

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.



FROM THE CEO **Glyn Henman**

Welcome to our December newsletter. Christmas is upon us and it is with a great sense of gladness I wish you a happy time among family and within your community this year.

For all of us at Young Life, Christmas represents the moment God revealed His great plan to bring light into the world through His son Jesus. On a personal note, I would like to thank you very much, on behalf of myself and Anne, for being part of our network here in Australia and for your encouragement during the past year.

In this issue of Connections we introduce you to three of our new team members. Anthony Wheaton, Holly Lim and Ben Hura all joined staff in the last six months or so. They have willingly jumped into every opportunity in the schools we serve as well as club and camping activities.

We also announce a new way of supporting Young Life financially through the online program, Good2Give. This allows people to connect with

Young Life through workplace giving schemes.

An update from Mark Hamilton comes on the 15th anniversary of Young Life in Belarus. We hear from Mark and let you know about opportunities to see the Hamiltons on a return visit to Australia early in 2017.

Last but not least, Ski Mission has asked for your support in reaching its goal to replace old safety equipment. This will help them continue serving young people through Young Life and other organisations in the decade to come.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I'm looking forward to the next one when we will have stories to tell from Summer Camp.

Merry Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.

Road to Summer Camp

Young Life is counting down to Summer Camp 2017. The excitement is ramping up. Josh Petrie is a Young Life leader from Bathurst. Is he in training? How is he preparing? Will he be ready?



"Currently, in the lead up to camp, it's all about getting the kids organised," says Josh.

"This can be a long process. Trying to get teenagers to register for camp is like herding cats at times. There is a lot of following up to do.

"This includes plugging camp at club, handing out forms and speaking to parents. Once you get a cabin full of teenagers signed up it's the best! You can start getting pumped for an amazing week!

"The next step is getting myself ready for camp. Of course this means signing up myself and doing the online training. But more important is getting prepared for a full-on week of non-stop fun with little sleep.

"There are big highs – like meeting new friends, spending quality time with the cabin and watching kids overcome fears and challenges. Sometimes there are lows and some camp dramas but always the memories stay with you for a long time.

THERE ARE BIG HIGHS – LIKE MEETING NEW FRIENDS AND WATCHING KIDS OVERCOME FEARS AND CHALLENGES

"Before camp I like to think about how I can help the kids have the best week of their lives and work on my cabin-unity items. In previous years, cabins have had matching t-shirts, giant ties or bow-ties just as an example.

"And I'll be helping myself out by packing aeroguard, comfy shoes and some air freshener!" says Josh.

"One thing I do ask friends and family as the camp approaches is to pray for us; that the campers, staff and volunteers will be safe, have an amazingly fun week and that the campers will gain a lot from what the camp speaker Brett Huggan has to say."

Camp sponsors are helping young people whose families can not afford the full cost. Thank you to those who have generously given! Like to know more? Visit www.younglife.org.au.

SKI MISSION AIMS TO RAISE \$8500



An exhilarating, challenging day on the water with Ski Mission has always been a feature of Summer Camp at Lake Jindabyne.

This year promises to be a big one for the team who run Ski Mission.

Gregg Odum who chairs the group providing the boats and activities for Young Life, says it's time to renew Ski Mission.

"We want to see Ski Mission grow as an outreach. We have always placed the focus on providing a hugely memorable experience. We aim for it to be fun and safe while challenging for young people.

"It's great seeing the boost to self esteem and confidence as teenagers discover their own perseverance and capacity for teamwork."

It will be the largest investment we have made in the last five years and will equip Ski Mission for many seasons to come

Last season Ski Mission spent 26 days on the water in activities involving around 650 young people.

"Young Life Summer Camp is one of two residential camps we attend and our boats were involved in The Ultimate Water Sports Tour run by Young Life Central West. Other days are booked by the local Young Life clubs, community groups, churches, businesses and even families," says Gregg.

"To keep up this pace we would like to replace all of our safety equipment and set up the program for the future."

"Our plan is to purchase brand new life jackets, helmets, gloves and wetsuit shorts.

"It will be the largest investment

we have made in the last five years and will equip Ski Mission for many seasons to come."

"We do need help. Our estimate for the purchase is \$8500 and we are asking Young Life supporters who have seen the value and benefit of Ski Mission to consider donating toward this project."

All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and can be made out to Young Life Australia with directions to allocate the gift to Equipping Ski Mission 2016.



Visit www.younglife.org.au/donate and quote the giving code **SKI2016**



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Connections

December 2016 Issue

Merry Christmas

FROM
YOUNG LIFE
AND A
VERY HAPPY
NEW YEAR
IN 2017



In this issue:

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ON THE TEAM**

**PREPARING
FOR CAMP**

**SKI MISSION
MAKE AN APPEAL**

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