

# Connections

February 2019 Issue



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# CEO'S UPDATE

GLYN HENMAN

Young Life Australia has kicked off 2019 with a bang, please enjoy reading the camp reports. It was a fantastic week and it was great to see the campers and cabin leaders so deeply engaged in the week. A big thank you to the cabin leaders, work crew, summer staff, program and executive teams as they committed to serve the camp week with such distinction.

2019 is shaping up to be a great year. 2018 was a time of planning for the future of Young Life and we are well placed to see continued growth throughout 2019. With a strong focus on reaching young people, supporting those doing the work, improving our processes and keeping you, our valued supporters, updated on our progress. Young Life Australia continues to positively impact high school aged young people for Christ and see transformation not only in their lives but in their community of friends.

At the AGM we said farewell to long term board members Ken Ewald from Queensland and Kerrie Sheaves from NSW. Ken and Kerrie have served on the board for over 10 years. Thank you for your service Ken and Kerrie. Since then we have welcomed Peter Amos from Queensland and Karen Stephen from NSW to the board. Peter comes with many years of experience as an accountant working in schools and Karen has served in the not-for-profit sector as the previous CEO on the National Student Leadership Forum. Welcome to Peter and Karen.

**Peter Amos** spent 22 years in banking, in both financial and management accounting positions before taking up the position of Business Manager at a large Christian College in the Brisbane area where he oversaw a \$6m facilities upgrade.

From 2009 to 2015 he held General Manager positions in architecture and insurance broking firms with responsibility for Finance, HR, Administrative functions, Quality Assurance systems and compliance and Risk Management policy and procedures.

In 2016 Peter decided to retire and devote his time to his local congregation and other community organisations including the local State High School and Young Life – Redlands of which he is currently the Committee Chair.



**Karen Stephen's** journey with Young Life began in High School, where she was invited first to club and then summer camp at Frontier Ranch in Colorado USA. After finishing university, Karen married Jonathan and emigrated to Sydney, his hometown.

One of her first ways to get connected in Australia was to look up Young Life in the phone book, a simple act which led to 25 years of involvement in varying capacities as a volunteer leader, part time staff, committee member, donor and at summer camp. Professionally, after starting her career in the IT industry, Karen helped organise and run the National Student Leadership Forum in the Australian Parliament

for 11 years. In 2017 she stepped down as CEO, but remains very involved, sitting on the NSLF Board and meeting with University aged students in a mentoring capacity.

Karen has extensive experience in operations and project management as well as running teams and is currently working full time helping manage an e-commerce start up in Sydney.





Maeve, Anthony and James have pioneered the Drop-in space in Mount Waverley.

# FRESH START FOR YOUNG LIFE IN Melbourne

By Anthony Wheaton

In July 2018 I found myself signing on the dotted line to rent space in a 1920s community cottage at the back of Mount Waverley Public Library. It was to be the location for an after-school student drop-in centre.

There were some unknowns: Who would come? What would we offer? But this was the essential first step for our Young Life team, of putting ourselves out there on a weekly basis, in Monash.

It's not because we are a new Young Life area – we've had an amazing presence in the classroom and school yard at Glen Waverley Secondary College, through mentoring and other Wellbeing initiatives in the past. But now, without a chaplain in the school we had to find our feet in the community.

As the Young Life staff member I was faced with questions: How would I minister to teens now?

Who were we in the eyes of the public? How could we exist and make connections with youth going forward?



For the first month, it seemed another school would take advantage of our offer to serve their community regularly, especially with the proven pancake-breakfast model. But this led nowhere.

The Monash Young Life committee and I considered partnerships with existing programs and did our research into where youth spend time. We improved relations with the council and libraries network and other volunteer organisations but still came up short of fulfilling our mission. It was clear to us we needed to transplant ourselves completely into fresh ground.

What if we were available to youth after school, catching them on their way home from multiple colleges (both public and private)? That was the potential that came to mind as I walked past this 1920's cottage. I could see it full of kids.

Things fell into place: the Wadham House Association president gave us a key, we did our street promotion for three weeks, a nearby church-planter from Canada found us online, and we started serving pancakes towards the end of winter. Attendance was encouraging, with some teens staying for hours just chatting.

In the background was a whole set of other moving parts: engaging local churches who hadn't heard of Young Life; running our first Trivia Night; getting to know various school wellbeing staff; working on street signage and investing in gaining the public's trust.

By October we hit a lull in attendance, but as team morale was still high and we spent those weeks reflecting on who wasn't coming. In an effort to be heard on the street by more kids passing by, we created an end-of-year celebration offering Bubble Soccer and a BBQ. This time the promotion went for five weeks and coincided with meeting a local chaplain and members of a cricket club. While event attendance was slightly low, I believe God will reveal more growth to come.

There's a long way to go, but 2018 was all about

putting Young Life out there and meeting Mount Waverley teens and the wider community as part of the neighbourhood. The Wadham House plan is ticking so many boxes, but we must continue to pray for God to fill that house.

Young Life meets at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley from 3.30pm every Tuesday. To connect with Young Life in Monash email [anthonywheaton@younglife.org.au](mailto:anthonywheaton@younglife.org.au)

## WHAT'S ON...

Feb	1-3	Barossa Leaders Retreat
	8-11	Hobart Leaders Retreat
	9	Ryde Water Ski Day
	18-20	Staff Gathering
	23	Yarra Valley Fundraising Tour
Mar	15-17	Central West Water Sports Weekend
	29	Chaplaincy Training
Apr	6	Parramatta Trivia Night
	15-18	Central West Water Sports Tour
Jun	28-30	Central Leaders Retreat
Jul	12-15	D'cypher Camp, Hobart
	19-21	Southern Leaders Retreat
Sep	12-13	Staff Gathering
	13-15	Committee Summit & AGM
	30-Oct 3	Wyld Life Camp

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

# Where will you be in 2019?

We asked our teams, what they are looking forward to in 2019.



Eastern Suburbs girls at camp.

**Meagan Skinner**  
**Eastern Suburbs**

**Focus: Our Local Schools**

There's one major girls' high school in the area who are keen to see how Young Life can provide mentors and support for the girls. We're praying for a team of young adult women to do everything from helping with homework, coaching sport and just generally being a listening ear!

In February: You'll find us at school in Randwick most afternoons, we'll be planning our annual prayer walk down the amazing Bronte – Malabar coast, and we'll be back in full swing for Club at Maroubra!



Ben with the Crew at Camp.

**Ben Hura**  
**Parramatta**  
**Focus: Club**

Aims for this year include growth in the number of volunteer leaders, and perhaps fundraising for an extra staff person to come in and oversee contact work.

In February: We'll be recovering from Summer Camp and starting Club in 2019.



A successful day camp the first step toward club in Ipswich.

**Zach Lipp**  
**Ipswich**

**Focus: Something new and untried**

During the school holidays, I ran a day camp for youth from two primary schools in the area. Some will be starting High School this year and it is my hope, they will form the beginning of a new Young Life Club!

In February: I'm looking forward to getting together with people from six local churches who make up our Ipswich prayer team to pray for our area and local teens.



Barossa team will be serving pancakes.

**Sophie Wilksch**  
**Barossa**  
**Focus: Club**

We are looking to launch a new Club in 2019 so first of all, we just want to see it get started! But we want a place that connects our Wyld Life 'graduates' with our new friends at both local high schools following on from our breakfasts. A place that brings people together for more intentional relationship building.

In February: We will be having our Leaders Retreat on the river, as we prep and plan and dream for 2019.



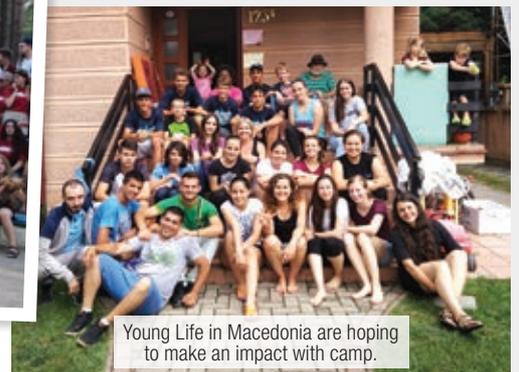
Belarus and the Baltics are ready to grow.

**Mark Hamilton**  
**Belarus & Baltics**

**Focus: Something new and untried**

Our goal for 2019 is to start Young Life in new areas by employing new staff, recruiting and training more volunteers, and connecting with more local churches. By doing this, we will increase the number of teens we connect with, bring hope and change lives.

In February: I will be making two trips, one to Belarus & one to Australia. In Belarus we will have our Senior Leadership meeting and I will be at the Staff training time in Sydney and running a fundraising event in Melbourne to help fund our new staff.



Young Life in Macedonia are hoping to make an impact with camp.

**Brooke Filipovski**  
**Skopje, Macedonia**  
**Focus: Camps**

We plan to have our first ever Macedonia Young Life camp in Krushevo in July with the desire to have the program in Macedonian language. This will allow us to reach so many more students in this country and introduce more of them to the good news Jesus brings and hopefully allow for more Young Life areas to be developed and spring out of this experience.

In February: We'll just be re-starting clubs after a holiday break and we'll be preparing for a discipleship ski weekend in March.



Melbourne is looking to grow in 2019.

**Anthony Wheaton**  
**Monash**  
**Focus: Club**

We've had a group of nine Year 8 students come to the Drop-In Space for the last three weeks in December. We pray they reconnect in the new year and could form the foundation for STARTING CLUB.

In February: We'll continue to work on ways of contacting and inviting students to join us.

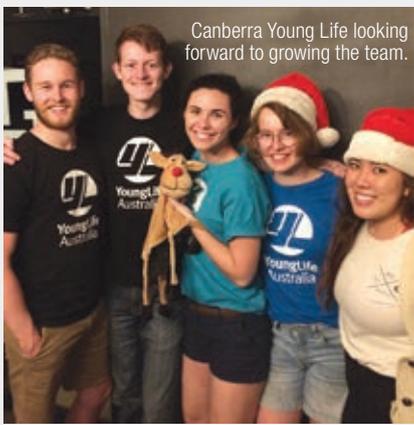


Warren is still a fresh new venture looking for leaders.

**Hannah Commins**  
**Warren**  
**Focus: Club**

I would like it to start. I would like to see it be so unique and Holy Spirit inspired, so the youth in Warren are drawn in.

In February: I will be training up leaders to share the Gospel with the youth of Warren. We will be seeking the Lord and planning Club.



Canberra Young Life looking forward to growing the team.

**Alex Lee  
Canberra**

**Focus: Something new and untried**

2019 will hopefully be a year of growth and consolidation in Belconnen. Our club team is going to grow, we are going to begin working in more schools, begin our first small group and grow our presence in Belconnen High. We will also begin the workings of a second area in Gungahlin.

In February: I will be getting back from my honeymoon and adjusting to married life whilst our Chaplain gets things rolling back in Belconnen High School and then the two of us will go to staff time in Sydney to prepare for this new and exciting year ahead!



A great turnout at camp promises a full year ahead for Ryde.

**Holly Lim  
Ryde**

**Focus: Our local schools**

We hope to start tapping into new schools in 2019. With 50 kids and 10 leaders who came along to Summer Camp, I know the fruit will be filtering through, so it would be great to expand not just our school but church partnerships as well, to be reaching more young people.

In February: We will be following up from Summer Camp and hopefully seeing a fresh wave of teenagers to our Club and local Youth Group programs. We also have our annual Waterski Day on Lake Macquarie, and our second Colour Fight event in the local community to plan!



Building on the exciting turnout at Guyra's first club.

**Rachel Russell  
Guyra  
Focus: Club**

My goal is to see more teenagers coming along and for there to be more unity and peace among the teenagers.

In February: I'll be back to school visits and Club!



Having reached out into surrounding areas, Bathurst are looking for growth on the home front.

**Heather Gant  
Central West NSW / Bathurst  
Focus: Club**

My goal is to gather more volunteer leaders across all clubs and to see Bathurst Club grow in numbers this year.

In February: We'll be preparing for our water sports weekend on 15-17th March.



A few new ventures for Dubbo in 2019.

**Karla Stait  
Dubbo**

**Focus: Something new and different**

We are planning to start Wyld Life club for primary school aged kids in 2019 and looking to employ a part time staff member to make this happen!

In February: As Macquarie Anglican Grammar School are commencing a Boarding School program in 2019, we are thrilled to be able to expand our involvement by providing a Young Life program within the boarding house each week as a way of supporting the students.



New England schools the focus in 2019.

**Tim Pullar  
New England  
Focus: Our local schools**

We have a unique situation in Armidale with our two public high schools combining this year. This will be a challenging time for many students and teachers. We are excited to have recently employed a full-time student well-being officer to work alongside students in the new school. This, along with our existing pancake breakfasts, will help us get alongside more kids to encourage and share with them.

In February: We are looking forward to welcoming our new Area Manager, Neil Walford! February will see us helping him settle in and get to know our Young Life community and partner churches.

Strengthening the mission nationally will be the focus.

**Glyn Henman  
National  
Focus: Something new and untried**

I am working on the funding for a Field Operations Manager – a senior manager who will support and direct the field operations of Young Life.

In February: I'll be at the Staff training conference, donor gatherings for Macedonia and with Asia staff, training in Singapore.



The club program is ready to roll.

**Alexandra Vesper  
Hobart  
Focus: Our local schools**

My hope and prayer in 2019 is doors will be opened for us to run the girls program called Shine. A 12-week program for girls, it is all about teaching youth values and skills. I would love this to be a starting point for involvement in other schools.

In February: We have completed a program schedule for the first term of school and I am so excited to see the familiar faces again! My committee is also getting together with other local churches and we hope to put together a combined youth night.



# INTO THE ARENA: YOUNG LIFE'S SUMMER CAMP

**T**his year saw a total of 236 people at Young Life's Summer Camp in January including 95 campers and 11 junior work crew members.

It was all thanks to the hard work, time and energy invested by the Young Life team as well as the generosity of donors who sponsored teenagers to attend camp.

Here are some highlights as told by Marion Arblaster, one of our head cabin leaders:

"It's such an exciting aspect of camp – getting to know these campers who have arrived feeling negative, with their barriers up. As you walk with them along the narrow bush tracks to activities, listening to them and asking them about themselves, gradually you start to see walls coming down."

"Instead of reluctance and resistance, they take part, and you finally get to witness them relaxing and becoming themselves!"

"This year we had 28 cabin leaders, 13 of them first-timers. It's a challenging week – even for the pros! Our first-time cabin leaders were fabulous. They committed to spending every moment available with the teenagers as well as meeting together as a team;

and they were open and communicative so we could support and work with them."

"It's a challenge as a young adult, not very much older than the kids you are looking after. For some it's the first time they have had to set boundaries for someone younger and we reassure them – it's okay and important to do it!"

"At the half-way mark, you begin to pray for stamina!"

"We decided to do the Kosciuszko hikes early in the week due to the heat which meant everyone was physically tired by Wednesday! That's when emotions and the bigger issues begin to surface. As head cabin leaders, we were aware of the need to keep connecting with all the cabin leaders to check on how they are going," Marion explains.

"The theme of the talk this year was "Heaven is a place on Earth". Led by Fudge Jordan, with lots of funny stories along the way, the campers were introduced to stories told by Jesus and His claim: if you have seen me, you have seen the Father."

"Everyone at camp who had the opportunity to talk to campers was encouraged to ask them about what they thought about the talks and the life stories shared in Real Life sessions."

## Ben Hura led Work Crew this year with Holly Lim and Daniel Amato:

**S**ummer Camp was great fun and with 33 volunteers on the Work Crew team ranging from nine years old, the week saw us grow as a family in unity and Christian community. I'm missing it already!

As Work Crew, you know you are there to serve but it really came alive for me as I reflected on what it says in the bible about the Son of Man and the way He came to be among us: He came to seek the lost, He came eating and drinking and He came not to be served but to serve. As Work Crew, we had the opportunity to reflect this and embody the words of the Camp Speaker.

We watched the team members grow in their faith every day and step up in significant ways. Together we were all encouraged by news of campers making the decision to follow Jesus.

Rebecca Grundy joined Work Crew for the first time this year. Here are her impressions:

**Twenty-three teenagers accepted Jesus at camp. Please pray God will continue to work in the lives of our young friends as their local leaders follow up with them through the year.**





"As a camper of two years and this year as a member of Work Crew, I truly have come to appreciate the time and effort that goes into the running of camp. I thought that as a camper I'd had the best time of my life but – and this may come as a surprise – I actually found Work Crew to be the most enjoyable and rewarding year of all three," says Rebecca.

"Don't get me wrong – Work Crew was hard work as the name implies! But in all honesty, seeing from behind the scenes God moving at camp, was incredible."

"Being on Work Crew taught me to serve humbly like Jesus and to know that any small part I played on the camp was part of God's plan to change young lives, even if at the time I couldn't see it.

For the three years I've been on camp God has always been present and moving in ways greater than our understanding and this year He didn't disappoint!"

"I miss my Work Crew family so much but can't wait to serve with them again in 2020!!"

**Rebecca Grundy**



**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



## SUMMER CAMP STATS

Camp theme: **Pokémon**

No. youth: **95** campers and **11** junior Work Crew members

Distance to the Summit of Mount Kosciuszko:  
**22 kilometres**

Litres of ice cream: **110**

Litres of milk: **376**

Kilos of watermelon: **86**



## 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.

# LOCAL RELATIONAL MISSIONAL



Young Life Australia is changing teenagers' lives through the Gospel and so can you! A regular monthly gift helps Young Life send youth leaders where they are needed.

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All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.  
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Please do not send any further information about Young Life Australia

## Pack your bag and serve overseas! Keen to see Young Life in action overseas?

Young Life operates in over 70 countries and an amazing opportunity has opened up in 2019. Brooke Filipovski is recruiting for the first Summer Camp ever to be held in Macedonia.

"After five years of campers coming from three different parts of Macedonia to a camp in Bulgaria, it is a dream come true to be building a legacy of having Summer camp in our own nation," says Brooke.

"We can't wait to see young people we've been building relationships with, able to attend camp in their own language."

"The camp will be situated in Macedonia's highest elevated town, Krushevo. This small and historic town features incredible views of mountains all around. It will offer young people the opportunity to be in nature and experience the incredible beauty of God's creation."

"We are looking to have a diverse team of staff and volunteers from our Central Eastern European region of Young Life and will even have leaders from Bulgaria bringing kids to our camp – just as we have shared in their camp – keeping the relationships alive."

"But we also need other international volunteers – including Australians – to help make this dream a reality."



*Krushevo in Macedonia*

"The camp will run from July 6–12, 2019. Roles include helping to facilitate the outdoor games, rides and activities; helping to serve the meals; keeping the property neat; and being a light for Christ to these young people," says Brooke.

"Eric Choi, a Sydneysider who has served with us at camp in Bulgaria twice before will be helping to coordinate the team to come and serve. Please be in touch with him if you are interested by email [sungjong89@gmail.com](mailto:sungjong89@gmail.com) or phone 0415260070.

## CHAPLAINCY CORNER WITH LLEW MORRIS

Young Life recently farewelled a few members of our Chaplaincy team who have made a great contribution to their schools and to the life and maturity of our team.

Luisa McGuire and Chris Douglas finished their posts at Merrylands East Public School and Glen Waverley Secondary College as both schools have ended their association with the National Chaplaincy program.

It has been a privilege to serve the students, staff and parents of those schools and a pleasure to work with Luisa and Chris who will be missed.

We also farewell Herbie Onapa who embarks on a PhD in 2019 and Katrina Trevaskis who is taking on a new role. We wish them all the best.

Young Life welcomes Ga Young Kim who will be working at Ermington Public School and Mark Simpson who will be taking up the post of Student Welfare Support Officer at Armidale and Duval High Schools.

And we jump into 2019 with two more Chaplaincy positions to fill at Newling Public School (in Armidale NSW) with funding for four-days per week; and Bairnsdale Secondary College in Victoria where there is a two-day per week position.

Vacancies can be found at [younglife.org.au/careers](http://younglife.org.au/careers)



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