MUSTARD LEADERSHIP MAGAZINE



UNLEASHED

STUDENTS IMPACTING SCHOOLS WITH JESUS

JUNE 2025 | EDITION 009



WITH JUST ONE

ln the

spring

of 2002, а seed-sized idea led a youth minister, Peter Carolane, and a small group of Christians to establish a schools' ministry committed to supporting students in their faith and sharing God's love in schools across Melbourne. lt Lunchtime Group started with one and and then two three then more! Schools saw innovation our passion, in creative and ability to convey the gospel Schools Presentations, ways; and so our initially 'Mustard Live', were launched. known as

Twenty two years later, Mustard has expanded throughout Victoria and into Tasmania and South Australia. The legacy continues: of empowering Lunchtime Groups to explore Jesus with their peers; of presenting Jesus to large groups of students with music, drama, testimonies and fun; of partnering with churches and individuals who believe in the power of youth and are willing to invest in them as leaders. Consider the impact: tens of thousands of students have heard the good news of Jesus! The seeds that have been sown continue to take root and God's kingdom continues to grow. And so the next chapter begins as Mustard impacts this generation, one school at a time. Indeed, the future looks bright!

Long may it continue to host many in its branches!



TO SEE LIVES TRANSFORMED BY JESUS IN SCHOOLS



STUDENTS LEADING STUDENTS TO JESUS IN SCHOOLS

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by CEO, Lara Ruddle

Stard UNLEASHED

UNLEASHED

Synonyms: Let loose, Unlocked, **Released, Launched, Set Free**

This sums up the past year for Mustard.

We have seen a flood of Christian students LET LOOSE on public and private schools all over Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. There remain significant legislative restrictions on adults talking about faith in public schools and even in private schools there is pressure to diminish religious discussion for fear of offence. One chaplain was told to run an Easter service without mentioning Jesus and one school has turned the longstanding chapel into a performing arts centre. Therefore, the student voice proclaiming the gospel is more significant than ever before.

The unleashing of these leaders reminds me of the story in Luke 10, where Jesus sends out the 72 disciples ahead of him to every town and place. Jesus said to them:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."

Despite the opposition, we have seen Christian students stand up to be leaders of Lunchtime Groups where they have the opportunity to share Jesus with their peers and love their school communities. Mustard now supports a record high of 85 lunchtime groups across four states! We have seen a boldness and confidence UNLOCKED in many students who previously felt fear and doubt. Students often take a year or more from first hearing about Mustard before they feel ready to start a Lunchtime Group. Nathan (who you can read more about on page 17), would describe himself as reluctant initially, but with the encouragement of Mustard, he followed God's calling to start a group at his public school and the group has flourished.

Just like Jesus equipped his disciples before he sent them out, Mustard is always looking for new ways to support our Student Leaders and after two years of planning, we have just RELEASED a lovely box of game and prayer cards, a question and prayer beach ball, different bible study question cards and over 50 new Bible studies! Some of the topics we have LAUNCHED are Suffering, Purpose & Calling, Friendship and books of the Bible including Romans, Luke and the 'I Am' passages in John. The highlight for me was seeing students filming a promotional video that schools can use to advertise their Lunchtime Groups. This included videos to accompany

CEO'S MESSAGE



some of the studies, including a Student Experiences series where students talked about praying, gifts and calling and how they have held onto their faith in tough times. A huge thank you to Julia, JP, Olivia, Nathan, Talei and Bronwyn, who are truly an inspiration.

Jesus told his disciples to go into people's homes, share in their lives and proclaim:

'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

As we see students living this out in schools, we see Mustard's mission fulfilled of "Students leading students to Jesus." I hope you enjoy reading Nathan's incredible story of leading Taikei to Jesus through his Lunchtime Group, spending time with him and inviting him to his youth group. Taikei was SET FREE from fear and the despair and in his words he has "learned what it means to be reborn, and what it means to truly live life."

I am thankful for your partnership in helping Mustard to support students like Nathan, who in turn has impacted Taikei. Enjoy reading this edition of Seed with its many more encouraging stories. I would appreciate it if you would continue to pray and give financially in order to help us reach more students:

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." 633 Unreached VIC Schools 146 Unreached SA Schools 50 Unreached TAS Schools



Luke 10:2

P A G

4 states

7200 students reached each year

35 active lunchtime groups

seminar & chapel programs each year

VIC

Ashwood Secondary College Ballarat High School Balwyn High School Bendigo Senior Secondary College Box Hill High School Camberwell Girls Grammar School Camberwell Grammar School Camberwell High School Canterbury Girls' Secondary College Carey Baptist Grammar School Carwatha College Chairo Christian School Drouin Donvale Christian College East Doncaster Secondary Eltham High School Koonung Secondary College Firbank Grammar School Girton Grammar School Glen Waverley Secondary College Highvale Secondary College Ivanhoe Grammar School Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School (Primary) Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School (Secondary)

John Monash Science School Kilvington Grammar School King's College Warrnambool Kinross Wolaroi School Lakeside College Luther College MacRobertson Girls' High School Melbourne Grammar School Melbourne High School Melton Christian College Mentone Girls' Grammar School Methodist Ladies' College Mount Clear College Nossal High School Nazareth College Officer Secondary College Phoenix Community College Presbyterian Ladies College (2 groups) Sandringham College Siena College Scotch College St Andrews Christian College St Helena Secondary College St Paul's Anglican Grammar School Strathcona Girls Grammar

Thornbury High School Trinity Grammar School (Primary) Trinity Grammar School (Secondary) Trinity College (The University of Melbourne) Waverley Christian College (Wantirna) Waverley Christian College (Narre Warren) Wesley College

QLD

Calvary Christian College Livingstone Christian College

SA

Aberfoyle Park High School Adelaide High School Cedar College Concordia College Endeavour College Glenunga International Hope Christian College (2 groups) Immanuel College Portside Christian College Roma Mitchell Secondary College St Peter's College The Heights School Unley High School Woodville High School

TAS

VIC

Australian Christian College Calvin Christian School Geneva Christian College Hobart College Launceston Church Grammar School Launceston College Leighland Christian School Northern Christian College Southern Christian College St Mary's College St Michael's Collegiate School The Hutchins School

3

Reason To... Student Leader Conference

For the past three years, Mustard has collaborated with PLC to run an inter-school student conference based on the theme Reason to...

Reason to Hope, Reason to Believe and Reason to Shine







Students from over 10 public and private schools came together with excitement to meet other Christians who were keen to live out their faith at school. The event includes:

• Outdoor Games (there is nothing better to get everyone interacting and having a laugh)

• Workshops with topics like: "Sharing your Faith without the Cringe", "Sharing the Gospel in Creative Ways" and "Being a light at school"

(thanks to Pete Sorrenson and Tim Sheely from AFES/CU for presenting one)

- Worship and guest speaker (thanks to Josh Millard for encouraging us this year)
- Dinner and the opportunity to meet lots of students from other schools
- The legendary student panel, where we hear stories of Lunchtime Groups and faith lived out at school and

• Reflection and prayer time – students wrote their "take away" point on silver stars and prayed with Mustard leaders for God to empower them to live for him.

COME ALONG NEXT YEAR AND BE INSPIRED!



TASMANIA REPORT

12

Lunchtime Groups



We have had a great start to

the year with Mustard in Tasmania, connecting and working with various schools and Student Leaders. One of the highlights has been schools' eagerness to engage with our Leadership Programs. Here is a taste of some of the works that have been happening...

Leadership Training at Southern Christian College

Our updated Mustard Leadership Training Program was first launched

at Southern Christian College in Kingston. Working with a superb group of student leaders from Year 10, we actively engaged with what it is to be a Christian leader through the Four Cs framework: Calling (doing what God wants you to do), Competence (being good at what you do), Confidence (knowing what you can do), and Character (being who you were made to be). Throughout the day-long seminar, the students explored their divine purpose as leaders, developed essential leadership skills, built confidence in themselves and others, and reflected on Christian character traits such as integrity, humility, and compassion. The program culminated in a practical planning session where the student leaders were able to create SMART

"One of the highlights has been schools' eagerness to engage with our Leadership Programs."

goals for the year ahead.

Training Day with Lunchtime Group Leaders across Tasmania

There has been a wonderful swell of interest and passion for new Lunchtime Groups to start in schools around Tasmania. Gathering at Wellspring Anglican Church, students and leaders from Launceston Christian School and Collegiate College met together to be trained in how to start and run a lunchtime group. These students have

BY ERIN JUERS

School Programs Director

a passion for sharing the gospel in their schools and their heart for mission was so encouraging! We explored how to lead a Lunchtime Group through the four pillars of Lunchtime Groups: Gather, Explore, Live, Multiply. Each of these pillars offers a foundational element

> to what makes a group run effectively, including how to create a hospitable and welcoming space, facilitating discussions with varied group dynamics, practical and creative ways to read the Bible, and then how to live out their faith within the wider

community. One teacher in attendance reflected, "When young people take ownership of their faith and find ways to share it authentically with their peers, the results can be transformative—not just for individuals, but for entire school communities."

We pray that these training days will continue the movement of studentled Christian Lunchtime Groups across Tasmania.







It has been such a privilege to witness the growth of Mustard SA over the past year, especially as there have been so many supporters joining with us as we walk towards our vision of seeing Jesus known in schools.

Being able to come alongside our Student Leaders—empowering and encouraging them as they lead their Lunchtime Groups, is such a joy. It's inspiring to see their confidence grow, along with their love for Christ and for those in their communities.

We have grown to 10 groups; with an Anglican School, Lutheran Schools, a Baptist School, and a growing number of public schools. Our passion for this ministry is always renewed when we hear stories from our schools:

- a group whose love for Jesus is so infectious it revived their school chapel services, with students taking the initiative to preach and lead worship;
- a state school group persevering despite no longer being allowed

BY SARAH BURNETT & MAKAYLA LOCKWOOD

South Australian Student Support Coordinators

access to a classroom and deciding to meet in the school library;

- a group working on reaching their hard-working senior school students, as they know how stressful life can be without Jesus' peace;
- a college's school announcement about their 'God's Girls' group leading to an interest for a boys' group that will start under the name 'Lord's Lads'.

This is a small glimpse of all the amazing things God has been doing through our students in our schools!

Our Student Leaders are truly living out 1 Timothy 4:12: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." How incredible it is to be involved in a ministry like this!

It has been great to visit and speak

at youth groups, conferences, and camps in order to inspire even more students in their journey to starting a Lunchtime Group. Showing the love and hope of Jesus Christ to their fellow students is the most awesome opportunity! Visiting the Lunchtime Groups in action is another great way that we support our Leaders, and being able to see them in action is always a privilege.

The 'Not Ashamed of the Gospel' Conference in March was a highlight, marking our third year being involved. The event is an amazing time of worship, prayer, and encouragement for our students as they live out their faith at school. Mustard had the opportunity to run our 'Overflowing Gospel' session as an elective, where we helped young people learn different ways of articulating the gospel. Seeing over 200 students on fire for Jesus is indescribable.

We are always eager to partner with churches to support youth in their leadership. We welcome the opportunity to visit services



" It's inspiring to see their confidence grow, along with their love for Christ and for those in their communities."

to encourage local churches to commission and pray for their *Student Missionaries*. This year, Trinity Church Adelaide invited us along to three of their services to facilitate a commissioning of all their students across these gatherings. At each service, we interviewed a different student who shared with the congregation about what it's like being a Christian at school these days and how they are living out their faith in their classrooms. The entire church then prayed for all the school students who were present. Seeing the entire church come around their youth was truly a special experience, and one we hope to replicate at other churches!

At the end of last year, our fellowship as Mustard SA continued with our annual 'Walk the Way' event! We gathered supporters, Student Leaders and parents to walk 10kms of the Linear Park Trail in an

effort to raise money for Mustard's ministry. This was a great time for intergenerational connection between supporters and students. At this event, we also farewelled our pioneering SA Director Jacqui Maynard and Student Support Coordinator Bethany Pillay. We are grateful for how they have paved the way for Mustard in South Australia.

Thank you for your partnership and support. We pray that you might help us raise up more students to lead Lunchtime Groups so that more lives will be transformed by Jesus.

> A G



Farewell to Jacqui and Bethany at Walk The Way and celebration of two years of Mustard in SA.



I am OCÉANE FORD

An alumni who still continues to help run a weekly Mustard Lunchtime Group at her high school.

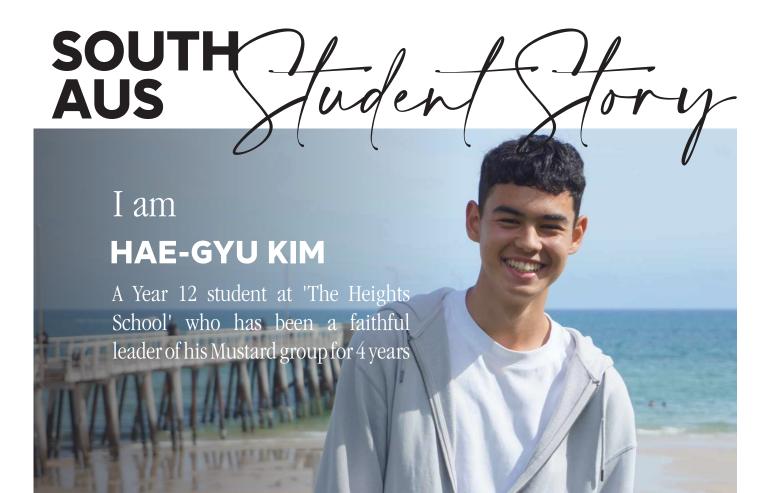
I am Océane, and I graduated from St Michael's Collegiate School in Hobart in 2024. I first heard about Mustard through workshops at a camp I've attended for several years. So I was thrilled when my School Chaplain invited me to get involved in our Lunchtime Group. In Year 11, I began assisting our School Chaplain to run the Mustard Lunchtime Group for students in Years 5 to 8, on the Middle School campus. Stepping into Year 12, I took on the primary leadership role for the group, which was a rewarding opportunity to grow in confidence, develop my leadership skills and build a deeper connection with students.

Over the two years, attendance varied, but we generally had a consistent group of around 12 students. At our Lunchtime Group, we aimed to foster Christian fellowship across year levels and encourage students to explore God's word and its relevance for life today. It has been such a joy to see community built and students grow in faith. Some even chose to be confirmed at the end of 2024.

Since graduating, I've continued to be involved through a traineeship under the School Chaplain, where I'm still helping to run the group. It's been especially encouraging to see some of our students transition to the Senior Campus and start their own Mustard group there. The resources and support from Mustard have been instrumental in helping our group thrive.

Leading the Mustard group has deepened my own faith and shown me the power of community in a school setting.

MUSTARD.ORG.AU



How did your group start?

My sister started the group back in 2014 with a friend, as a group for Christians to come to during lunchtimes. It was a space to hang out and talk about each other's experiences. My other sister joined as a leader when she was in Year 9, and I started coming along with my friends when I was in Year 7. I was asked to be a leader in Year 9, and obviously I agreed!

What does your lunchtime group look like?

At the moment we meet in the library during lunch on a Friday. We start off with general chatting and catching up or a game, as it's meant to be a very chill environment while everyone arrives. Some weeks we do a devotion, others we read a passage of the Bible and discuss with each other about the message and what we thought or found interesting. Other weeks we will watch a video from a series on the Mustard Hub. We really like those!

How many people do you have coming at the moment?

Currently, we get around 10-12 people coming each week, some who are Christians and some who aren't. At the start of the year, it was more like two or three, and there was even one week where it was just me doing a devotion by myself. But it takes commitment, and now we have a good group coming.

What have been some difficulties that have shaped you?

Leading the group has really tested my faith, especially being the only leader. Last year, we were removed from our classroom and told we could continue—but not as a Christian group. That made me question whether I should keep going. However, we moved to the oval and as a result, numbers have dropped, and each week brings new challenges—bad weather, tech issues, and more. We've tried to get our classroom back, but the school strongly rejected us. Despite that, we're still praying and pushing forward. Sometimes I want to give up, but I know God is working. Leading this group has really grown my confidence in sharing the gospel, and now I'm known at school as "the Christian guy", which has opened more opportunities to talk about Jesus.

What have been some of the biggest blessings since starting your group?

I think it has been cool to see a community come together. The 10-12 people who come each week are not the same, but if all the regulars come along then it gets even bigger and it is a little community building each other up that is positive. It creates an enjoyable place at school that is fun to come to.

We also had a student come along last year who heard the gospel at our Lunchtime Group and then chose to give his life to Christ. It was really special to be involved in that whole experience!

How has being connected with Mustard helped you and your group?

Being connected to Mustard has been really valuable. Year 11 and 12 are really busy years so sometimes you don't have the time to write a study or find something to talk about, so it has been very helpful to go onto the Mustard Hub and find a video or resource that is relevant for our group. Also, having Holiday Hangs where student leaders catch up is encouraging, as I can see there are other people doing it too, and going through the same things as me. It's a great community to be part of!

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STUDENT MOVEMENT

The Mustard Student Movement is a network of passionate and faithful Christian students committed to living out their faith and making a Kingdom impact in their high school communities.



STUDENT MOVEMENT REFLECTIONS



BY FAITH NATOLI Student Movement Director 2022-2025

The Greatest Joy: Reflections on My Time at Mustard

As I wrap up my time on staff at Mustard after two and a half years, I'm filled with a deep sense of gratitude and awe. It's hard to put into words just how much this journey has meant to me—but I'll try.

Coming from the world of youth pastoring, I stepped into Mustard not entirely sure how things would translate. However, in many ways, I became a roaming youth pastor—journeying alongside students not just in one local church, but across schools, suburbs, and even the country. My job was to walk with them, encourage them, pray for them, speak into their leadership, and continually remind them: you are making a difference right where you are. And wow—did they take that to heart!

What I love most about Mustard is that we are quite literally doing what Ephesians

4:12 tells us: equipping the saints for the work of ministry. But the saints we're equipping aren't adults in pews, they're teenagers in classrooms. They're students who have chosen to take the gospel seriously, to lead boldly, and to bring Jesus into their everyday lives at school. These are not just "future leaders of the church." They are the church right now.

It might sound cliché, but I genuinely mean it: the best part of this role has been working with the students. They embody everything Mustard exists for. They've taught me more about courage, faith, and resilience than I ever expected. These young leaders have stood tall in the face of fear and anxiety. They've pressed on through peer pressure, scrutiny, and even bullying—all for the sake of making Jesus known. They've created safe spaces for their friends to explore faith, they've shared testimonies, led devotionals, and invited classmates to encounter the love of God. They've even brought their teachers into the journey. And in all of it, they've reminded me what it looks like to follow Jesus with everything.

We've seen Lunchtime Groups grow. We've seen new ones planted. We've seen students bring their friends, and we've even seen teachers and peers come to know Jesus because of their boldness and faithfulness. I've watched these students step out of their comfort zones time and time again—for the one! Just like Jesus did.

Some stories will stay with me forever:

Nathan and Taikei from Box Hill High School; Julia from Wesley College;

Talei from Upper Yarra Secondary;

JP from Camberwell Grammar;

Lily from Footscray High School;

Olivia and Josephine from PLC;

Joe and Michael from Scotch College; and Lily from Ballarat.

These names represent just a few of the incredible young people I've had the privilege of walking alongside. Each one is a living testimony to what can happen when a student says "Yes" to Jesus and "Yes" to leadership. And I could fill more pages with names, stories, and God-moments that would stir your heart.

And as I step away from this chapter in my life, I want to leave you with a Scripture that I believe captures the heartbeat of Mustard, the heartbeat of our students, and ultimately the heartbeat of God:

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." — 1 John 4:7–12 (NIV) That is the gospel. That is our message. And that is what we see our students living out in their schools week after week imperfectly, courageously, faithfully.

As Mustard steps into its next season, I couldn't be more excited for what's ahead. Our new resources are going to lift the game and provide even more tools to empower young people. The vision is expanding, the groundwork is strong, and the mission remains the same.

So my final encouragement is this:

Continue to stand with our young people. Cheer them on.

Pray for them.

Be an example of bold, Jesus-centred faith. Support them with your time, your resources, and your presence.

And never forget that we are called to equip the saints—our students—for the work of the Kingdom. It has been my greatest joy and deepest privilege to do exactly that at Mustard.



HOW WE SUPPORT STUDENTS

Mustard Lunchtime Groups are student-led communities that gather on a weekly basis to explore faith in Jesus, encourage one another, and live out their faith by multiplying disciples in their schools.

85 GROUPS NATIONALLY



Kickstart Meetings - Our team completes a Lunchtime Group Planning Canvas with Student Leaders which helps them prepare to start their group.

Commissioning Services - This is an opportunity to celebrate and pray for Student Leaders at their local church or youth group.

One-on-one Mentoring - We meet with Student Leaders regularly to guide them in their faith and Lunchtime Group journey.

Student Leader Zoom Meetings - Our team trains and equip Student Leaders through Zoom Meetings and these also provide an opportunity for Student Leaders to share their Lunchtime Group experiences.

The Mustard Hub - Our online Web-App is where students can access a variety of Bible study resources and Leadership Training, as well as post ideas to the whole Mustard community.

Gatherings - We organise events to empower students in their leadership journey and provide them networking opportunities



NEW RESOURCES

After two years of planning, we have officially launched Mustard's new resources for Lunchtime Groups. The resources include:

MUSTARD TOTE BAG

Not only a fashion statement, but essential for carrying around all the resources

BEACH BALL

To throw around and answer one of the questions or prayer prompts facing you:

- What is the worst vegetable?
- Where would you go if you could fly?
- What parable or miracle stands out to you?
- What do your parents think about God?
- Pray for your Principal
- Pray for school support staff eg. maintenance, admin

MUSTARD CARD GAME PACK

Cards with icebreakers games, creative Lunchtime Group ideas and prayer activities, all in a custom designed box with a dice, timer and pack of playing cards

BIBLE STUDY TOOL CARDS

These can be applied to any study and encourage everyone in the group to contribute their thoughts. These techniques include Bible Jamming, S.O.A.P, the Swedish Bible Method and "What, Who, How, When" questions.

BIBLE STUDIES

There are over 70 new studies which means that students have high quality material available on our Mustard Hub Web-app without any preparation!

We are thankful for the incredible Jenny and Matt from Blue Bandicoot Studios and Ben Whimpey from Indimax Productions for helping to make these resources a reality.

NEW BIBLE STUDIES



Luke Galatians I AM Creative Psalms James Parables Women of the Bible OT Characters Fruit of the Spirit

mustard

God and Suffering Person of Interest Heart, Soul and Mind Student Experiences Different Religions How to ...(read the Bible, Pray...) Purpose and Calling Friendship Romans ...and more!

Sible Jamming

16 .

A G

STUDENTS LEA NATHAN & TAIKEI'S STORY

Hey! I'm Nathan, and I'm Taikei. We're both Year 11 students at Box Hill High School, and we felt it was important to share the story of Taikei's recent journey to faith in Jesus—and the impact it's had not only on him, but on myself (Nathan) personally as the leader of our Mustard Lunchtime Group.

We want to start by thanking Mustard for the incredible support they've shown—not just to our school community, but also in each of our personal walks with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

With that said, we'd like to dedicate this story to God, as a testimony of His endless grace and mercy at work in Taikei's life.

Nathan's reflections on leading Taikei to Jesus through his Lunchtime Group...

At the end of 2023, I was given the opportunity to start a Christian Lunchtime Group at Box Hill. The only challenge was that I'd be starting it on my own, with my only support coming from Mustard. Through Mustard's connections, we were able to find two more students from Box Hill who were willing to help launch and lead the group with me!

It was through this Lunchtime Group that my friend Taikei had the chance to ask more questions about Christianity and what it means to live as a Christian. As the group continued, Taikei and I started having more conversations about God outside of school when we hung out, and eventually, he began coming along to my youth group—which later led him to give his life to Christ.

Seeing Taikei come to know Jesus has been such an encouragement to me. It's pushed me to keep faithfully sharing



Box Hill High School Lunchtime Group

the gospel with my peers and has deepened my own walk with God. His constant questions have challenged me to dig deeper into Scripture and seek answers to the big questions. In doing so, my understanding of God, the Bible, and my own faith has grown stronger.

Taikei's story on coming to know Jesus...

Attending our Mustard Group has done a lot to bring me closer to God. With the help of my good friend Nathan, I have a newfound relationship with Jesus Christ.

I found that the weekly Lunchtime Group meetings gave me the perfect starting point to ask questions and learn more about faith. One lunchtime turned into two, then into three, and soon I found myself having even deeper conversations with Nathan about faith, suffering, hope, and what it means to give your life to Jesus. He, and others, at the Mustard Group answered my questions and doubts, and I slowly began to open up to Jesus.

Now I've given my life to Him and been reborn in the name of Jesus Christ. I've come to better understand my friends, my family, and even myself—things I never truly understood before. This relationship with God has given me a whole new perspective on life, and most importantly, a deep assurance of hope and faith for the future.

In moments of despair, when it feels like the suffering will never end, the teachings of the Bible have helped me stand back up. One verse that really stayed with me is 1 Peter 3:14: "But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." This verse has helped me through tough times and reminded me to look to Jesus Christ as the light at the end of the tunnel. One of the biggest things I've learnt over these past few months of knowing Jesus is to not fear the future—because I know I walk with Him by my side.

After giving myself to Jesus, I've found a new sense of purpose and faith that has helped me through some difficult and dark times. It's helped me become the man God made me to be. This new relationship has given me hope and a new understanding of how to live life. As Isaiah 41:10 says: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

I'm beginning to understand what it truly means to be reborn and what it really means to live with Jesus and without fear.

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24

WRITTEN BY NATHAN TAN & TAIKEI TAKEDA

17

ING STUDENTS TO JESUS



" [Nathan] and others, at the Mustard Group answered my questions and doubts, and I slowly began to open up to Jesus."

STUDENT STORIES

Nossal High Berwick

by Joelle Ting

What do you love about your Lunchtime Group?

Definitely the willingness to learn and serve that we see in each of our members, whether it's just listening attentively, volunteering in fundraisers, or organising games! It's not just Christians who attend, which makes it a beautiful space where people from all backgrounds come and encounter God's love. I love the community that has formed, especially the connection between different year levels. I am also amazed at how much growth God has brought in such a short time, bringing many new people to learn about Christ and what it means to follow Him.

What made you want to take on leadership to run a Lunchtime Group?

I felt called to take on leadership after seeing many different worldly beliefs in our school. This inspired in me a desire to build a strong Christian community that would stand firm in our beliefs. At first, the new leaders and I didn't feel completely ready, but when the previous leaders chose us, we sensed that God was calling us into this, and He's used this opportunity to grow us in our own journeys with Christ in powerful ways! We're passionate about teaching, speaking, and helping others on their faith journey—because we know the power of Christian fellowship and how hard it can be to walk with Jesus alone in a secular environment.



What is the hope you have for your Lunchtime Group?

Our hope is that we can help young Christians grow and deepen their faith, while also **planting seeds in the hearts of others, opening them up to God.** We want to build a strong, united community rooted in God's Word, one that supports each other through hardship and boldly spreads the light of God's kingdom within Nossal High!

Wesley College, Glen Waverley

^A 19 -

by Julia Milson

What do you love about your Lunchtime Group?

Something I love about my Lunchtime Group is that when teaching other people about God, I also get to learn more about Him. It also makes me more inclined to read the Bible and learn about the stories as I need to prepare to share with the group. I love my Lunchtime Group because at my school there aren't many Christians, so it's special that we get to come together and talk about God.

What made you want to take on leadership to run a Lunchtime Group?

I never really participated in the Lunchtime Group at my school, so I was very surprised when one of my brother's friends (who was the leader of the group at the time) came up to me one day asking if I would be able to take over the group when he graduates. I never expected it, but I didn't hesitate to say yes. I felt like it was something I should do and that God was steering me in this direction.



What is the hope you have for your Lunchtime Group?

For my Lunchtime Group, all I want to do is to create **a** welcoming space where people can come, Christian or not, to learn more about God and how to build a relationship with Him.

Glenunga International High School

by Jemima Forsyth & Hannah Duffett

What do you love about your Lunchtime Group?

J: I love the way that we have been able to grow the number of people coming! Being able to see their commitment each week has been super encouraging, especially amongst the younger year levels. It's such a blessing to see how God is working throughout the group.

H: School can be so chaotic and overwhelming that Jesus gets lost in the mess. Particularly at a public school, it can feel like church and school are separate. **Having a Lunchtime Group means that God is a part of every area of your life, not just at church**, and it's an encouraging experience to meet other Christians at your school.

What made you want to take on leadership to run a Lunchtime Group?

J: I decided to take on leadership for this group because of the passion I have for gathering people together, growing others in faith and loving people.

H: I wanted to become a Faith Captain because I wanted to improve my own faith, and how students experienced the Lunchtime Group. Previously, the meetings felt like another teacher-student lesson. A friend and I decided to change the way it was run and do bible studies, which was only possible through taking on the leadership. In the first term alone, we had a huge rise in participation, and saw younger students come along.



What is the hope you have for your Lunchtime Group?

J: This year, our overarching theme has been 'On Fire For Christ' which links well with my passion! I am always praying that more students from the senior year levels would make the time to come to our Mustard Group and be able to connect well with the rest of the school.

H: My hope is that people can consistently come in the long term. We have had lots of people come through for a couple weeks then not surface again for a term. I hope that the bible studies are useful for their faith, so they keep coming.

Camberwell Grammar School

by Ethan Tan

What do you love about your Lunchtime Group?

If I had to summarise everything I love about our Lunchtime Group, I would say it would have to do with seeing the passion that the boys have for Christ in that room. From the fire-filled discussions we have, to the desire of wanting to improve themselves into greater Christians. It is amazing to see how willing these boys are to change everything in their life for the Name of Christ

What made you want to take on leadership to run a Lunchtime Group?

Ever since truly coming to Jesus in 2023, I have had a growing desire to learn more and more about God. Having this newfound knowledge of my faith, I was no longer afraid of spreading the gospel. In fact, it became a passion. Ever since I had learned about the role for Faith and Social Justice in my school, I felt a pull and calling towards it. This leadership role not only allows me to teach more about Christ to many other boys of similar age, but it also allows me to develop my leadership skills as a whole, which will no doubt be useful in the future.



What is the hope you have for your Lunchtime Group?

I hope for our Lunchtime Group to grow in numbers. But more than that, I pray that the passion for Christ in these boys never fades even after their time at CGS, and that they continue to fight for the Gospel in years to come. I'm having faith that Mustard at Camberwell continues to become more and more integrated into the school community, knowing how much it means to the boys, particularly in the younger grades

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Mustard seminars and chapel services seek to engage students through a creative, informative and interactive format. Our aim is to reveal the heart of Jesus while creating a fun and engaging environment for every student!

> written by Erin Juers & Lara Ruddle

SCHOOL PROGRAMS In Review

Connection, Gratitude and Climate Advocacy and Stewardship were the hot topics for our School Programs over the past year. Whether presented in the form of a chapel service or a seminar, we had the opportunity to connect with thousands of students and share the gospel through the lens of these themes. The highlight was Scotch College's Faith Week where we had an extended time with each year level over four days to present on the topic of Science and Faith.

1491 boys, 4 scientists, 2 doctors, 4 musicians, 3 actors ...

Is Science and Faith like a Tug of War? Where there can only be one winner for the truth? Do Christians throw all reason and logic to the wind, like a catapult flinging balls into the air? Is faith blind, like when you try to guess an object with a blindfold on? Through games (yes - thanks to Tom's Shed at St Hilary's we had a huge catapult that launched "soft" balls into the crowd of energetic boys), live music, compelling drama and a panel of experts, we were able to break down the myth that only Science or Faith can be trusted and true.



Here's what some of the boys had to say afterwards:

- "I learned that Christianity does not conflict with science as much as I thought it would
- "Life's questions can't all be answered from science"
- "It was good to have my views challenged
- "I learned about the validity of the bible
- "I liked the games and the deep conversation
- "I learned that science and Christianity can both be true. I also really liked the songs."

We look forward to continuing to challenge students to ask the tough questions in life and presenting them with the good news about Jesus in fun and creative ways!





Over the past 22 years, Mustard has been known as an organisation that empowers and trains students to be leaders and presents on topics that engage students with the Christian faith in creative and engaging ways. The Mustard Leadership Program combines both our strengths, offering a Christian framework for training Student Leaders and equipping them to make meaningful contributions in their school community and beyond, whilst incorporating interactive activities, a tangible object lesson and memorable moments through song, drama and games.

The **GROWER** Christian Leadership Program offers a comprehensive, biblical approach to developing Student Leaders throughout their secondary education journey. This progressive six-year curriculum strategically builds leadership capacity through age-appropriate workshops aligned with students' developmental stages:

G - **Groundwork (Year 7):** Establishes a biblical foundation of identity and introduces servant leadership principles through Jesus' example.

R - Responsibility (Year 8): Cultivates values-based decision making and accountability, helping students understand the ripple effect of their choices.

O - **Opportunity (Year 9):** Equips students to identify needs within their community and show initiative in goal setting, problem-solving and taking action.

W - Wisdom (Year 10): Develops discernment beyond mere knowledge through biblical principles, ethical decision-making, and conflict resolution skills.

E - **Empowerment (Year 11):** Trains students in mentoring, delegation, and creating inclusive environments that affirm others' abilities.

R - Resilience (Year 12): Prepares graduates to maintain their identity and character through challenges by connecting personal calling with purpose beyond school.

Schools recognise that "our tomorrow" will be shaped by those we equip today. Mustard thrives on partnering with schools to invest in the next generation who will grow into the future leaders of the church and the wider world. Contact Erin to find out more.



Meet Erin...

I have always loved being a part of a school community – as a student, then a teacher, and more recently as a chaplain. The heartbeat of a school is the students, and I hold it as an incredible privilege to be a part of their world in what can be one of the most formational seasons of life. The energy, the rhythms, the relationships, the mundane and mountain top moments of school days are what makes ministry within schools so full of potential. Coming from a background of performing arts and chaplaincy, the role of School Programs Director invites me into a space to share the light and love to Jesus in creative and captivating ways, which makes me excited for the future of Mustard's programs.



OUR PROGRAMS

SCIENCE & FAITH

An invitation to students to embrace the possibility that science is a mechanism for exploring how God's creation works, rather than it being mutually exclusive to faith.

AMAZING GRACE

An exploration of the origins of the famous hymn and why grace is something that everyone needs.

CLIMATE ADVOCACY

With an expert guest speaker, we delve into the issue of biblicallybased stewardship and sustainability.

MEASURING UP

An insight into the impact that comparison to others can have on self-esteem, and how young people can know their individual worth.

UNCOMMON COMMUNITIES

Exploring the importance of relationships, belonging, and the intrinsic value within each person.

LEGO & LIFE

An interactive program using LEGO as a metaphor to discover the importance of building life on a strong foundation, while learning how students' individual stories contribute to God's bigger picture.

PURPOSE & POTENTIAL

NEW

NEW

Students explore their God-given strengths and passions, reflect on their core values and craft a personal vision that inspires purpose and direction.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Partnering alongside not-for-profit organisations to facilitate service activities, as well as exploring the history of human rights and the motivation for Christians to serve the underprivileged.

VALLEYS

This program provides space for students to consider the presence of suffering through the lens of faith and God, exploring how we can live with resilience and hope in this broken world.

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COMMUNITY Service **ACTIVITIES**



- 141 biscuits
- 108 egg & bacon pies
- 35 sewn hearts
- handcrafted photo frames
- coasters & cards

At the end of last year, Mustard continued its innovation of facilitating community service activities for Camberwell Girls Grammar students.

Together with volunteers from St Hilary's Anglican Church, the students crafted Christmas gift packs for the residents of Prague House (a facility that supports residents living with a mental health diagnosis and or an acquired brain injury). The highlight for the girls was the cross-generational collaboration with Tom's Shed Kew to make wooden photo frames and the making of resin coasters with small business 12 Stones Co.

Additionally, the girls sewed hearts for Prison Fellowship, prepared labels and tags for the HOPE Community Op Shop and baked egg and bacon tarts and chocolate balls for the Boroondara Community Outreach Centre.





We had the opportunity to visit the school beforehand to share a message about Jesus' love for the poor and the history of human rights stemming from Christianity. Both the young and old(er) were able to give faithfuelled testimonies of why they volunteer their time to help others. It was a joy to be able to facilitate this connection between the local church, a school and Christian aid organisations.

EVENTS, YOUTH NIGHTS, CAMPS & CONFERENCES

Mustard runs and partners in events that encourage and equip students to live out their faith at school. We host and speak at conferences and camps like CYC, STIR, Teen Street, and Teen Mission, and are excited to co-host the *Reason To* Student Conference with PLC.

Other gatherings include our Inter-School Prayer Breakfast, Walk The Way, Student Holiday Hangouts, our annual dinner, and end-of-year celebrations — all designed to inspire and connect young Christian leaders.

We also love visiting youth groups to share Mustard's vision and encourage students to consider starting a Lunchtime Group or another gospel initiative at their school. These nights often spark partnerships with churches and create a ripple effect as students invite their friends to both school groups and youth group.



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YTHFEST

YTHFEST, hosted annually by Full Gospel Assembly and LifeGate Church's youth groups—FUNGUS and Youth Alight—brings local youth ministries together to empower young people to be *home grown*: rooted in their local church and released to impact their world, starting with their schools.

This heart strongly reflects Mustard's mission to partner with churches to equip youth to live boldly for Jesus in their schools. We were honoured to join over 280 youth at this year's event and share how they can start Lunchtime Groups and lead others to Jesus right where they are.

We sent Sarah to share her story about when she started a Mustard Group at her school to encourage YTHFEST attendees—reminding them that if God gives them a burden to do something in their school for Jesus, they can trust He will build what He calls them to start.

STIR Conference



Encouraging youths at STIR Conference to take action in sharing their faith at their schools.

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KINGDOM Therships

We partner with local church communities and organisations to see young people activated into the missional call that God has for them in their schools.

Will your church or organisation partner with us?

There are so many opportunities for Mustard to grow, but the best way to do so is with churches and organisations that share our vision for youth ministry and adopt us as one of their mission partners. Not only do these partnerships provide us with ongoing financial security and prayer support, they enable us to reach more students who in turn can lead their peers to Jesus. Contact our CEO Lara Ruddle to discuss partnering with us.

lara@mustard.org.au



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CROSSWAY YOUTH

It was awesome to be part of Crossway Youth's Schools' Exhibition Night—an evening focused on equipping students to live out their faith at school. We interviewed four students who shared about leading Lunchtime Groups and how they navigate the challenges of being a Christian at school. We love running student panels because they showcase real stories from students who lead by example—reminding others that they don't have to hide their faith, and that they're not alone.

Later in the night, students gathered in groups by school to pray for their peers and talk about how they can be a light in their context. It was amazing to see how many schools were represented, and to watch students realise they have others in their school to stand with.

EPIC YOUTH

We were invited to run a youth night at Epic Youth as part of their Gospel in Action series. Faith shared a compelling message about the power of the gospel, why we should be eager to share it, and practical ways youth can live out their faith. As part of the session, we split students into their life groups and handed out Mustard's Gospel Cards—an easy tool with three key points to help students remember and retell the full gospel story to their peers.

It was an energising night that not only deepened their understanding of the gospel but empowered them to actively share it with others.

A number of students expressed an interest in Mustard helping them to start a Lunchtime Group in their school.



VIC

Youth Visits

Camberwell Baptist Church City on a Hill Cross Culture Crossway Baptist Church Deep Creek Anglican CityLife - EPIC Youth Lifehouse Church - Forever Youth Kilsyth Baptist Church Ormond Anglican Church St Thomas' Anglican LifeGate Church - Youth Alight

Events

VCYC (Camp and One Night) Stir Conference CYC Ridley College Children's and Youth Ministry Training Day Youth Alpha National Retreat Luther Writers Retreat Reason to Believe (PLC) Reason to Shine (PLC) Teen Street SUTS Faith Week Youth Alive Academy COACH



Church & Youth Visits

Trinity Church Adelaide Unley Park Baptist Lifehouse Church

Events

Not Ashamed of the Gospel 2025 Baptist Youth Pastors Brunch BASE Camp (Trinity)

TAS

Anglican Leaders in Training Conference



Teen Mission

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Walk The Way





Last October, 85 students, parents and supporters participated in Mustard's annual "Walk the Way" fundraiser.

In South Australia, all participants walked together 10km of the Linear Park Trail, finishing with a celebratory lunch.

In Victoria, the goal was for each team to 'walk the way to 100k!' Some formed strategic alliances to reach this goal and other individuals essentially walked or ran a half marathon to lead their team home. One committed student, Hajin, ran a mammoth 27kms! He was part of the combined team of Box Hill Secondary, PLC, and Melbourne Grammar that walked the most number of kilometres!

Congratulations also to Scotch College (VIC) and Glenunga International (SA) for raising the most money as teams, as well as to Nathan (VIC) and Hae-Gyu (SA) as individuals.

The highlight of the day was seeing students, parents, and supporters chatting to their friends and also making new friends as they walked together for a common cause (and of course there was nothing better than finishing the day with a Mr Whippie sherbet icecream!)

We were extremely grateful to the generous "matching donations" from Milner + Huang and Morella Tyson. A big thank you to everyone who participated and to everyone that donated. We raised over \$22,000 across Victoria and South Australia! We look forward to seeing you again in October!







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In 2024, Mustard officially turned 21—and we marked this milestone with a celebration worthy of the occasion! Our Coming of Age High Tea brought together students, supporters, and long-time friends of Mustard to celebrate over cups of Earl Grey, delicious scones, and a spread of savoury treats.

We were honoured to welcome special guests including Mustard's Founder, Peter Carolane, and Martine Wilson, the second-ever staff member of the organisation. Their presence was a beautiful reminder of Mustard's rich history and the legacy of faithful leadership that continues to shape the ministry today.

The highlight of the event, as always, was hearing from the students. Johanna shared her struggle and subsequent triumph of starting a Lunchtime Group at MacRobertson Girls' School. With excitement and boldness,





the Trinity Primary School boys shared what their group means to them and led us in prayer—lifting up their older peers running Mustard groups in high schools across Victoria. Finally, Lachlan spoke about his apathy towards Christianity as he started high school and how an invitation to Scotch's Lunchtime Group introduced him to Jesus and changed his life. He is now leading the group!

We love hosting gatherings that connect our community and create space to celebrate all God has done—and is still doing—through Mustard. For our student leaders, these moments are especially significant. They get to see firsthand the people who are standing with them—praying, encouraging, and supporting them financially—as they courageously share the gospel in their schools.



ter-school

PRAYER BREAKFAST



There's something profoundly moving about people gathering to pray—especially in the stillness of an early morning, before the rush of school and work begins.

This year, we had the joy of hosting our annual Inter-School Prayer Breakfast at Camberwell Grammar, where 170 students, staff, parents, and supporters of Mustard came together to pray for schools across Melbourne.

One of the most powerful moments of the morning came from our student panel. Taikei shared how he came to faith in Jesus through the Lunchtime Group at Box Hill High School, faithfully led by his friend Nathan (page 17). His words painted a beautiful picture of hope—describing Jesus as "light at the end of the tunnel."

Ethan, a student leader at Camberwell Grammar, inspired us with his vision to see not just growth in numbers, but a deepened understanding of God among his peers. Julia's story, from Wesley College, was a heartfelt reminder of resilience. Even when no one showed up to her group at first, she remained faithful—and over time, saw God bring growth and boldness (page 19).

Guests also got a hands-on glimpse of Mustard's work through the launch of our new Lunchtime Group Resource Pack and the debut of our interactive prayer beach ball—an engaging tool to encourage prayer and connection.

We closed the morning in unified prayer, led by chaplains from 13 schools, reflecting on the attributes of love in 1 Corinthians.

This event was more than just a breakfast. It was a reminder of the power of prayer, the courage of young leaders, and the faithful God who is moving through students in schools across Melbourne.



MEET THE TEAM

OurBOARD



CHAIR NEALE MEREDITH

Neale is the Principal and CEO of the Australian College of Ministries, and has previously served in ministry through local church, state and national leadership roles. Neale also has substantial experience as a senior executive and is a veteran in the Australian youth ministry sector – a rare and valuable combination that serves the governance of Mustard well.



BOARD MEMBER

Elida is a long-serving board member of Mustard. She has had an impressive career as a teacher and principal, as well as a famed acting cameo role as the fictional Principal of Summer Heights High (it's true!). Elida has served on the boards of Methodist Ladies' College, Korus Connect and numerous other organisations.



TREASURER

Sam is the Business Manager for Bursty Advertising Services, a graduate of the Melbourne Business School, and certainly no stranger to the Mustard community. As both an inspiring Lunchtime Group leader and Mustard Schools' Program volunteer over the years, Sam is still highly sought after as an authentic and engaging speaker for students at his old school.



SECRETARY WILLIAM MESSER

William is a lawyer whose professional experience includes working with charities and not-for-profits. Will was involved in his Mustard Lunchtime Group while he was a student, and hence recognises the impact of the ministry of Mustard.



BOARD MEMBER

John has been a school teacher for 30 years and is currently teaching Religious Education at Presbyterian Ladies' College. While John has taught a number of subjects over the years, he says his enduring passion is teaching RE and inspiring youth to follow Jesus in their own lives.



BOARD MEMBER ELIZABETH POLAND

Elizabeth has extended experience in school-based ministry. She juggles pastoral ministry for a church on Hobart's Eastern Shore with work for the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania overseeing the development of youth ministry and assisting in the Anglican camping program.



Jo is the Founder/CEO of mainly music. She is also the Visionary of mainly Ministries, which incorporates the mission models ... mainly music, mainly play, and mainly babies, found in New Zealand, Australia, the UK and various parts of the world. Most of her working life has been in charities. Jo's passionate about revealing Jesus and loves speaking to crowds.



Vicky, Head of Junior School at King's Baptist Grammar in Adelaide, mentors Arrow Leadership participants and is passionate about 'Lunchtime Groups'—a commitment sparked in her school years. Throughout her career, she's nurtured student leadership and faith, witnessing their lasting impact on young lives and future leaders.

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MEET THE TEAM



LARA RUDDLE



CEO

SARAH PHUN



DESIGN COORDINATOR

ALICIA GREGORY



STUDENT MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

SARAH BURNETT



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR

JACK HOLLOWAY

ACCOUNTS MANAGER

ERIN JUERS



SCHOOL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

MAKAYLA LOCKWOOD



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR

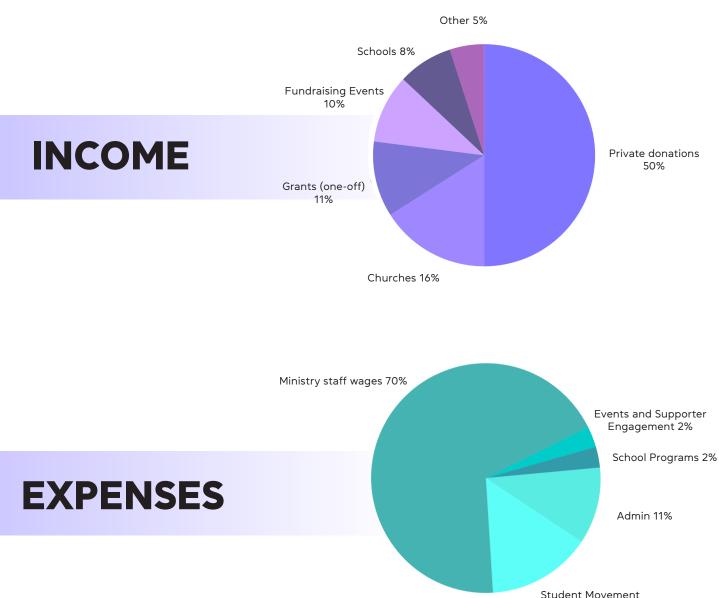
VOLUNTEERS

Bella Lincke Cameron De Silva Charli Lincke Daniel Soe Doug Crocket Geoff Buchanan Ian Wallbridge Jackie Lam Joshua Millard Joyce Soe

Kane Lach Liz Webster Marinus Van Meerten Nicole Kandyliotis Peter Sorrenson Tim Sheely Trinity Melich

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FINANCIAL REPORT



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15%

Throughout Mustard's 22 year history, God has faithfully grown the ministry by providing through a number of income streams. Private donations have always been the most significant source, in which we are so grateful to our community of 'Growers' who have given over the years. We are also thankful to the churches that have faithfully supported us since we started and those who continue to support us generously. We are praying that each of these income streams would continue to increase, so that more students lives can be reached and transformed in schools across Australia.

Staffing costs are Mustard's main expense. Staff are key to how students are empowered and inspired... they train students at school, in conferences, at camps and youth nights, mentor students one-on-one, present large group seminars and chapels to students...all this and so much more.

Grants have been instrumental for our launch into Tasmania and South Australia, for which we are extremely grateful, but we now need raise the funds to sustain this increased staff team.

You can be part of the mission

The Mustard family includes our student leaders, Lunchtime Groups and staff team. It also includes gifted and generous supporters, volunteers and donors. Without them, we couldn't do what we do.

Will you join with us to see students' lives transformed by Jesus?

Pray

If you'd like to join us in praying for students as they lead other students to Jesus, you can subscribe to our email updates or come along to our prayer gatherings. For more information, please visit:

mustard.org.au/pray



Our gracious God has provided for Mustard through the generous support of donors for many years. We have so many opportunities to grow and see even more students come to know Jesus. We'd value your support to see this happen. You can do this by donating online at:

mustard.org.au/donate

or via Direct Debit:

Account Name: Mustard Leadership Australia Inc.

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 139 623 334

Volunteer

We're blessed to have a number of people who volunteer with us – but we'd love for more people to join us so that we can do even more for Jesus in schools. We need musicians and presenters for our chapel services and seminars. We also need mentors for our student leaders and administrative help in the office.

mustard.org.au/join

Leave a gift in your Will

Another way to support our mission is to leave a gift in your Will (a bequest) to Mustard. You will be investing in the next generation of student leaders, and helping to take the gospel into more schools around Australia. Your bequest can be a fixed sum of money, a particular asset such as real estate, or a percentage of your estate.

We would love to hear from you if you have included Mustard in your Will. We would like to thank you personally for your generosity, and our CEO, Lara, would love to take you out for a coffee. Please contact: **lara@mustard.org.au**

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"The Mustard group answered my questions and doubts, and I slowly began to open up to Jesus."

- TAIKEI TAKEDA, BOX HILL HIGH SCHOOL







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