

**who  
we  
are**

**aims,  
beliefs &  
working  
principles**



our  
heart

Young people  
**discovering life**  
in God's big story.





We work across Australia alongside churches and communities to give children, young people and their families opportunities **to discover life in God's big story.**

We are committed to supporting local communities through a range of ministries, including camps, missions, school chaplaincy, schools ministry, cross-cultural initiatives, at-risk youth programs, a Registered Training Organisation and more!

## our mission

To bring God's love, hope and good news to children, young people and their families.

## our vision

Every child, young person and family in Australia has opportunities of transforming experiences with Jesus and a lifelong journey of discipleship and serving a world in need.





# our DNA



## 1 Meeting young people where they're at

**Everything we do is for young people.** We go to the places where they are, get alongside and do life together. The expressions and experiences look different in each community across Australia, but some things remain the same. There's never any judgement; there's often laughter, a spirit of adventure and space for young people to be truly themselves.

## 2 Championing Bible engagement and prayer

**We believe God has been faithful through all time** and is still speaking today with a message of life, love and purpose. We share a daily commitment to engage with the Bible and prayer, deepening faith as we pay attention to what God is doing and participate in that. We actively encourage and resource others to do the same.

## 3 Equipping & releasing volunteer leaders

**We're generous in sharing our experience, expertise and resources.** We notice the potential in others and create opportunities for them to learn, lead and pursue their calling. We love seeing our volunteers have a go at leading in the context of a team, while growing as disciples of Jesus.

## 4 Partnering with & through others

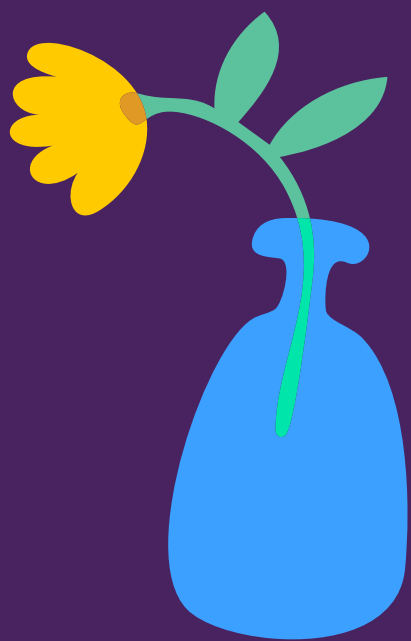
We have a big vision and we cannot do it alone. **That's why we enjoy partnering** with local churches of all shapes and sizes, schools, advocates and communities to bring life to local young people.

## 5 Exploring innovative ways for connection & community

We're always looking for **fresh new ways to connect with young people.** There's often an idea brewing that pushes outside the status quo to bring fun, adventure and fullness of life – all in a safe and welcoming way. As a result, we often see life-giving communities forging long-term friendships.



# our values



## Engaging life

We are active participants in God's mission, engaging children, young people and families in their life stage and context.



## Creating belonging

We build connection and community with people from all walks of life. That sense of belonging is deepened as we are creative and have fun, while prioritising safety and integrity.



## Loving God

God is at the heart of all we do, restoring all things through Jesus.



## Empowering teams

We work in relational teams, championing volunteerism and growing missional leaders. We actively partner.



## Developing people

We place a high value on people and foster wholeness and whole-of-life discipleship.

# our personality

## Creative

We think outside the box. We are never satisfied with the status quo. We are thoughtful and intentional.

## Friendly & relational

We relate to people from all walks of life. We are approachable and engaging.

## Humble

We are not pretentious. Happy to be in the background, encouraging and supporting others.

## Capable

We get things done well. We are respected for expertise and experience. We are professional and reliable.

## Authentic

We are comfortable in our own skin. True to our own values. We love God, love people. No judgement, just support.

## Playful

Always up for a laugh. Makes everyone feel at ease. Brings joy and fun.

## Go-Getter

We are willing to have a go and work hard. Ready for an adventure, to try new things.





**aims,  
beliefs &  
working  
principles**







# aims

## Working with the churches, Scripture Union aims:

**1.**  
to make  
God's Good  
News known  
to children,  
young people  
and families

**2.**  
to encourage  
people of all ages  
to meet God daily  
through the Bible  
and prayer so that  
they may:

**A.**  
come  
to personal  
faith in our  
Lord Jesus  
Christ

**B.**  
grow in  
Christian  
maturity

**C.**  
become  
both committed  
church members  
and servants  
of a world in  
need





# beliefs

**As the Scripture Union family throughout the world, we accept and proclaim the historic truths of the Christian faith, including the following:**

**We hold that the Lord our God is one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,** and that he fulfils his sovereign purposes – in creation, revelation, redemption, judgement, and the coming of his kingdom – by calling out from the world a people united to himself and to each other in love.

**We acknowledge that though God made us in his own likeness** and image, conferring on us dignity and worth and enabling us to respond to himself, we now are members of a fallen race; we have sinned and come short of his glory.

**We believe that the Father has shown us his holy love in giving Jesus Christ,** his only Son, for us, while through our sinfulness and guilt, we were subject to his wrath and condemnation; and has shown his grace by putting sinners right with himself when they place their trust in his Son.

**We confess Jesus Christ:**

- as Lord and God;
- as truly human, born of the virgin Mary;
- as servant, sinless, full of grace and truth;
- as our only Mediator and Saviour, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin;
- as Victor over Satan and all his forces, rising from death with a glorious body, being taken up to be with his Father, one day returning personally in glory and judgement to establish his kingdom.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit:**

- who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement;
- who makes the death of Christ effective to sinners, declaring that they must now turn to Christ in repentance, and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ;
- who through the new birth makes us partake in the life of the risen Christ, and who is present within all believers, illuminating their minds to grasp the truth of Scripture, producing in them his fruit, granting to them his gifts, and empowering them for service in the world.





# beliefs (cont.)

## The Scriptures

**We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are God-breathed,** since their writers spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; hence are fully trustworthy in all that they affirm; and are our highest authority for faith and life.

## The Church and its mission

**We recognise the church as the body of Christ** held together and growing up in him; both as a total fellowship throughout the world, and as the local congregation in which believers gather.

**We acknowledge the commission of Christ** to proclaim the Good News to all people, making them disciples, and teaching them to obey him.

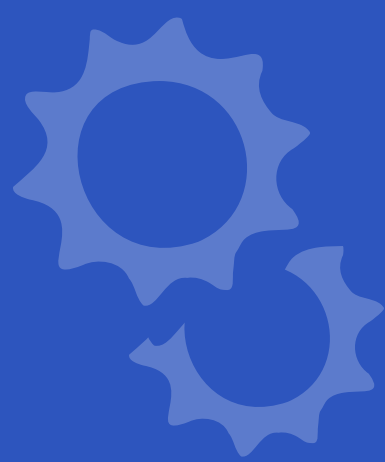
**We acknowledge the command of Christ** to love our neighbours, resulting in service to the church and society, in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows, in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression; and in spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world ... until he comes again.







# working principles



We seek to exercise the ministries  
God has given us **in obedience to  
our Lord Jesus Christ** and in  
reliance on the Holy Spirit.

We therefore aim to follow  
**Biblical principles** in all that  
we do and to emphasise the  
vital importance of **prayer**.





# working principles (cont.)

We approach our work in the following ways:

## 1 Evangelism & teaching

- a. We are committed to **teaching basic Christian truths** as an essential part of evangelism.
- b. We aim to express God's Good News to children, young people and families, not only in words, but also **by building caring relationships** with them.
- c. We make every effort to communicate the gospel in **contemporary language** and in ways appropriate to the context.
- d. We emphasise that **faith should always lead to action** and to growth in Christian character and service.
- e. We acknowledge that **the gospel has inescapable social dimensions** and therefore it involves us in service to others and a concern for social justice. In view of our specific aims, we have a special responsibility for children and young people who are poor, deprived or exploited.
- f. We encourage children to follow Christ in **ways that are appropriate to their age, culture and background**, taking special account of their home and family situation and level of maturity.
- g. We believe that **the new birth is a profound supernatural experience**, brought about by the Holy Spirit. So we invite people to respond to what he is doing in their lives and guard against calling for superficial responses.
- h. We are committed to working in ways that reflect our beliefs, **in appropriate cooperation with organisations and institutions**, such as schools, that welcome us.





# working principles (cont.)

## 2 Bible ministries

In encouraging people to **meet God through the Bible**, we emphasise the significance of the Bible as a whole.

- a. **We encourage people to read it** so that they come to repentance, faith, obedience to God and worship.
- b. **We prepare systematic programs and materials** for children, young people and adults, appropriate to their age and situation.
- c. We are committed to Bible reading which is **thoughtful, prayerful and regular** and which enables the reader to respond to the message of the whole Bible rather than to isolated passages.
- d. We are concerned to interpret the text in a way which enables people, in their contemporary situations, to **hear for themselves the message of the Bible** from its original context.

## 3 Churches

- a. We recognise our part in God's worldwide family and seek ways of **working positively with a variety of churches**.
- b. We encourage people who come to faith through our ministries to **take part in the life of a local church fellowship**.





# working principles (cont.)

## 4 Equality & unity

- a. We believe that all **human beings are of equal worth** in the sight of God and that all those who put their faith in Christ are one in him.
- b. We are therefore committed to exercising our ministries **without discrimination** as to race, colour, gender, language or social position.
- c. We recognise that Scripture Union worldwide is a family of national movements in which **resources can be shared** in a responsible way on a basis of trust.
- d. We express our Christian commitment in **varied and creative ways** since we are drawn from diverse backgrounds.

## 5 Volunteers & staff

- a. We work with a relatively small number of staff who **recruit, motivate, train, equip and support** a larger number of volunteers with whom they work in partnership.
- b. We believe that the Holy Spirit confers **gifts of leadership on Christians of all nations** without discrimination. So we encourage national leadership of Scripture Union movements, while recognising the contribution of those from other countries.
- c. We, as staff and volunteers, from a variety of backgrounds, are **united in our commitment to the aims, beliefs and working principles** of Scripture Union.
- d. We agree that, while we are involved in Scripture Union activities, we will handle controversial issues, such as baptism, spiritual gifts and church order, **in ways that promote harmony**.





# working principles (cont.)

## 6 Biblical standards

- a. We aim to follow **Biblical principles** in all that we do. This includes, for example, our administration, our publicity and the way we care for our staff and volunteers.
- b. We seek to honour God in carrying out our ministries, by combining **prayerful reliance on him** with the use of the best available means, maintaining the **highest standards** possible.
- c. We believe in **praying for financial support**, in dependence on God, and **telling the Christian public of our needs**, without distorting the truth or using undue pressure.







[su.org.au](https://su.org.au)