

Connections

June 2019 Issue

INSIDE:

Watch out for Wyld Life

Living through loss

Join our Day of Prayer





FROM THE CEO

Welcome to this issue of Connections

You'll find a message from our new Queensland staff about what is happening in Ipswich and Redlands; and from one of our chaplains, Bethany Smith on her experiences helping students at her school deal with tragedy and loss. There is information about our Wyld Life program as well as a day of prayer for Young Life and young people in which you can be involved.

I'd also like to thank all those who gave generously in response to our end of financial year appeal and at fundraising events around the country. Thank you for supporting your local Young Life Area.

The end of the financial year is important mainly as a reminder of our status as a registered charity with tax deductibility. Our programs are ongoing and I do look forward to sharing new developments with you as the year continues!

WHAT'S ON...

June	15	Hobart Trivia Night
	21	Warren Bonfire Night
	28-30	Central Leader's Retreat
July	1-5	Wyld Life Holiday Program, Ipswich
	12	Dcypher Camp, Hobart
Aug	17	Barossa Valley Trivia Night
	21	National Pray for Young Life Day
	24	Monash Trivia Night
Sep	12	September Staff Gathering
	13	Young Life Committee Summit
	30-03	Wyld Life Camp
	30-06	HSC Study Camp

For more events visit younglife.org.au/events

GETTING TO KNOW

Mike Gaffney

Young Life is active in more than 70 countries around the world and Mike Gaffney* is the man appointed by Young Life International to serve the Asia Pacific network. Recently, he and wife Shari visited Australia to meet the Young Life staff and volunteers.

Can you share what God is doing through Young Life across the different settings in South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand?

I believe that God is doing what God has always done... namely Psalm 100... continuing the show his love and faithfulness to the next generation. God cares deeply about the next generation knowing him through his son Jesus and Young Life is one of the Lord's main tools do so. However, each country has their own unique ways of reaching and teaching youth today. I think that is important. Not to be different just to be different, but to be innovative and contextualise the Gospel and Young Life in each country and each generation.

What encouraged you and Shari the most as you shared with the Young Life teams?

We are greatly encouraged by the fresh young leadership we met across the region. Young men and women with passion and creativity, who love Jesus and understand their culture. I met staff and volunteers everywhere who are respectful of the leadership that has come before them yet realise that creative innovative change is needed for today's youth.

We were also encouraged by steadfast, loyal and big-hearted long-time staff and volunteers who have been doing the hard work for decades and who are heroes of the faith.

What is your prayer for Young Life Australia?

We are praying for the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the Australia fields. Not just more but the right people in the right places. We are praying for Glyn, the board and the senior leadership to keep dreaming dreams and trust their best years are still to come. We are praying for longevity with the younger staff... that they would envision a life-time commitment to communicating God's faithfulness to the next generation.

*Mike Gaffney is Senior Vice President Asia Pacific with Young Life International



Mike Gaffney (left) with Alex Lee, Area Manager Young Life Canberra and Glyn Henman

Island escape awaits Wyld Life campers

Wyld Life Camp will take place at Milson Island on the Hawkesbury River, 60 minutes north of Sydney during the NSW School Holidays from September 30 - October 3.

The camp welcomes school students in Grades 5–8, with four days of thrilling activities, crazy Young Life games, Club, bible talks and cabin time.

"Having this program for our Wyld Life Club aged youth and their friends is really important," says Heather Gant, the Camp Director.

"I am convinced of the need for Young Life Australia to engage well with our tweens. There are so many influences both positive and negative in young people's lives today. If we

want to be one of those influences, we can't wait until their teenage years because by that stage, there are already so many voices in their lives."

"We were planning to run camp at the Burrendong Sport and Recreation site – it's a great venue in Central NSW. With the ongoing drought and falling dam levels (currently at 5.3 percent) we needed to look at other options and give those coming to camp from our rural communities a break from the daily grind of drought."

"We chose Milson Island because staying on an island is exciting!" says Heather. "I hope the kids will love it and be inspired by the uniqueness and adventure of it."

Registrations are now open for Wyld Life Camp at younglife.org.au/wyldlifecamp.

You don't have to already attend Wyld Life Club to join us. All are welcome.

Our Wyld Life Camp Story

Hi, my name is Hannah and last year, I accompanied four young girls from my Young Life area, in Warren NSW, to Wyld Life Camp.

It's a really big deal for Warren families to let their kids travel with people from outside their family, so you can imagine the nerves and excitement in the lead up.

Once there, all of the girls loved Wyld Life Camp. They cried when it was time to leave. Their cabin leader was so engaged in learning all about them and so contagious in her enthusiasm, they couldn't bear to part.

At the end of their time, two of the girls, Zoey and Taylah said they wanted to keep in touch and I felt it was up to me, someone from home, to encourage them. With their parents' permission, this is what we have done.

We meet every Monday afternoon, learn a bit about the bible and catch up. They come along when the youth band is playing at church and can't wait for this year's Wyld Life Camp.

There are so many young people like Zoey and Taylah at Warren Central and St Mary's Parish School and I would love to see some boys join us this year.

I am thankful Young Life has decided to keep the cost down for our families and given us such an amazing way of opening young people's eyes and ears to the love of Jesus and providing them with great memories.



Hannah Commins (centre) with Zoey and Taylah



Young Life has capped the fee for Wyld Life Camp at \$299 and is asking communities to help us meet costs by giving. Will you help? Visit younglife.org.au/donate and note your gift is for the Wyld Life program.



Laura and Zac Kinscher

Young Life joins the team at boarding school

Young Life Australia has come alongside Macquarie Anglican Grammar School in Dubbo to help support students who are part of the boarding program's first year," says Young Life's Laura Kinscher.

"Our job is to get to know the students and spend some of their down time with them, chatting, playing games and sharing a meal."

"It's just lovely," says Laura. "It's like a family setting. We hang out with the kids and stay on to share dinner which includes the House Parents."

There are seven boarders currently living at the school. Some of the boys and girls go home on weekends while others stay on for school sport and other programs according to Laura.

"The school encourages those who want to go to youth group and church which means Zac and I have seen some students join the youth group and evening service at Dubbo Baptist where we attend."

MARRIED COUPLE, ZAC AND LAURA KINSCHER, ARE PART OF AN INITIATIVE OFFERING SUPPORT TO TEENAGERS LIVING AT BOARDING SCHOOL.

"Because the students feel connected to us, they have found it easier to fit in with the youth group and church."

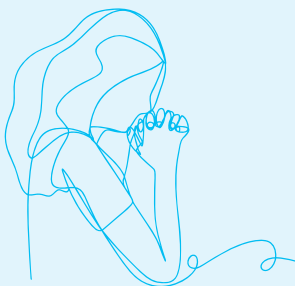
Zac describes being with the students at MAGS as "one of my favourite times of the week".

"They are the most delightful bunch of kids. Ever since Laura and I arrived they have embraced us."

"It isn't structured... we play cricket, swim in the pool, chat, find out who they are and where they are coming from."

Laura agrees. "We know the students don't have Christian backgrounds necessarily and we aren't doing a bible study when we are with them at the school."

"Our role is to provide community and be a support for the students who are all different in personality and in the way they respond to school and separation from their families," says Laura.



By Claire Wood*

Join Young Life in a Day of Prayer for our youth

For the first time this year Young Life Australia is coming together to pray for the young people and the work that we do. On Wednesday, 21 August 2019, we are hosting a National Pray for Young Life Day.

Being the first time something like this has been done, our aim for our first annual prayer gathering is to KEEP IT SIMPLE.

We invite everyone to come and pray for the young people we're in contact with, for the work Young Life is doing in communities like yours across Australia, and for the future.

Pray in your church small groups.

Gather over coffee or arrange a morning/ afternoon tea or supper and pray.

Pray in pairs or pray in multitudes.

Pray in any way you are available to do so.

And, if the Wednesday doesn't work, pick another time during the week that works for you and your community.

"For where two or three are gathered, I am there in their midst"

We are eagerly waiting to see how God answers prayers through the coming together of His people for our ministry.

*Claire Wood is Young Life's Data and Office Administrator

To be a part of our National Prayer Day visit younglife.org.au/pray and find out what's happening in your local community today.

To donate visit
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

QUEENSLAND'S NEW LINE UP

MEET ZACH

Hi, I'm Zachary Lipp and I was born, raised and am still living in Ipswich where I am now working two days a week for Young Life.

Before Young Life I was working towards a Youth Work Diploma. However, directly before that is where it gets more interesting. I was working in a gym doing a lot of Children's and Youth classes most afternoons. I felt I should step out and leave this massive part of my life, and within a few weeks I had embarked on my studies.

Youth Work has always been something close to me. I was even helping out with Youth Ministry as a youth myself! When not doing the work officially I have been involved in care, mostly for young people, teaching and volunteering in different church capacities.

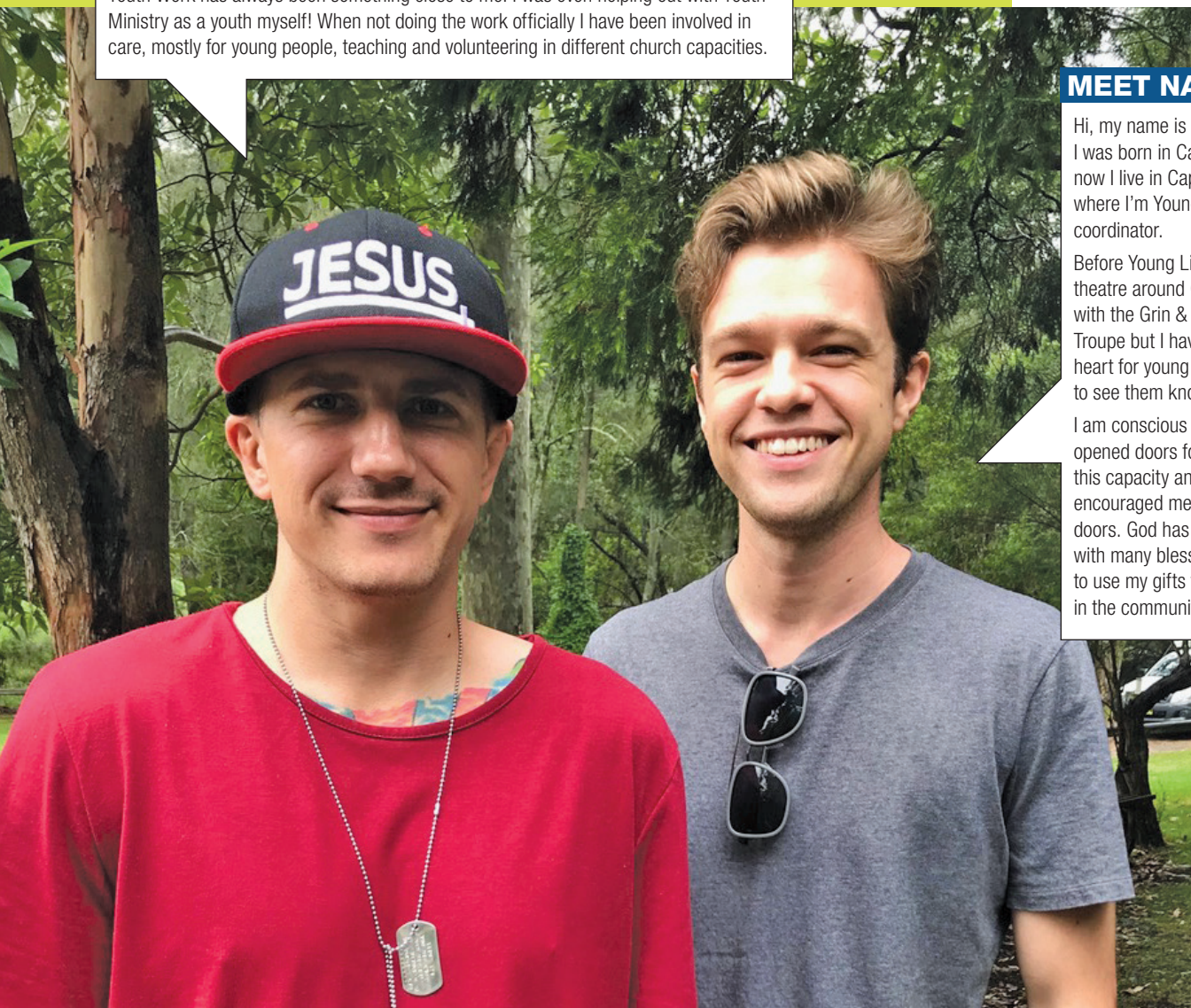


MEET NATHAN

Hi, my name is Nathan Wilson and I was born in Caringbah NSW but now I live in Capalaba Queensland where I'm Young Life Redland's coordinator.

Before Young Life I was touring theatre around Queensland schools with the Grin & Tonic Theatre Troupe but I have always had a heart for young people and desire to see them know Christ.

I am conscious that God has opened doors for me to work in this capacity and the church has encouraged me to enter those doors. God has entrusted me with many blessings, and I want to use my gifts to serve the youth in the community.



Zach and Nathan are heading up Young Life's work in South East Queensland

There is only one reason anyone should get behind the work we have been doing with Young Life Ipswich. God. If it doesn't stem from prayer and a deep heart for the city, it is probably not going to be very satisfying.

Doors are opening and God is providing some amazing opportunities. If you are able to support our Young Life Area in any way – we have a Wyld Life Holiday Program during the first week of July in need of volunteers and a monthly Prayer Meeting – please contact me! Connect with Zachary at zachlipp@younglife.org.au.

ZACH

**WHY SHOULD
PEOPLE GET
BEHIND YOUNG
LIFE'S WORK
THROUGH
GIVING AND
VOLUNTEERING?**

NATHAN

The Redlands is overflowing with opportunity to serve its youth. But we need more of two types of servants: those who are willing to serve with their time, and those willing to serve with their money.

Our small team in the Redlands has demonstrated good stewardship with the little they have and are ready to start growing. If we are to continue reaching more youth in the community outside our current sphere of influence, we need further ongoing support.

Young Life has the potential to be the most effective youth ministry in the Redlands. The kids love us, and we love them.

Will you work with us and make what's happening in the Redlands part of your ministry too? Connect with Nathan at nathanwilson@younglife.org.au.

**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.

CHAPLAINCY CORNER

Living through loss with a young person

BY BETHANY SMITH

How do you help and comfort school students through the experience of loss and grief?

This question has confronted Bethany Smith in her role as a Young Life Australia high school chaplain and here she shares some of the helpful things she has learned along the way.

At the school where I work, we have experienced the loss of two students in the past two years.

Sitting with the students in the wake of those moments, was perhaps the hardest thing I have ever done: not to mention the countless times I have listened as students shared the loss of something or someone they loved.

I cannot claim to have all the answers on how to cope with or work through those difficult situations.

But knowing this and wanting to get better equipped I went in search of training around the issue of grief and loss that I could apply in my interactions with the students at school.

A big thing that stood out to me was the many different types of losses there are. We often rank losses in importance but need to remember it is up to the individual and their attachment to the thing they have lost.

It's possible to grieve for a pet, family member, place, a friendship, job, ability, health, love, money, purpose, home, community, possessions, culture, divorce, dream or identity.

The young people we come across will have all experienced some sort of loss in their lives, and the way they have or haven't processed it will affect the way they deal with their current grief or loss.

As Chaplains we have to remember if a student is struggling with a loss, no matter how insignificant we may think it is, we need to give them a space to

express themselves and acknowledge the significance of that loss for them.

Training in grief and counselling has also giving me insight about how to talk through things with student.

Often when you first come across a student, teacher or staff member more than anything they need someone to sit with them, listen and comfort them.

But if you do have the opportunity to chat with them further, having this framework in your head is helpful.

Acknowledge the loss is real and remind them it is normal for them to be struggling with this loss. Validate their feelings and emotions.

Talk through the importance of processing the pain and help them come up with ideas of how they could do this in a healthy way such as journaling, doing something artistic, talking to someone, doing some sort of physical exercise.

Losing someone can be disorientating and certain situations will be more difficult to face, so guiding students to think about how they will deal with future scenarios helps to prepare and plan for this adjustment.

Offering young people a space to talk about treasured memories and what they have learned or gained from the person or situation helps them carry their memories forward.

Bethany Smith used a program called Seasons for Growth created by a company called Good Grief.



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