

NEWS FROM JUSTIN

Hi friends,

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Connect. It's wonderful to see what God is shaping. Thanks for being part of God's work through our SU movement.

As we share stories from across our ministries, I want to also take this opportunity to update you with some significant personal news. Over several years, I've had a growing concern about environmental stewardship and sustainability. This grew markedly through seeing the impacts of the devastating bushfires of summer 2019-20, and listening to young people share their concerns about climate and their future. I've been asking how my faith guides my action in this global and immediate issue, and how I contribute my leadership to make a difference.

I have been heavily involved in shaping the journey towards national integration since 2016. Alongside the SU Victoria board, I am strongly supportive of SU Victoria becoming part of the national movement. I remain passionate about SU's purpose and ministries and very positive about the national merger. I believe a national movement will enable SU's mission to grow and be sustained in Victoria and across Australia in the years ahead.

However, with my increasing sense of calling to environmental stewardship and leadership, I decided that it wasn't appropriate for me to apply for a leadership role with SU Australia. My role as State Director will conclude as part of the national integration and I will finish my time in leadership with SU mid-year. I have been really thankful for the encouragement and wisdom of the SU Victoria board as I've processed this decision.

SU has an incredible heritage of ministry innovation and faithful service here in Victoria. Over the past seven years, it's been beautiful to connect with so many passionate SU people and to participate in a number of new ministry developments. Our field team now works regionally in an integrated way, drawing together and cross-pollinating our missions, camps, chaplaincies and schools ministries. It's a joy to see Coolamatong thriving and with wonderful new facilities. The local catalyst approach is gradually gaining traction and we



look forward to bringing our internship model into national.

SU is fundamentally a grassroots movement and we fulfil our mission through incredibly dedicated and generous volunteers, supporters and staff. I am so grateful for all that you bring to SU. I'm thankful for each person who has encouraged, prayed for and supported me as I've led SU Victoria over the past seven years. SU has deeply shaped who I am as a person, a follower of Christ and as a Christian leader, and so many people have contributed to this next step of faith that I and my family are taking.

I have been part of many prayer meetings in recent years, in which people prayed, 'Lord, SU is yours!' As SU Victoria becomes part of the national movement, I look forward to seeing how God uses SU in Victoria and across the country!

Thanks for your partnership in SU Victoria. It has been a pleasure to serve in this movement together with you.



God bless you!

Justin

