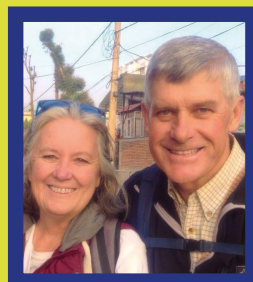


MEET OUR STAFF



Keith and Mary Lou Doe
Young Life New England

Welcome back to the Young Life team Keith and Mary Lou Doe who led Young Life Armidale for 22 years from 1984.

They've returned to expand Young Life's work throughout New England with a goal to reach some of the 95% of unchurched high school and primary students.

The new name for the branch is Young Life New England and there are plans for a new drop-in centre, and continuation of programs such as Wylldlife and Pancake Breakfasts.

They'd love prayer for leaders to come alongside them and help reach the young of New England.



Shane Kreltszheim
Young Life Parramatta

When Shane Kreltszheim first read a description of Young Life, it instantly struck a chord! "I felt like we're on the same mission, it's the same way I'm trying to live my own life, for Christ."

Shane is Young Life's most recent Field Staff recruit in Parramatta and enjoys connecting with young people through sports such as cricket and basketball. He's also started running hip hop workshops. "I'm really excited to be involved with Young Life, building strong relationships with young people where they feel seen and heard and where God is a big part of that picture."



Ching-I Wan (Head office)
Database and Office Administrator

Young Life's new Database and Office Administrator is Ching-I Wan. "I have a passion for promoting the Christian faith with young people," she says. "I think Young Life Australia is doing incredible work in our community." Ching's previous job was as digital and publishing designer for Eternity, a Christian newspaper. She worked with the Bible Society Australia publication for a decade and is covering a maternity-leave position with Young Life. "I'm looking forward to developing my database and business analysis skills," she says. "It's a wonderful opportunity for me."



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.

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



JAN 15-22, 2022

Campers and Camp Champs wanted!!

HOW TO DONATE TO YOUNG LIFE



You can donate to Young Life by visiting www.younglife.org.au/donate, scanning the QR code, or filling out the donation form below.



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.

Expires /

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.

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CONNECTIONS

AUGUST 2021 ISSUE

INSIDE

Ready, Aim... Fun! At Redlands Dodgebow Day
Fun and Fundraising at Young Life's Annual Dinner 2021
Young Life Barossa hits Double Digits



SUMMER
the best week of your life!
CAMP



younglife.org.au/summercamp

CEO UPDATE JULY 2021



Connecting with young people in their world continues to be our mantra, no matter the challenge before us. I was on a call with several Young Life staff a few weeks ago and listening to them share about the young people in their communities was both concerning and exciting at the same time.

Concerning as they reported so many teens struggling to make connections, feeling unsure, and disheartened about the world around them. So much change taking place with no sense of clarity as to when things will return to normal, whatever that now is.

Exciting to hear volunteers engaging with and supporting their young friends as best they can. Exciting to hear face-to-face programs are running, even if families continue to have different levels of hesitancy about gathering. Exciting to hear volunteers are committed to meeting teenagers in their world.

As I look forward, I continue to be engaged in all that Young Life areas are doing. A Sydney based study camp in September, Summer Camp in January, staff and volunteer gatherings in July and September. We continue to seek out young people and share the good news of Jesus with them. Staff and volunteers are seeing the new life and transformation taking place in individual lives.

Thank you for standing with Young Life and with the young people we serve.

WHAT'S ON

Aug	21	Barossa Trivia Night
Sept	5	Barossa Valley Infusion
	8-10	Staff Gathering
	20-24	HSC Study Camp Sydney
Oct	8	Redlands Golf Tournament
	9	Ryde Trivia Night
Nov	13	Monash Trivia Night

READY, AIM....FUN!! AT REDLANDS DODGEBOW DAY

What do you get when you combine a bunch of awesome young people, a high octane game of Dodgebow and the love of Jesus?

And what even IS Dodgebow?

Well, think paintball meets archery, and at a Young Life club event it makes for about the most fun you can ever imagine having in one day!

The April gathering was organised by Young Life's Redlands club in Queensland which had only been established a few weeks beforehand. Area Manager Nathan Wilson says right from the beginning it's all about meeting new people and having a blast.

"It's early days at Redlands and the Dodgebow event was just the best way of getting kids out, and really connecting. For at least one

high school student who came along, it was her first experience of Young Life and at the beginning she was really shy. By the end though she was right into the game, laughing with everyone and didn't want to leave when her mum came to get her!"

What was even more gratifying for the Redlands team was to catch up with this same student not long afterwards at the weekly Young Life Pancake breakfast held at her school.

“ When young people come back we know we're doing something right and often it can be as simple as just making them feel welcome in a place where they can hang out, have fun, where there's no judgement or pressure ”

Connections made at the breakfasts and events such as the Dodgebow day have already flowed through to Redlands' weekly CLUB gatherings with numbers on the increase.

Nathan and the team in Young Life's most fledgling region have no doubt that in God's hands, the future is exciting. "For sure, we can already see the beginning of a core group at Redlands and we're reaching out to other young people in the area. They really appreciate the presence of caring and trust-worthy role models in their lives and that's what our Young Life leaders are here to provide."



Image, left: Nathan Wilson (far right) on Dodgebow Day

FUN AND FUNDRAISING AT YOUNG LIFE'S 2021 ANNUAL DINNER



Image, above: Smiles aplenty as the crowd enjoyed the night's festivities



Image, above: Young Life volunteers Madison Henman and Jadean Calder.



Image, above: Ex Young Life leaders Peter Lee and Paul McConnell enjoying a catch-up

Young Life's recent Annual Dinner was a chance to 'glam up' and enjoy a wonderful night of entertainment, inspiring messages and an amazing dinner in the picturesque grounds of Lachlan's at Old Government House in Sydney.

There was much to be thankful for! And yet what made it special above all of these things was the uplifting feeling of true connection that came from being together, talking, laughing and listening.

In fact the theme of the Young Life dinner was WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER and when it comes to supporting our youth, the meaning of this phrase could not be any more powerful.

More than 90 guests enjoyed the evening, including long-time supporters, staff, volunteers, former 'Young Lifers' and their families. Not only was it a chance to celebrate our youth but it was Young

Life's major fundraising effort for the year with raffles and an auction extraordinaire helping to raise over \$30,000 to support the programs impacting young people across Australia.

The man with the hammer was none other than renowned auctioneer Tim Pickles who had the crowd in stitches and the bids on a roll for items such as a Blue Mountains luxury getaway and the equally sought after 1963 Croft Vintage Port.

Celebrated Christian speaker Karl Faase was another highlight of the evening, sharing on his extraordinary experiences collecting stories of faith during an aussie roadtrip for his latest documentary series. Exploring the question of how deep faith runs in Australia, Karl pointed to organisations like Young Life as playing a major role in keeping alive Gospel ministry into the future and ensuring we stand with the needy, the marginalised and the desperate.

Young Life CEO Glyn Henman spoke on the incredible challenges our young people have been navigating during the pandemic, how Young Life has responded and the greater-than-ever need for support.

In Armidale, Young Life's university ministry is making great ground during its early days. A new area is being established in Port Adelaide, plans are well and truly underway for an HSC student camp program in Sydney, while efforts to expand Young Life's western Sydney region offer exciting opportunities.

There's no doubt God is working through Young Life, the people and its programs. With the incredible generosity of supporters and events such as the Annual Dinner, there is great hope and opportunity for Young Life to make a real difference to the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of even more young people in Australia.



Our youngest ever Major Raffle winner Vivienne Cooke, pictured here with Jonathan Stephen, was the lucky winner of a Wood Fired Pizza Oven, generously sponsored by Stephen Financial Solutions.

YOUNG LIFE BAROSSA HITS DOUBLE DIGITS!!



Turning ten is pretty exciting and for our Young Life family in the beautiful Barossa Valley, South Australia the celebration certainly matched the milestone!

And what better way to mark a decade of supporting young people than with a pancake breakfast – a taste of just one of the ways Young Life Barossa connects with over one hundred teens and adolescents every single week.

Sophie Wilksch is the Barossa's Area Manager, she started as a volunteer with Young Life in 2011. This was the same year the region officially started engaging with young people after a lengthy period establishing connections, reaching out to churches and recruiting volunteers.

"Right from the beginning the foundation has been Christ, community and kids, and we've just built of that over the years. We have such a strong sense of community and with loads of prayer and hard work we've been able to walk alongside so many young people. The Barossa team would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the journey so far. It's something I feel really blessed to be a part of."

LEAH MORGAN YOUNG LIFE BAROSSA

My name is Leah, I'm in year 12 and became involved with Young Life when my family moved to the Barossa Valley in South Australia two years ago.

Being new to an area, at first I thought I'd just give it a go, but I loved it from the first time I went and pretty soon I couldn't imagine missing even a single week.

I go to Infusion, Club and Small Group, they're all for the same greater purpose but they go about it in different ways. Infusion is basically Church but in a fun way, at Club I get to hang out with cool people, play games and talk about God without singing hymns or any of that old, traditional stuff. And Small Group is where I can ask questions about the Bible and get help with the ups and downs I've had in my faith journey.

I think what I love the most about Young Life is that from day one the leaders have been open to listening, they're easy to talk to and

More than fifty guests attended the May anniversary including supporters and donors, past and present leaders, local church pastors, the Barossa Valley Mayor and Federal Member. As well as indulging on piles of pancakes they were treated to stories from several Young Lifers on how their lives had been impacted by the relationships they made and the support they received.

There's no doubt Young Life in the Barossa is thriving! With two high school Breakfast Clubs, Small group, Wyld Life, Club and Infusion.

And a decade on, many of the young people who've been supported by the programs over the years have stayed connected, now volunteering themselves at Young Life to mentor the next generation of teens.

A big congratulations to the whole team at Young Life Barossa on ten years of hard work and making an incredible difference in the lives of so many young people!

Image, above: Young Life Barossa's birthday celebration gets the thumbs up from Port Adelaide Area Manager Andrew Joppich (right) and Barossa Valley volunteer Will McBride (left)

I know that whatever I share with them matters. I also really love the free food at Wednesday breakfast!

If anyone asked me whether they should get involved, I'd say 100 percent! Even if you're not into the whole faith and God thing, it's a group of people who want to do life with you and

encourage and support you. I brought a friend to Club for the first time recently and she just felt so

welcomed. It was exciting for me to see someone I'm close to embraced the same way I was.

“ It's a group of people who want to do life with you, and encourage and support you ”

