

Connections

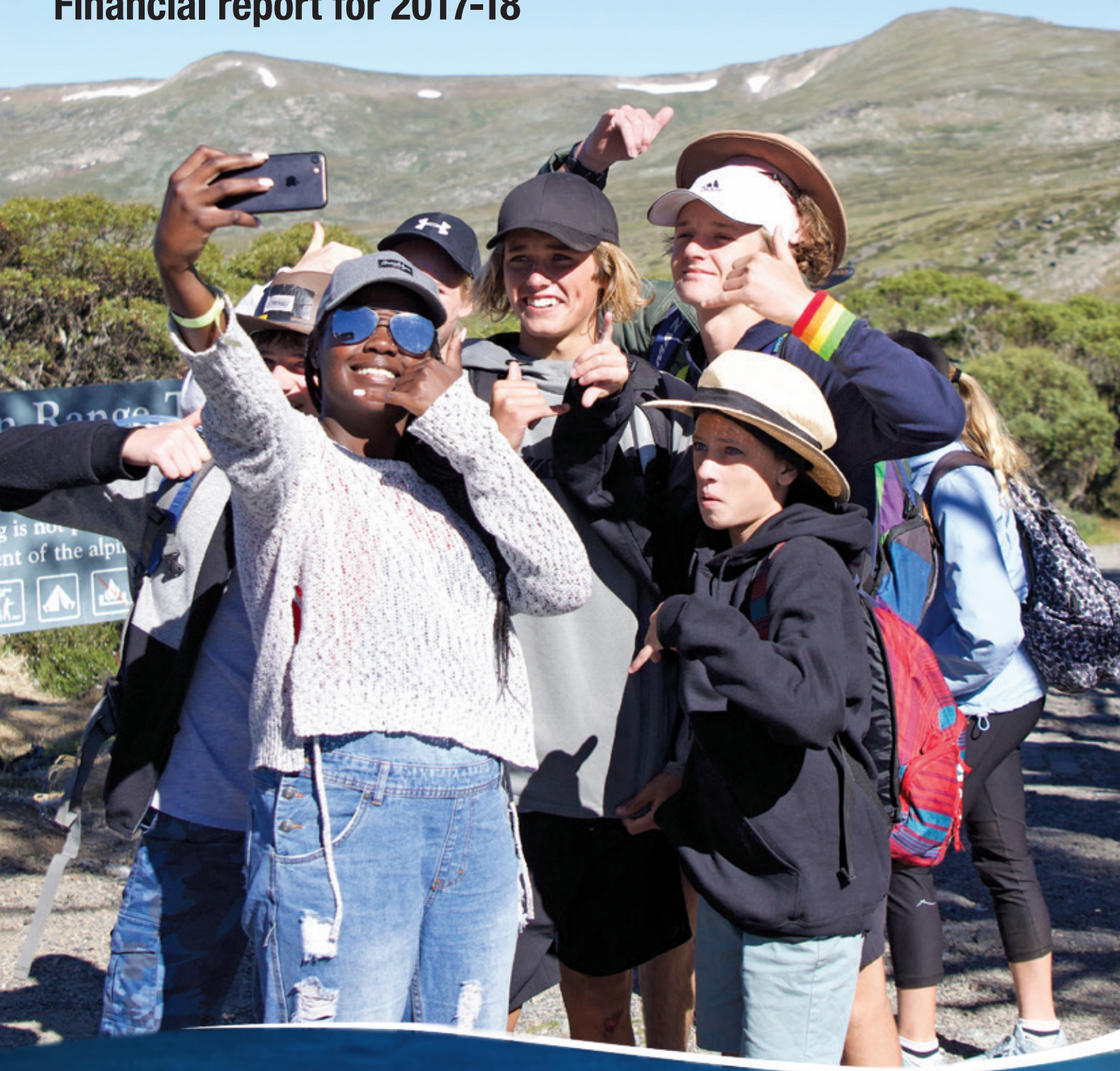
September 2018 Issue

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MARK STRETTON



Hello there from the Young Life Board. On behalf of us all, thank you to all the volunteers, staff and supporters for another great year! I hope you will be encouraged by the facts, figures and stories in this annual review.

As an organisation, Young Life Australia has once again seen amazing growth. This growth is so incredible but brings with it challenges: to make sure our systems and structures are appropriate to the size of organisation we are becoming; to make sure our staff and volunteers are equipped to lead and serve the young people we work with; to stay on course to be one of the most influential youth organisations in Australia.

Christianity in Australia has never had its credibility questioned as much as we have seen over the last few years, so it is paramount we know who we are, what we represent and how we do what we do with purpose and integrity.

Young Life around the world is growing and it is exciting to be a part of something big. The hope of Jesus brings forgiveness of things past and anchors us in a future with purpose and meaning.

We are lucky to be living in a country that was built on Christian values. One of these values is freedom which I believe is often misunderstood.

Freedom of choice is an amazing privilege but is often abused. I feel we are well placed to mentor young people firstly to know who they are as fearfully and wonderfully made and that they are special and secondly to help them become confident and resilient – able to embrace freedom and the privilege of making decisions in this often confusing world.

Thirdly, it is our hope to introduce teenagers to God, the creator of all things, who is good and has a plan for them to help them live life to the full.

To inspire young people, we need to be inspired. I encourage us all to build up one another so we can continue to grow in all aspects of what we do. I hope and pray you will stay with us as we embrace the year ahead seeking to grow and to serve the young people of Australia and beyond.



**WE ARE
LOOKING
FOR CAMP
CHAMPS!**



CEO'S REPORT

GLYN
HENMAN

I am happy to report that Young Life Australia has seen another year of growth across the organisation in the 2017-18 financial year.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for standing with us and I am ever mindful of the trust you place in the organisation and our people. Whether you are a new or existing donor, supporter, volunteer or staff member your investment in young people's lives through Young Life Australia enables us to have a vibrant and long term commitment into communities.

During the second half of the year Young Life has been working on the next strategic plan for the organisation. We did an organisational review, then a high level strategy process with the board and finally gathered a number of staff together to input on the process.

The outcomes are significant. We have developed a simple and clear set of goals and strategies around 4 key areas of the organisation which sit under our vision and mission statements.

1. Young people – we want all young people to be reached with the gospel through our lives. We will do this by praying for young people, clubs, schools and areas. We will seek innovative ways to connect with more young people and increase our camp numbers by 10% each year.

We will seek innovative ways to connect with more young people and increase our camp numbers

2. Our people – we want our staff and volunteers to be spiritually healthy, live our vision and mission and love their involvement in Young Life. We will do this by meeting regularly, checking staff and volunteer engagement, ensure areas have active committees and we will initiate a national day of prayer.

3. Processes – we want our processes to be efficient and effective so they support the vision and mission. We will do an inventory of our process and implement efficiency recommendations and communicate clearly.

4. Our supporters – we want our supporters to feel a sense of significant partnership with Young Life. We will communicate clearly in print and through social channels, engage with local churches and community groups and introduce an annual

supporter's survey.

Watching Young Life Australia grow over the last seven years has certainly been an adventure and I am enthusiastic about the road ahead. Young Life Australia will continue to press ahead and look for new opportunities to engage and to provide care and support to young people around the country.



Young Life Australia's annual Summer Camp will take place in January 2019

Save the dates: 12–19 January 2019 (Campers arrive 13 January)

Visit younglife.org.au/campchamp or contact us on (02) 9877 5144

We are looking for ☒ **Work Crew** ☒ **Summer Staff** ☒ **Cabin Leaders**

Here's what former Camp Champs have to say...

I loved the people! Everyone on the team is so kind and here to serve in their own way – Katrina

I loved the wonderful teamwork and seeing campers transformed throughout the week – Donna

I loved serving God and hanging out with his people. It was just as much fun on work crew as being a camper – Alex

MAKING AN IMPACT...

Connecting with youth in country towns



Rachel Souter

The year 2018 saw a new Young Life Area open in Guyra, a small farming community in New England NSW.

Rachel Souter, who completed Young Life Australia's Abide Residential program, was appointed as the Field Staff worker.

"I am so encouraged by the welcome I have received and the opportunities I have been given to meet and support teenagers in Guyra," shares Rachel.

"On Mondays I help out with the breakfast club at Guyra's government high school. Students regularly come in for some toast and a chat which has helped us get to know some names and faces."

"I also volunteer as a Homework Centre helper two times a week which is where I've met a number of the girls. I think I learn as much as they do."

"Our aim is to try starting Young Life Club in the next few weeks but we need one more female leader before we begin."

"We are very lucky to have been offered space on the school premises."

Young Life in Guyra has four committee members from four different churches as well as the friendly support of the school principal and deputy.

Tony Stace is the pastor of Northwest Church, one of the partnering churches.



Trust that leads to openness

Alex Leary began coming along to Young Life in 2014 when he was in Year 8. He was invited to go to Summer Camp in 2015.

"It was awesome," he shares.

"That was where I found out I wanted to get to know Jesus a bit more. I haven't missed a Friday Club or camp since".

For the Year 12 student from Hobart, Young Life has been a mainstay in his life right through High School.

With exams and graduation around the corner, Alex has continued to be involved on the Young Life team as a junior leader.

"Knowing the impact Young Life has had on me, I wanted to share it with others," he explains.

"For me it has felt like a second family and one I was keen to invite others into."

Bryce Smith is one of the leaders on Alex's Young Life team. He has seen Alex move up from being one of the kids, to willingly accepting responsibility as part of the team.

Bryce became involved in 2015 as a cabin leader on the same Summer Camp Alex attended.

"It was probably the coolest thing I'd ever seen. It opened with the biggest water balloon fight I have ever been a part of," he remembers.

"And I loved cabin leading. I loved the whole idea of getting a bunch of teenagers together and saying, 'Hey we value you'," says Bryce.

"I came away thinking, I have to be part of this."

Since then, Bryce has seen the consistent,

Alex Leary (left) of Young Life in Hobart is a volunteer leader, sharing his faith to encourage the younger students.

relational focus of Young Life building into the lives of local teens like Alex.

"Why is there a need for Young Life in Hobart? I would say it's because teenagers do not have enough people in their lives telling them they are worth something."

He says there is a fair amount of judgment levelled at teenagers: unjustly.

"When you invest in teenagers as people you find, they can think about things. They are starting to explore ideas about the world."

"Meanwhile, society comes at them with the attitude, 'You are a teenager and therefore, you must be up to no good'."

Alex currently leads a small group every week, of girls and boys from two local high schools.

They talk about faith, Jesus and what is happening in their lives. Alex says the effect on some has been amazing.

"You see their passion coming to the surface and it's just awesome to witness," he says.

Still, he understands there is a lot of resistance among teenagers to religion and faith.

"I think it's fear in some ways but also difficulty grasping the idea. They question whether it's possible."

"Openness comes from getting to know them and being part of their lives. That is the most important way of witnessing the reality of Jesus. It's building trust that leads to openness."

You see their passion coming to the surface and it's just awesome to witness...



He was happy to speak about the vision shared among churches to reach out to young people.

"Northwest Church Guyra has a congregation of about 30 people," explains Tony.

"Youth hasn't been our focus for probably four years now as the youth from within the church have moved out of town and nobody is free or called to do youth work in the church."

"I think it is great Young Life is providing people who are able to bridge the gap between church and school and get alongside teenagers to support, encourage and share the love of Jesus with them," says Tony.

"I suspect some of the young in Guyra struggle to believe in a loving Father God."

"Also, it is unpopular to live a radically different life to those around you," he says.

Rachel agrees and says the Principal and Deputy have been very pleased to make her welcome.

"They really do care for the kids in this town and are so pleased to have another person, in the school, caring for the wellbeing of students," she says.

"Sometimes, the need is simply for someone to talk to who can simply help teenagers see their self-worth.

"When the students' faces light up, it's just so rewarding. This is why I do what I do," she says.



A special place – just for girls

Mel Hatte works with young indigenous women in the northern New South Wales town of Armidale. What began as a small friendship group meeting with Mel to read the bible, has grown into a Young Life Club – just for girls.

Q1: Mel, can you tell us how the girls only Young Life Club came about?

I began meeting with our current girls because they were so much in need of a warm, safe space away from the drama of everyday life, where they could be themselves, have fun and think about the deeper parts of life.

I continue to value it so much because they clearly value it too. This "safe space" idea has been especially effective in this group, because

there are no guys. No one to show off to, fight over or worry about what they think. There is a special freedom in this girls-only group to be involved, be silly, have fun and listen to the message, that I haven't experienced very often in my years of ministry.

Q2: Can you describe the group and what do you do each week?

Each week we have around 10–15 high school aged, mainly Aboriginal girls attending. Unlike most other Young Life clubs however, we want to deliberately keep the group this size. We don't openly advertise it and the girls always ask before bringing a friend or relative along. This may seem strange, but it means the girls are much more

Young Life leaders, Mel Hatte and Lauren Turrell

consistent because they know who will be there and we can cultivate a positive and safe culture.

The current group began as more of a bible study in 2016, but gradually shifted back to a club style evening in 2017.

Lauren Turrell, my excellent, indispensable volunteer and

I pick the girls up, have dinner together, have a lot of fun doing different games and challenges. There is a lot of laughter in the group. At the end of the evening we finish with a talk about Jesus.

The girls have faced so much hardship in the past year with the sheer number of funerals they have attended, including those of close family members and other young people who are of a similar age to them. I personally have attended two funerals of former club kids in the past year alone. These girls have gone to many more.

It is very hard and sad to watch. They

...they were so much in need of a warm, safe space away from the drama of everyday life...

are in such need of good news, hope, kindness and consistent, real friendship. That is the main reason why I have continued to try

and share the message of Jesus with them each week at club.

Q3: What makes you optimistic and hopeful for the girls?

I have loved the opportunity to become friends with Lauren and the girls. I love to imagine where they could be in five to ten years and the positive impact they will have on those around them.

I have been hugely encouraged when the girls really engage with the talk topic, and by some of the conversations that have happened as a result. Many have such deep questions, which we aimed to specifically address in our apologetics series of talks last term. For some of those talks, girls were glued to the speaker, occasionally in tears.



WHAT'S ON...

Oct	1–7	HSC Study Camp
	2–5	Wyldlife Camp
	5–6	Barossa Sleepover
	5–8	Hobart Camp

Jan 12–19 Summer Camp 2019

Feb 18–19 National Staff Gathering

For more events visit
younglife.org.au/events

Young Life Australia's Financial Report 2017-18

LLEW MORRIS, FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

The 2018 financial year was in many ways a great year of progress for Young Life Australia. We opened two new Areas and worked on developing and rejuvenating others.

Our staff and volunteers operate in 15 local communities in Australia and 2 overseas. Together, they are in contact with more than 5,000 young people each year. In addition, our chaplains work in 11 secondary and primary schools around Australia.

It is all the more satisfying that we have delivered a year of great operational progress along with a solid financial performance.

Revenue increased 5% to \$1.75 million, while the surplus for the year was \$22,308, down from \$56,053 on the previous year.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

At the half-yearly staff conference in September, we reviewed the performance of our Areas on a range of key measures to see how well the local operations of the organisation have been performing.

Firstly, we welcomed our two newest Areas, both in country NSW – Guyra established in February and Warren established in June. Three Areas were recognised for success in bringing young people to camps – Ryde, Armidale and Bathurst. Two Areas were recognized for success in fundraising through community engagement – Dubbo and Bathurst. The best performing Area in raising donations was Canberra in support of the new Club in Hawker, while the Area showing most growth during the year was Parramatta – established only in 2017. The most successful



Area across the whole range of measures was Hobart.

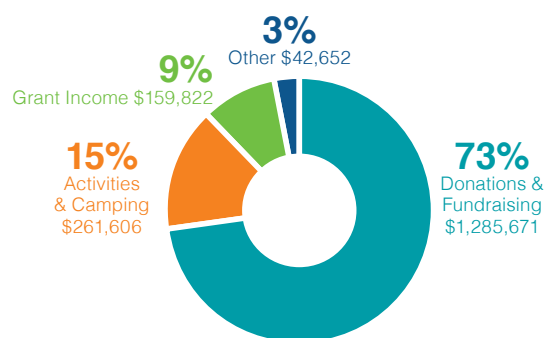
The School Chaplaincy Program continued for the eleventh year with 11 chaplains placed in schools in Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria. Funding for this program is mostly via the National School Chaplaincy Program with additional support from private donations and the schools themselves.

INCOME

Income from Donations and Fundraising totaled \$1,285,671. This is the largest component of income representing 73% of income and is the result of the fundraising efforts and activities in the local communities in which Young Life operates. This category grew by 11% in the year.

Income from youth activities including camping, totaled \$261,606 which represents 21% of income.

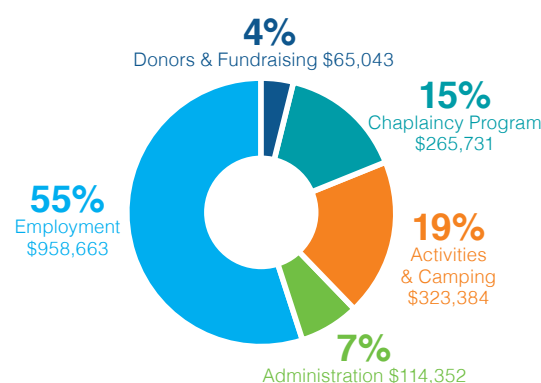
Grant income (including grants to fund chaplains in schools) totaled \$159,822 which represents 9% of income.



EXPENSES

Employment Expenses of \$958,663 make up 55% 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 42 staff including 6 full-time, 31 part-time, 4 casual staff and one trainee. This equated to 21 FTE positions.

Young Life continued to achieve operational efficiencies and ranks highly on standard efficiency measures for charities. Less than 4 cents of each dollar of Total Income is spent on Fundraising and less than 7 cents in the dollar is spent on Administration.



To see the full audited financial report you can go to our website and click on the Annual Report tab or search the ACNC website under Find a Registered Charity.

Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Report 2017-18

LLEW MORRIS, CHAPLAINCY & STUDENT WELFARE CO-ORDINATOR

Young Life Australia has been placing chaplains in schools since 2007. During the year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of federal

funding for school chaplaincy. Young Life was also one of the founding members of Public School Chaplaincy NSW, a peak body established to provide a co-ordinated voice and advocate for public school chaplaincy.

Chaplains have a distinctive role in schools, providing pastoral care within the school, linking the physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing of the students, staff and parents of the school community. 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 programmes according to the need within the school – these range from anti-bullying, self-esteem and identity issues, to anger management and resilience-based welfare programmes. Chaplains also get involved in delivering information and training programmes for parents on family,

adolescent and child-rearing issues.

Funding for our chaplains comes from a number of sources, including the federal National Schools Chaplaincy Programme,

supplemented by private donations and the schools themselves.

There are currently 11 chaplains working for Young Life in schools across NSW, Queensland, ACT and Victoria. We are looking forward to welcoming four new schools to our Chaplaincy & Student Welfare Program with funding under the NSW Student Wellbeing Support Program.

Are you interested in opportunities to work as a Chaplain or in a Student Wellbeing role? Visit younglife.org.au/career-opportunities

NEW FACES: MEET OWEN SILVESTER

Name: Owen Silvester

Family: Married to Madeline and father of Theo

YLA Role: Field Staff Worker Bathurst

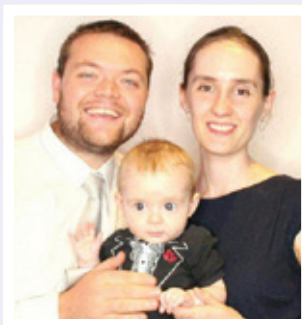
Student Wellbeing Role: Bathurst and Kelso High

When do you start?

Tuesday the 2nd of October 2018

What were you doing prior to starting with Young Life in Bathurst?

I spent countless hours meeting with university students, reading the bible, consuming copious amounts of coffee and talking about life. This was my role working for AFES while partnering with



students of the Uni Bible Group at Wollongong Uni.

The team ran regular bible studies, two public bible talks on campus, trained student leaders and helped organise various other events.

Why have you come to Bathurst?

I am so excited to be working in schools, building relationships with young people where they are at, and modeling what it means to follow Jesus. I am also really keen to get

involved with Young Life's Bathurst Club.

What do you love most about being a Christian?

That I can be confident in my relationship with God – He is my loving heavenly Dad. 1 John 3:1a says, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

How can people pray for you?

Pray that as a family, we will settle into Bathurst life. Praise God for the incredible opportunity to serve Him here. Pray that we would be faithful in what God has put before us. Ask that God would be preparing the hearts of young people to hear the good news of Jesus and be saved. That would be brilliant – thanks!



Hannah Commins (left) will take on the role of Young Life Area Manager in the NSW town of Warren.

A place and a purpose for Hannah

If you asked Warren resident, Simon Cant one year ago, about the progress in recruiting a Young Life funded youth worker for the town of Warren NSW, he would have been perplexed. But that was then.

Today is a different story. One of surprise and gratitude as to God's wisdom. Here is Simon's story:

Some years ago, the local committee for Special Religious Education in Warren, of which I am a member, had one of those crazy dreams... to extend the nurturing of our town's youth beyond the classroom by employing a youth worker.

This was a bold plan for a little committee in a town that has a habit of rounding its population up to 2200!

Within a month, and with no request or prior indication, the offer of seed funding arrived for a Young Life position.

This was way 'above and beyond' anything we'd imagined. But we still had a lesson to learn of God's goodness.

The committee thought we needed to amalgamate the School Scripture and Young Life roles to entice someone from outside the levy bank to migrate in.

"Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me."

Psalms 71:18(b).

This is a common model for ministry in inland Australia, and to be honest, rarely results in a long term, relational impact.

To my personal amazement, we were unable to fill this dream job! With encouragement from Young Life's Regional Manager, Heather Gant, we prayerfully waited for the right person.

Over the period of advertising, locals Hannah and Tim Commins had babies three and four, all the time seeking God on His plan and their place in it.

With some creative and resourceful juggling, they found a balance that made it possible for Hannah to put both hands up and shout "Let's do this!"

Hannah and Tim have stepped into their destiny. Warren has a warm and vibrant YL manager, the SRE role is capably filled by another dedicated and supportive local, and we are constantly reminded of His goodness, His love, and His plan.

Response Form

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 though financial support:

Amount \$ _____

Please tick the applicable boxes:

- ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ One-off
- ☐ Cheque ☐ Direct Debit

Credit card type:

- ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa
- ☐ American Express

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

New England farewells the Hatte family

Young Life's Brendan and Mel Hatte will step down from their roles this December.

Tim Pullar, New England's Committee Chair put it this way:

"Vision and commitment. These are the two words that come to mind when I think of the leadership that Brendan and Melissa Hatte have given Young Life in the New England region."

"Brendan and Mel have served the mission faithfully in volunteer and various staff capacities since 2004."

"They have grown a staff team of nine and a volunteer team of around 70 which is amazing."

"Mel has shown visionary leadership in the design of Young Life's Abide program and continues to serve in a Field Staff position at her Indigenous girls club."

"Brendan has led the way to see so much growth take place in our area, with a steady dependence on prayer and partnerships."

"We are so grateful for faithful workers like Brendan and Mel and are excited for them as they enter a new season," says Tim.

For Brendan, there have been many highlights over the past few years.

"One would have to be the establishment of the Young Life College," says Brendan.

"The Abide dream is still being realised and is some way from being sustained by trainees from this region."

"But the centre is providing accommodation and inhouse discipleship for students at Uni and young workers as they serve Young Life."

"My second highlight would be the establishment of Young Life in Uralla and Guyra," says Brendan.

"Seeing small country towns approach Young Life for help in becoming equipped to reach youth is exciting."

"I would love to see this replicated again and again."

My third highlight is the way we have adapted to the needs of our community," he explains.

"I'll share this as an encouragement to others because we have definitely encountered challenges."

"A few years ago, we made the hard decision to change the way we ran our Armidale club



Brendan and Melissa Hatte have overseen five years of mission growth in the region.

due to discipline issues with a small group of the teens who attended."

"It's one of those situations where we could have chosen to work with a different group of teenagers."

"In the end we decided to continue to do ministry in a more focussed way and have kept on reaching out to kids who needed us most."

"One of the outcomes was Mel's girls club which I think is exceptional. It enables these girls, who have so much responsibility and pressure placed upon them, to get together and be girls and have fun and hear the Gospel."

I'll share this as an encouragement to others: we have definitely encountered challenges.

"It also led us to establish work with primary school students and a Wyldlife Club led by Petelo, who is on Field Staff. He also keeps in contact with some senior boys from the original Young Life club.

"Going from a big club which was hard to manage, to several small clubs has turned out to be successful and worthwhile."

"Relationships are the focus again and we've been able to discipline well and help kids with their boundaries."

Brendan and Mel Hatte will finish their time with Young Life in New England in December when they will relocate to the Blue Mountains with their sons Elijah and Jack.

Please pray for Young Life in New England as they seek to fill the roles of Area Manager and Field Staff; and for the Hattes as they begin a new season in a new community.



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