connections

May 2018 Issue



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# FROM THE CEO GLYN HENMAN

One of the joys of working with Young Life leaders, is hearing them talk about Club.



Club is where we meet young people and run our program and share our talk and build relationships. There is no doubt Club aims to resonate with teenagers by appealing to their sense of fun and their need for social connections.

But there is so much more to it. From our leaders' perspective, Club calls on every gift available to Christians – unity, maturity, humility and faith.

Over and over again I see evidence God is using Club not only to bring life and joy into the lives of teenagers but to shape us as well.

In this edition of *Connections* we check in with the work in Queensland, meet one of our Chaplains supporting primary children in Sydney and preview a topic that will feature at our National fundraising dinner on May 25 – Generation Z. Who will they become?

If you are in Sydney you are most welcome to attend the dinner. If you live outside the Sydney basin, I hope to see you at one of our regional events.

Thank you for supporting Young Life Australia and seeing the need to make a difference in the world of young people.

## WHAT'S ON...

May	5	Parramatta's Trivia Night
	12	Ryde Worship Event
	12	Eastern Suburbs Prayer Walk
	18	Central West Discipleship Weekend
	25	National Fundraising Dinner and Auction
June	1	Guyra Fundraising Dinner
	2	Bathurst Trivia Night
	16	Redlands Trivia Night
Aug	11	New England Winter Dinner
Sep	2-5	Wyldlife Camp, NSW

For more events visit [younglife.org.au/events](http://younglife.org.au/events)



## CLUB RU

**Community.** Club is about involvement in the community and inviting young people to be part of something especially for them.



Rachel (second left) with Bathurst Club members



Club talks cover issues of life and faith.





# RULES

## What makes Club an integral part of Young Life? We take a fresh look at the formula.

**Leadership.** Every Club has a team who take on responsibility for organising the program and caring for each individual young person.

**Unbelief.** Club opens the door to young people regardless of faith, race or religious background. It's a melting pot.

**Belief.** Club is a place where faith comes into the open. It's where leaders speak about their faith and live it out so teenagers can consider its importance to them.



"I love being part of the leadership team. They are so encouraging. To be part of a community looking outward and serving: but also serving each other. To be with a group that puts Jesus first and from so many different church backgrounds. It is special.

I have grown a lot from being part of it."

— Rachel

**R**achel Harvey has been a member of Young Life's Kelso Club team in Bathurst NSW, since 2011.

"As a teenager I went on some short overseas missions. I would come back and think, why leave? There was so much need in my own community."

"Kelso is a special place to have Club because it's a tough environment. It means a lot to have a healthy, safe place where kids can be in their neighbourhood."

"Club takes us right into the community to find young people right where they are growing up. We are able to have fun and enjoy them while they have a great time and laugh a lot."

"I love to see kids from my neighbourhood hearing the gospel."

"Of course, some of them think it's boring or have a preconceived idea of church and God as boring."

"A lot haven't heard this message of love. It's a big

thing because some of them aren't getting a lot of love. To hear there is a God who loves them is massive."

"When you bring the stories to life and show them ways it relates to their lives, you begin to see a new understanding grow."

In Sydney, Young Life Club is held in Ryde and in Parramatta where the teams are serving very different groups of young people.

"Our Ryde club has students in Years 8, 9 and 10 at the moment," says Holly Lim.

"In Parramatta, we have a lot of primary students," says Ben Hura.

Both Clubs have benefited from being visible in the heart of their neighbourhood.

"For a long-time I would roll out the banner and kick a ball with local children. It didn't much look like Club but months passed and now we have a core group meeting in







Ryde Club's Colour Fight (top) and games (below).



the hall with parents and younger brothers and sisters watching from the side," explains Ben.

"I think it explains some of the need for social connection in Parramatta, not just among kids but whole families are interested in making connections."

Holly says Ryde had a core group of young people when it moved into the Ermington Community Centre just over a year ago.

"We have definitely grown, mainly due to work in Marsden High School but being located in the community has helped."

"Every fortnight we have new faces."

"We also host an event once a term in the park to make it easy for local teenagers to join in. Our latest was a Colour Fight in the pouring rain."

## NEW CLUBS ON THE BLOCK

### Part 1

**O**n Thursday April 12 at 3.36pm, Young Life in Canberra opened a new Club in the suburb of Hawker for students at Belconnen and Hawker High Schools.

Alex Lee is heading up the team. He said the young people loved the games and all hung around for at least half an hour afterwards.

"Everyone said they wanted to come back and couldn't wait for this to be a regular event next term."

"They asked if we could make it weekly but we'll start fortnightly," says Alex.

"As a trial run for our team I'm really happy with how it went and we are keen to make next term even better."

For more information about Club in Canberra, visit Facebook and Instagram @Younglifecanberra.

### Part 2

**O**n Saturday, April 14, Young Life Club was held for the first time in Skopje Macedonia. For Brooke Filipovski, it was a longed-for milestone.

"We had 20 young people come along to our first ever Young Life Club in Skopje and there was a great atmosphere of excitement and interest," she wrote.

Club has also caused ripples at the local schools.

"One of the young girls told her teacher about Young Life and they were wondering, given permission by the principal, if we would provide an English program with Young Life games in the school."

To follow Brooke's Macedonian sojourn you can email [brooke@younglife.org.au](mailto:brooke@younglife.org.au)

**To donate visit**  
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## My response

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All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

### We appreciate your support. It really makes a difference!

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# Hello QUEENSLAND

For more than a decade, Young Life has been investing in teenagers in South East Queensland.



*Chloe*  
WRIGHT

Young Life's staff in QLD is comprised of Bethany Smith, Jess Elsmore, and Chloe Wright.

Chloe Wright is Area Manager for Ipswich where Young Life has been established since 2007.

There, Young Life workers have served in local schools and sought to build a community base for young people.

"In my experience, schools are keen for responsible youth mentors to be part of student life. Having a club in the community allows relationships of trust and respect to be built," says Chloe.

"That's the gift the church as part of the community can give them. Time, hospitality, acceptance and hope – and our vision for the coming year."

*Young Life in Ipswich recently received a grant through CommBank's Centenary Giving campaign. The Booval Branch of CommBank nominated Young Life. The grant amount of \$10,000 will help Young Life support local young people.*



*Ken*  
EWALD

Ken Ewald sits on the Redlands Committee and is a member of Young Life Australia's board of directors.

For Ken, the commitment to seeing young people involved in Young Life is twofold.

"Having a outlet for disadvantaged youth is very important in today's world where there seems to be so many pressures both physical and mental."

"Through our work in two high schools we have seen many teenagers straighten themselves out and find a purpose in life through the actions of the leaders and volunteers."

"It is pleasing to see so many become positively engaged in life through Young Life's contribution."

Ken sees Young Life's strength as being the willingness of leaders and volunteers to serve with few resources at hand.

"The team has created a non-judgmental, fun environment for those who have participated in the regular breakfasts and club events."

"Our weakness is lack of funding. We need help securing funding – practical advice and generous help from churches and community members if we are to see more young people impacted."



*Jess*  
ELSMORE

Jess Elsmore is Young Life's area coordinator working part time in Brisbane's Redlands.

Jess' interest in working with young people was developed through high school and experiences she had overseas.

"I was blessed with incredible leaders at my youth group growing up and was inspired and encouraged by the way they so positively invested in my life."

"I valued the influence they had on me and really wanted to be that type of influence in other young people's lives... for those who wouldn't otherwise have that kind of encouragement."

In 2016 Jess was living and working in New York USA as a campus chaplain to young women at a Christian residential and vocational youth program.

"The girls I worked with had come straight out of prison, off the streets or had outgrown the foster system – with nowhere else to go. I gained exposure to some of the extreme issues surrounding young people in different contexts and cultures."

"Upon returning to Australia, I was looking for a new role in youth work and came across the opening with Young Life."

"I immediately fell in love with the heart of Young Life and the chance to work with young people here in my home town!"

For Jess the priority is to set up a community-based Club for students from the local high school but this depends on growing a larger pool of volunteers.



*Bethany*  
SMITH

Working near Jess is Bethany Smith, the Young Life chaplain at Alexandra Hills State High School.

"School is where young people spend a lot of their time, whether they want to or not!"

"It is such a formative time when they are figuring out who they are and what is their purpose: so I think it is an amazing opportunity to be in this setting with youth," says Bethany.

"I love investing my time meeting with students and journeying with them."

"In a world that is so busy, so time poor, giving students time to just be, and express how they are feeling is invaluable."

"Don't get me wrong, being a chaplain isn't easy and not every story turns out well but there are plenty of moments I am thankful for, in which I have seen God at work."

"One story which stays in my mind, is that of a young female student. She was quiet and reserved but would always care and fight for others."

"As I got to know her, the walls began to come down. She was living through some very difficult circumstances which were impacting her behaviour, and ended up in my office more and more."

"As she talked and worked through some painful things, she said something that will always stick with me: 'I feel like no one cares, no one sticks up for me, no one is looking out for me. Except for you Beth'."

"It is such a privilege to be available to young people in a real way. This is my job: to care, remind the youth they are not alone and to offer hope even in the hardest of circumstances."



*L-R CommBank team members Tiya Scanlon, Mir Morshed and Branch Manager Troy Williams with Young Life volunteer Ben Verrell, Chloe Wright and committee member, Sue Verrell.*



**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.



## WHO ARE YOU GEN Z?

**To answer all questions Gen Z related, we can turn to social researcher, Claire Madden.**

Claire is interested in interpreting social trends and the implications of generational change and this will be the subject of her address at Young Life's National Fundraising Dinner on May 25 at The Epping Club.

The obvious defining characteristic of Gen Z (born 1995–2009) is technology but there is so much more to learn.

One word that recurs in Claire's analysis is 'global'. Think global youth culture, global wi-fi and global consumers but many wonder about the impact of the digital age on young people.

"A striking finding in the research was how many Gen Zs acknowledge that they are 'screen addicted' and longingly look upon how older generations know how to switch off from technology, engage with the 'real world' and be present in the moment," writes Claire.

But it would be a mistake to overlook the advantages of being the most technologically integrated generation to date.

Intrigued to know more? Join Young Life at the National Fundraising Dinner on Friday, May 25. For information and tickets visit [younglife.org.au/events](http://younglife.org.au/events)

## CHAPLAINCY CORNER

**Arianne Tassios** joined Young Life in July 2017 and took up the post of Chaplain in Ermington Public School, NSW.

Born and raised in Sydney, Arianne studied social work and worked in that field before becoming a Chaplain.

**Q: Arianne, what drew you into Chaplaincy?**

A: My heart is drawn to connecting and relating to young people.

As a child growing up, I didn't have positive role-models, let alone Christian support to mentor and assist me in my spiritual and emotional development. So working with children in this way is a rewarding thing for me.

**Q: What can you provide in your role as a friendly face in the school setting?**

A: The commitment and time to meet any needs that are required, as well as doing my best to represent Jesus in the way He deserves with any one that I connect with.



**Q: What are some of the ways you get to interact with students and families at the school?**

A: I love getting to know the students

and families in conversations that take place mainly on school grounds before, during and after school.

**Q: What are children craving from the adults around them that we sometimes forget?**

A: I think they crave the ability to communicate and express their dreams, desires and to be taken seriously despite their age and life experience.

Children and young people have stories to tell that can convict us powerfully. We can respond by listening and modelling the love God has for them.

**Q: What do you find rewarding about spending time with children?**

A: They humble me and remind me to see myself as the daughter God has identified in me!



Call **1300 557 647**  
Email **[office@younglife.org.au](mailto:office@younglife.org.au)**  
Web **[www.younglife.org.au](http://www.younglife.org.au)**  
Post **PO Box 240, West Ryde NSW 1685**

Editor of **Connections**:  
Leonie Savage

Feedback and area  
happenings email:  
[leonie@younglife.org.au](mailto:leonie@younglife.org.au)