

# Connections

February 2018 Issue



**INSIDE:**  
Stories from  
Jindabyne

**BUSINESS GETS  
BEHIND YOUTH**

**Ready for club  
in 2018**



# FROM —THE— CEO

Welcome to this edition of Connections. I hope you enjoy reading about Summer Camp which took place in January thanks to the many faithful helpers and volunteers who gave us a week of their time to serve young people.



**W**e also had a wonderful response from you who generously sponsored teenagers from your area to attend. You made it possible for these young people to hear about Jesus, some for the first time. Thank you!

Camps build on our contact work with young people because they go beyond 'being seen' where teenagers congregate or getting to know their names in school or around the community.

You may remember attending camps as a teenager, and carry good memories of the friendships and bonds created by those experiences.

They are the opportunities we create to build significant relationships with young people. The adventure and new experiences, the freedom from the distraction of technology, being surrounded by God's creation, and hearing the Gospel story unfold through talks and discussions: all these things give teenagers time and a place to open up their lives and consider making a decision for Jesus.

Last November I travelled to the New England area to attend an event for local business owners. Young Life wanted to thank those who had helped us grow so substantially in the last few years.

We have seen the establishment of the Young Life College and Community Centre, begun working in four new schools, watched the youth work in Uralla grow and grow and now other towns in the region are asking for Young Life's involvement in their communities.

In particular, one local business has been making a big impact as a Major Business Partner and you can read more about how they are investing in young lives in this issue.

There are a lot of opportunities to meet up within the Young Life network to hear about the work and the need so please stay in touch with events happening in your area. We look forward to seeing you.

**Glyn Henman**

# Young Life

This January, 110 campers and

**T**he campers and volunteers came from every Young Life area in Australia. Some came with previous experience of Young Life camps but for many, this was their introduction to the Young Life community and camping program.

Camp Director, Ben Staunton, knew bringing together such a diverse group of teenagers would be a challenge. "I was so encouraged by the level of camp cohesiveness. "As a team we were inspired by Romans 12 where



*Cleaning up after the Crud War.*

## WHAT'S ON ▼

|            |       |  |
|------------|-------|--|
| <b>Feb</b> | 6-8   | Youth Mental Health First Aid – Young Life College           |
|            | 9-11  | Young Life 101 – Young Life College                          |
|            | 16    | First Aid – Young Life College                               |
|            | 17    | Ryde Club Waterski Day                                       |
|            | 19    | Young Life Staff Conference                                  |
|            | 24    | Mornington Peninsula Foodies' Tour – Belarus and the Baltics |
|            | 25    | Summer Camp Stories – Dubbo                                  |
| <b>Mar</b> | 3     | Ryde Supporters Picnic                                       |
|            | 23-25 | Central West Waterski Weekend                                |
| <b>Apr</b> | 16-21 | Ultimate Watersports Tour                                    |
| <b>May</b> | 25    | National Fundraising Dinner                                  |

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



*Thomas Arblaster (top left) led his cabin mates to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.*



# e's Summer Camp | News from Jindabyne

Leaders were welcomed by 80 volunteers in Jindabyne for Young Life Australia's annual Summer Camp.

Paul urges God's people to offer themselves as living sacrifices and not to conform to this world."

"Our aim was allowing God to use us, so the teenagers could meet Jesus through the talks, through cabin time, and through the love they were shown.

"Everyone just jumped on board and got on with it. The Cabin Leaders did a great job with the kids and loved them well."

Jade Turner came to camp with Young Life Canberra, serving for the first time as a Cabin Leader.



*Jade Turner (second from left) and campers from Canberra.*



*Games on Lake Jindabyne.*

"I found camp to be so much fun – a really good week. I hadn't met my girls before, so this was really important. It gave us lots of opportunities to laugh and bond and get to know each other."

Jade said the week made a big impression on the girls.

"You just feel loved and served," she said. "My girls noticed it and I noticed it. Three of the girls had been the previous year and said how much they loved it and wanted to come back."

"I think the most valuable part of the week for these girls in particular, was being away from home and having time to think. Aswan, our camp speaker, had a saying he kept repeating in his talks: sometimes we're helpless but we're not hopeless. Those words were a real encouragement to them and me too."

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**Thank you to everyone who helped send campers to camp and prayed faithfully for safety.**

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There were many roles at camp, ranging from sport and recreation roles to stage management, cleaning and cooking, program and safety, medical and transport, coordinating the families, and recording the camp on film.

Yianni Economou and Glenn Thompson came from Sydney to be on Summer Staff. Yianni was involved in running the mountain bike activity and watersports and Glenn worked on the waterfront and at the main site, both in the camp shop and helping with set ups and cleaning up.

For Glenn, it was a chance to see Young Life in action. "I began supporting Young Life a year ago and I thought, I'd better find out more about this organisation!"

"In the shop, I had a lot of interaction with the campers, hearing about their day and finding out how they were going. I could see the leaders making inroads in their relationships with the guys."



*Katherine Kirkwood and Robyn Cobby (right) serving in the camp shop.*

"The most memorable thing for me," said Yianni, "was the cardboard testimonies."

"Leaders and staff stood up with only a few words on a scrap of cardboard, and shared their stories."

"It brought home that God changes lives."

Robyn Cobby travelled all the way to camp from Kingaroy in Queensland, just to keep her friend company on the road but she soon found herself in the heart of the action.

"I didn't really know what I was coming to. I knew it was a youth camp but wasn't even sure of the age range."

"What I found was a lot of noise, fun, sincerity, love, and challenging experiences. The campers heard some excellent talks and experienced amazing love, concern and real care."

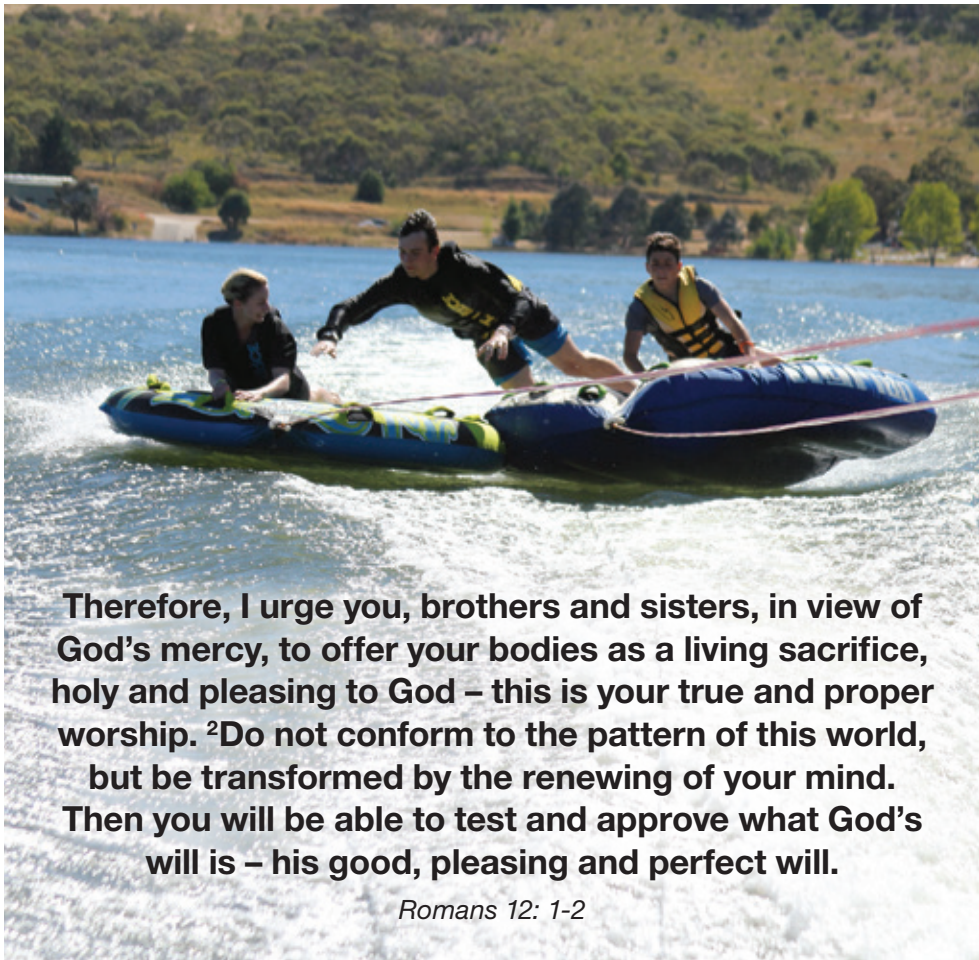
"I spent my time in the shop making hundreds of milkshakes and it was wonderful getting to know the teenagers a little bit and seeing them happy and cooperating and being kind to one another."

"I would love young people in Kingaroy to have this experience and I really hope I'll be back next year."



*New England girls wearing their cabin hats with leader, Lauren Turrell.*





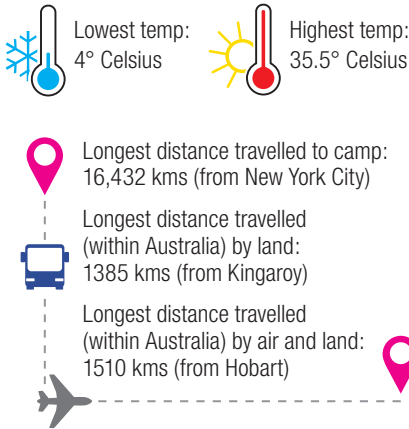
Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12: 1-2



Yianni Economou and Glenn Thompson on Summer Staff.

### SUMMER CAMP STATS



Hitting the bike trail was among the many activities on camp.



Team spirit was inspired by the Where's Wally theme.

To donate visit  
[www.younglife.org.au/donate](http://www.younglife.org.au/donate)

### My response

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please send me more information on:

- ☐ Becoming a monthly giving partner
- ☐ Volunteers in Schools
- ☐ Serving on a local YLA Committee
- ☐ Sponsor a teen to Summer Camp
- ☐ Praying for the work of Young Life Australia

#### I wish to partner the work of Young Life Australia through financial support:

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the applicable boxes:

- ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ One-off
  - ☐ Cheque ☐ Direct Debit
- (We will contact you for details)

Credit card type:

- ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NO.

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Expiry Date 

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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

Please send completed form to:  
Young Life Australia  
PO Box 240, West Ryde, NSW 1685

Please make all cheques payable to Young Life.

Young Life Australia complies with all provisions of the Privacy Act. Be assured that the personal details you provide will be entered directly into the Young Life Australia database and will not be disclosed to any third party. We may use your details to send you information about the work of Young Life Australia. If you would like to know what information Young Life Australia has on you please call (02) 9877 5144 during business hours.

- ☐ Please do not send any further details about Young Life Australia



# Going to work for young people

Business owners are investing in young people's future through Young Life, and it's building up the community too.

**P**eter and Janet Cooke have always been active members of the community in Armidale as owners of Richardson and Wrench Real Estate.

The couple are also long-time supporters of Young Life in the New England area and recently made the decision to increase their involvement through a Major Business Partnership.

It is a decision which has had an immediate impact.

"Thanks to Peter and Janet we have been able to employ Petelo Tuipulotu who is an outstanding youth worker," says Brendan Hatte, Young Life's Regional Manager in New England.

"Petelo is connecting with youth through our established programs and mentoring a group of High School boys through our regular club activities. This year he also hopes to be launching Wyldlife for children attending Newling and Minimbah Primary Schools as a way of helping the younger boys transition into their teenage years and high school.

"Young Life Australia primarily depends on volunteers and it is often a struggle to find the funding for staff," says Brendan.

"I think a lot of business people see the value of mentoring and contributing to positive, adult-led programs like Young Life."

"With the help of more people like Peter and Janet, we can do so much more in support of schools, families and the teenagers in our communities," says Brendan Hatte.



*Petelo Tuipulotu (right) at Summer Camp*



*Robyn Perry, Janet Cooke of R&W Armidale and Brendan Hatte with a donation for Young Life through the sale of Robyn's house.*



**Young Life is sending youth workers into the community and you can help.**

**Visit [younglife.org.au/become-a-supporter](http://younglife.org.au/become-a-supporter) or call 1300 557 647.**



*Josh Petrie from Young Life in Bathurst.*

## YOUNG LIFE CLUB IS BACK

**School is back and Young Life Club has resumed in areas around Australia.**

**J**osh Petrie helps run Young Life Club at The Scots College Bathurst and the new year means coming up with new ideas to keep young people excited and motivated to come along.

"We had an unusually successful club last year. It was called "Defeat the giant evil hotdog club".

"I was dressed in a giant hotdog costume and had taken over the hall and wouldn't let club happen, so the kids

had to complete a series of challenges to overthrow me, all while i was chasing them and generally being evil and scary."

"The kids had to find five hot dog related objects hidden in the hall: tomato sauce, grated cheese, buns, paper plates and napkins."

"Once they found them they could challenge me to a final duel (a wrestling match) to defeat me. However, I had the power to freeze them on the spot, so I would chase them around and try to freeze people."

"In the end the kids won and we had hot dogs for afternoon tea."

"It was a very fun day and all the kids said it was one of the best clubs we've done," says Josh.

Which leaves us wondering, how will the Young Life teams top the Evil Hotdog in 2018?



# 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.

## What is your connection with Young Life?

### HOW MENDING A WINDOW OPENED A DOOR

Brenda Cooper's links with Young Life go back to the 1980s.

"I was first introduced to Young Life when Glyn Henman was running Ryde Young Life Club on Friday nights in the church hall at West Ryde Anglican."

"One day, Glyn made an appeal. A window had been broken in the hall during Club and that was my first donation. A small contribution to the window fund!"

"Over the years, I saw young people from Young Life coming up as leaders and running our Sunday night service."

"Eventually my work as a nurse and midwife took me overseas and interstate but I always managed to stay in touch. It was amazing how often I would meet a Young Life person by chance."

"When Young Life wanted to employ its first field worker in Ryde I started giving a little amount regularly and these days, I really enjoy meeting up with Holly Lim, Ryde's Area Manager to hear how work in the local area is going."

"And even if they don't respond now, you always hope one day down the track they'll remember and come back to the message they first heard at their Young Life club."



"I believe it's so important to stay involved and interested in young people. If we don't teach them to be enthusiastic about Jesus now – it will be too late."

## A new Young Life area announced

**Young Life Australia is excited to announce the establishment of our newest area in Guyra, NSW.**

A 30-minute drive from Armidale, Guyra is a town of 2000 people.

"A local committee was formed in late December and they are now in the process of interviewing applicants for a Field Staff position who will work with young people in the district," says Llew Morris, Young Life Australia's Operations Manager.

"Guyra will join its neighbouring areas of Armidale and Uralla under the leadership of Regional manager Brendan Hatte."

"Young Life has the strong support of the local churches in the district and we even have our first monthly donor!"

If you would like to support the work in Guyra please contact Brendan Hatte on 0431 294 501.



Call **1300 557 647**  
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