MUSTARD LEADERSHIP MAGAZINE ISSUE 10 2026

SEED



BREAK THE SILENCE

STUDENTS LEADING STUDENTS TO JESUS

mustard
GROWING FAITH IN SCHOOLS

WITH JUST ONE SEED

In the spring of 2002, a seed-sized idea was planted by 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. It started with one Lunchtime Group and then two ... three and then ... more! Schools saw our passion, innovation and ability to convey the gospel in creative ways; and so our Schools Presentations, known initially as 'Mustard Live', were launched.

Twenty three 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; presenting Jesus to large groups of students with music, drama, testimonies and fun; and 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 Mustard host many in its branches!



VISION

To see lives transformed by Jesus in schools

MISSION

Students leading students to Jesus in schools

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by CEO, Lara Ruddle

BREAK THE SILENCE

A new generation finding its voice

It has been 10 years since legislation was introduced in Victoria and Tasmania (and shortly thereafter in SA) that removed religion from the curriculum and prohibited adults from leading Christian Lunchtime Groups or speaking about their faith at school. As a result, we have seen public school chaplains re-branded as Well-Being Co-ordinators, who are essentially limited to sharing God's love with deeds rather than words. Whilst private schools still have freedom to talk about faith, there has been a shift towards being inclusive of all religions and a fear that the claims of Christianity may be seen to offend and result in parent complaints. Therefore, chapel services in many of the Grammar schools have been limited to once or twice a term for as little as 15 minutes and Religious Education curriculum is being replaced by well-being or values programs.

As the adult Christian voice has been silenced in schools, Mustard has been able to empower and elevate the student voice. Student-led Lunchtime Groups provide a way for students to lead their peers to Jesus and to see our vision fulfilled of lives being transformed by Jesus in schools.

Since the beginning of this year, we have seen an explosion of interest from students in living out their faith in their mission field at school. This has resulted in 37 new groups starting across three states with 23 of these in public schools. Many of these groups have started in the midst of opposition. Recently, we have had a number of school leaders seek to deny a Christian Lunchtime Group starting in the name of "secularism". Here are some examples:

> *"We have a responsibility to maintain a secular educational environment … We encourage students who wish to explore or participate in faith-based activities to do so through their families, places of worship and community organisations outside of the school setting."*

> *"As a public school, we are required to approach student groups in a secular manner … Because of this, we are not able to support a group centred on one specific faith."*

Mustard has played a key role in helping students to politely inform their Principals that **secularism doesn't mean that schools should be devoid of religion, it actually means that all world views should be freely expressed and equally accepted.** There are many other clubs that allow students to express their identity and consequently to deny a Christian club actually amounts to discrimination. In John Inazu's book, *Confident Pluralism*, he calls Christians to be humble rather than defensive, patiently persuade rather than co-oerce or marginalise and tolerate and respect rather than demonise. These are characteristics that Mustard is seeking to instil in students as they navigate these interactions.

We trust that it will prepare them to be wise stewards of the gospel as they make their way into the wider world.

Our theme for this year has been "Breaking the Silence!" In Acts 18, after Paul had been abused by the Jews in the synagogue, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."

In the midst of opposition from teachers, fellow students and sometimes family, our goal at Mustard is to empower more and more students to live out their faith boldly at school. We know that it's times of hardship that often produce the most growth and we have seen this both in terms of the maturity of faith in our leaders and the number of seekers coming along to Lunchtime Groups.

I am thankful for your partnership in helping Mustard to support students like Asher, who in turn has impacted Yehen. Enjoy reading their story on page 18 along with many more encouraging stories. I would appreciate it if you would continue to pray and give financially because if we have experienced God's love despite our flaws and if we have discovered the greatest thing in the world is Christ, how can we be quiet about it?

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."
ACTS 18:9



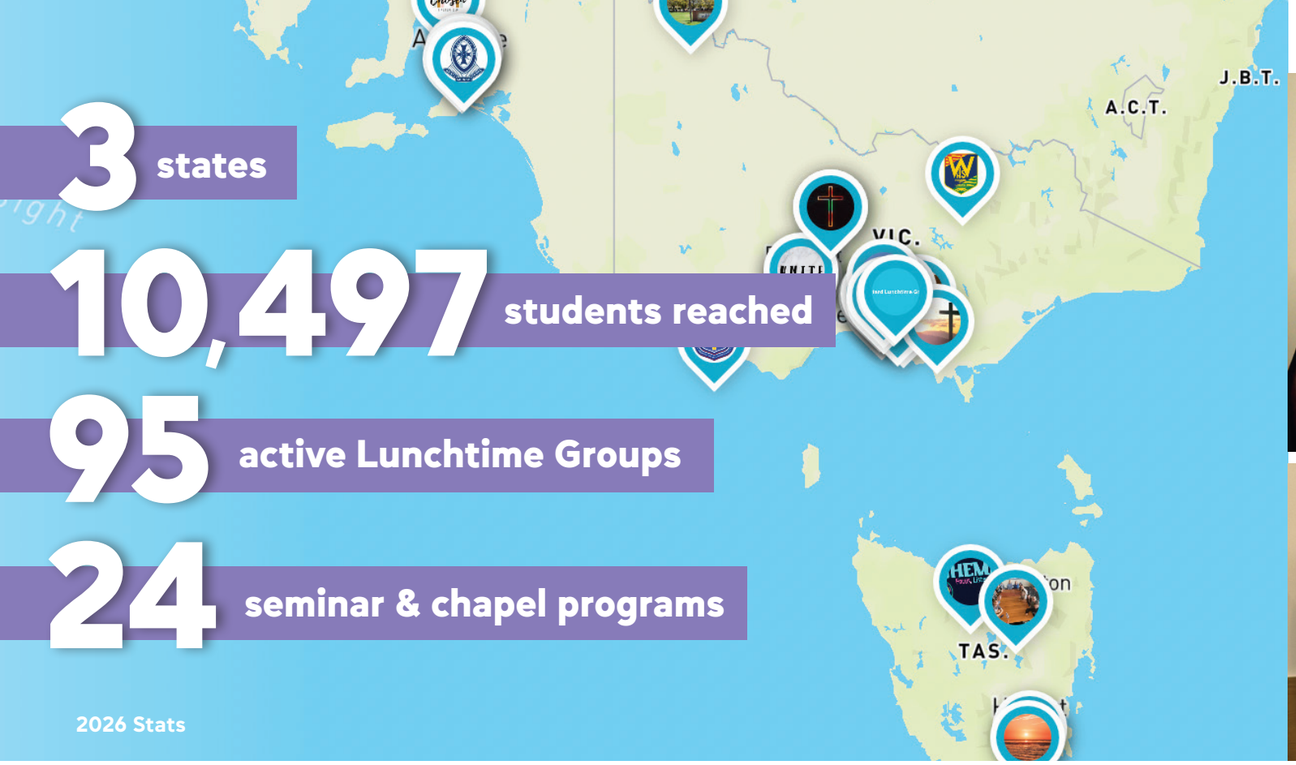








Melbourne Prayer Breakfast with Tim Costello













Student Leaders Ella, Marian and Gianna with Alicia

VIC

Balwyn High School
Ballarat Clarendon College
Belgrave Heights Christian School
Bendigo Senior Secondary College
Box Hill High School
Brauer College
Brunswick Secondary College
Camberwell Girls' Grammar School
Camberwell Grammar School
Camberwell High School
Canterbury Girls' Secondary College
Carey Baptist Grammar School
Chairo Christian School, Drouin Campus
Chairo Christian School, Leongatha Campus
Cranbourne West Secondary College
Eltham High School
Firbank Grammar School
Frankston High School
Genazzano FCJ College
Glen Waverley Secondary College (Yrs 7-9 and Yrs 10-12)
Gippsland Grammar
Hamilton College
Hillcrest Christian College
Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School (Primary and Secondary)
Ivanhoe Grammar School
John Monash Science School
Koonung Secondary College
Lakeside Christian College
Luther College
MacRobertson Girls' High School
Melbourne Grammar School
Melbourne High School
Melton Christian College
Methodist Ladies' College
Monbulk College
Mount Clear College
Mount Waverley Secondary College
Mornington Secondary College
Nazareth College
Nossal High School
Overnewton Anglican Community College
Phoenix P-12 Community College
Presbyterian Ladies' College
Red Boys' Bible Study (Neerim District)
Red Rock Christian College
Rivercrest Christian College
Santa Maria College
Scotch College
St Andrews Christian College
St Pauls' Anglican Grammar School, Warragul
St. Pauls' Anglican Grammar School, Traralgon
Strathcona Girls Grammar (Yr 9 and main campus)
Thornbury High School
Tintern Grammar
Trinity Grammar School (Primary and Secondary)
Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School
Vermont South Secondary College
Victory Christian College
Warracknabeal Secondary College
Waverley Christian College
Wesley College
Wellington Secondary College
Yarra Valley Grammar School

SA

Adelaide High School
Banksia Park International High School
Berri Regional Secondary College
Cedar College (Primary and Yr 9)
Concordia College
Emmaus Christian College
Endeavour College
Glenunga International High School
Henley High School
Hope Christian College
Horizon Christian School
Loxton High School
Open Access College
Portside Christian College
Prince Alfred College
Rivergum Christian College
Seymour College
St Francis of Assisi College
St Peter's Girls School
Temple Christian College
The Heights School

TAS

St Michael's Collegiate School
Southern Christian College
Calvin Christian School
Launceston Church Grammar School
Leighland Christian School
The Hutchins School

PRAYER BREAKFAST

160 people. 18 schools. One powerful morning of prayer.

It was so inspiring to see over 160 people wake up before the sun had risen to gather together to pray for the schools of Melbourne.

In March, Mustard hosted its annual Inter-School Prayer Breakfast where students and staff from 18 schools shared their experiences and led prayers for their schools.

As usual, the student panel was the highlight! It was so encouraging to hear from the Thornbury and Melbourne High School Groups that both started small but are now thriving, with lots of non-Christians coming along each week. Some weeks Melbourne High has 40 students in the room! It was incredible to see Marian's bravery at starting a Group at Thornbury High, with English as her second language, and having such a heart to share God's love and build connection and friendship with her fellow students. Elise's story was also memorable with her friend coming along to her Lunchtime Group at Camberwell Girls' Grammar after being disengaged with faith and now having a personal relationship with Jesus and going along to Elise's Youth Group.

Join us at next year's Prayer Breakfast to encourage and pray for the students of Melbourne who are boldly leading Lunchtime Groups and being a light in their schools.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Across Victoria, South Australia and Tasmaina, young people are stepping up to lead, share their faith and make an impact in their schools. This year has been one of refreshing, resetting and building stronger foundations for student leadership.



Alicia Gregory and Hannah McArdle

VICTORIA

and National update

Reflecting on the last year and nationally, it is amazing to see all that God has done. As we look ahead to 2027, our leadership team is in a strong position with Mark and Makayla in South Australia, Hannah as our Victorian Regional Director, Catherine Williams, starting as our new Tasmanian Director and our very first cohort of interns: Ella Smith, JP Ma, and Lachie Ramsey in Victoria, alongside Hae-Gyu Kim in South Australia. These four trailblazers will soon become the first graduates of our newly launched internship program.

Nationally, there is a powerful sense of unity and a shared desire to see God move in schools. Students are increasingly eager to step up to lead students to Jesus in their schools and make a meaningful impact in their communities. Our hope is to see students, schools, and youth groups deeply invest in school ministries and ignite a passion for local mission.

You may have noticed that we have changed our wording when we refer to the Lunchtime Group and student space from 'Student Movement' to 'Student Leadership.' This is just a small change to bring extra clarity around what we do - helping shape Christian Student Leaders. Students are the leaders of the future, but they can also be the leaders of today! These courageous young people are receiving the experience and training needed for future leadership by doing something meaningful in their schools. It might be on a small scale, but like the Mustard Seed, God can use their efforts to have a massive impact.

METRO UPDATE

Week after week, we have the privilege of meeting with schools, youth ministries and young people to discuss how to share faith in schools. We have some incredible long standing Lunchtime Groups which are a great inspiration for the new metro Lunchtime Groups that have started in the last 12 months - schools like:

- Camberwell Girls' Grammar that has had a Lunchtime Group since Mustard started and has designated leaders called "Mustard Mentors"; and
- Presbyterian Ladies' College that has a group run by dedicated Faith Captains, which has seen up to 85 girls attend this year.

To the fresh schools like:

- Thornbury High which has two passionate students seeing a mixture of Christian and agnostic peers coming to their group each week to hear the good news; and
- Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School which has a committed small group seeking to reach out to their friends in the arts sphere, which is often so resistant to Christianity.

This year we've helped support 16 metro Lunchtime Groups in starting up and we've put new systems in place to increase support around these young Christian Leaders that are stepping up in their schools to facilitate a space of faith.

"Students are increasingly eager to step up to lead students to Jesus in their schools"

REGIONAL UPDATE

Since the start of 2026, we have created 'metro' and 'regional' areas for Victoria; the intention behind this being to recognise and meet more specifically the different needs that Student Leaders face because of their location and how that impacts their school ministry. Hannah, our new Regional Director, has a soft spot in her heart for the regional areas, having grown up in Gippsland herself.

This year, we have seen our Regional Lunchtime Groups grow from 11 to 22 groups, with another five schools in the startup process. This is more than just a doubling in size, it also means that our regional students are being properly supported, mentored and resourced with intentionality.

As we seek to build new relationships, we have organised two large-scale regional events with Youth Alpha, one in Geelong hosted by City on a Hill and one in Ballarat at York St Church of Christ. This is the first time we have initiated such large regional events and we pray that it will result in an influx of students keen to start new Lunchtime Groups in these areas.

Please continue to pray for the growth in our regional schools, and for our increasing connections with rural churches and communities, that they will feel both supported by Mustard, and in turn they will be able to partner with us by introducing their young people to us.











Hannah McArdle and Alicia Gregory

TASMANIA

A Growing Hunger for Leadership

Across Tasmania, we are witnessing a growing interest in equipping students for both faith and leadership. Through individual school workshops, church visits, and dedicated leadership camps, we have been consistently meeting young people who are passionate about making a meaningful impact within their school communities. The landscape for faith-based activity in Tasmanian schools looks different to what we often navigate in Victoria and South Australia, with schools appearing to have more room to nurture voluntary spaces where students can explore and share faith. At the same time, Tasmania has its own unique context, particularly across rural communities where distance, isolation, and local priorities can shape school life in significant ways. As a result of this, social connection and leadership training have become increasingly desired by both schools and students.

A recent highlight was the Southern Tasmania Student Leadership Conference which brought together 70 students and teachers from four Christian schools in the Hobart area.

The primary goal of the day was to invite students into active, meaningful roles in fostering faith at their schools. **Many students shared that they can find it difficult to express their faith, even within a Christian school environment, making this opportunity to network and realise they are not alone profoundly impactful.**

Here are some of the students' reflections made during the day:

CHALLENGES AT SCHOOL	DREAMS FOR MY SCHOOL
Rejection or indifference	Acceptance and love/ connected community
Interacting with other religions	More outreach/ fundraising/ events
Secularism/Satanism	For faith to be shared/ people come to know God's love

CHALLENGES IN MY CITY	DREAMS FOR MY CITY
Poverty	Kind/ connected community
Anti-Christian	Spaces for people to learn about God/youth groups/ events
Division/ hate	Positive Faith conversations
Loneliness	Outreach

After this brainstorming, we were thrilled to see every group leave equipped with brilliant, actionable ideas to take back to their schools.

Earlier in April, we ran an interactive workshop on "How to Share your Faith without the Cringe" for the Southern LiT (Leaders in Training) camp. It was encouraging to see so many young people engaging in this with a keen heart and a desire to learn how to talk about faith with their peers. One of these students is now looking to start a Lunchtime Group in her school. We were inspired by the dedication that LiT puts into prioritising quality leadership training for youth and we hope to keep partnering with them next year.

In the north, one of the highlights was running a two-day Leadership Retreat for Student Leaders from Leighland and Launceston Christian Schools. It was so clear how eager these students were to grow in their ability to share Jesus with their schools. Their Christ-like character, servant-hearted attitudes, and depth of maturity was so inspirational. On our final night, instead of our pre-planned movie night, the students asked to lead a beautiful impromptu, spirit-led worship session.

We left feeling filled with great hope for the future leaders of the next generation.

Our Tasmanian Student Leaders are shining the bright truth of the Gospel to their peers despite many cultural and rural challenges. These young men and women of God are refreshingly down-to-earth, honest, and truly on fire for Jesus. Please be praying for more church connections and for students to step up and be bold in facilitating a space for faith to be explored in more public and private schools across the state.











Mark Marno and Makayla Lockwood

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Faithful in the Harvest Field

The Mustard SA team has seen some change in the past 12 months, as Sarah Burnett moved on to an internship with Trinity Church Adelaide, Mark Marno stepped in to take on the role of Mustard SA Director and Hae-Gyu Kim joined the team as our first ever Mustard intern. The continuity offered by Student Support Coordinator, Makayla Lockwood has been such a blessing, both to students and the new team, in what has proven to be a busy 2026.

We have been blessed to share the work of Mustard Student Leaders at camps, conferences, retreats and youth groups, encouraging young people to see their schools as places for Christian community and gospel witness. Through partnerships with Veta Morphus, the Centre for Public Christianity, Bible Society Australia and Cedar College's Not Ashamed Conference, we have connected with hundreds of students and staff, equipping new Student Leaders and supporting existing Lunchtime Groups. Workshops at Novo Camp and Redefinition have led students to sign up to lead after learning how to share the gospel effectively and run a Christian Lunchtime Group. We have also connected with youth ministries across denominations—including EYU, Fusion Youth, G1 Youth and Kingdom Youth—sharing a ministry that unites God's people around the mission of seeing students lead for Jesus in their schools.

The growth from 2025 has continued into 2026 to the point where we now find ourselves supporting 22 Lunchtime Groups in schools, with several more expressions of interest. Our prayer is that by the end of 2026, we will be supporting close to 30 student-led groups in South Australian schools.

This growth has been particularly encouraging given the opposition some of our Student Leaders have faced. **South Australia currently has groups in eight state schools which is a testament to the resilience of the Student Leaders, some of whom have been consistently knocked back for official recognition of their group for over a year** and have been meeting without a classroom, support from a staff member or the ability to advertise the presence of their group. Student Leaders have bravely been meeting with Principals, armed with Mustard's prayers and advice about the legislative framework, with a view to establishing their groups.

> *One leader, Megan had the great joy of seeing her online school's vehement opposition to her group turn around when Mustard's input persuaded the school leadership to seek guidance from the Department for Education. Megan has now launched her group called Salt & Light and Mustard was privileged to be able to support her through a virtual message in a commissioning service at her regional church in Port Lincoln.*

So, why do these students continue to push for Christian Lunchtime Groups in their schools? Hebrews 10:23-25 provides the reason, *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

What Mustard Student Leaders consistently tell us about their groups is summarised in two words - "Community" and "Growth." They have reflected:

> *"Everyone in the group is super encouraging to the other students, and what we love about our Lunchtime Group is how close we have been able to become with other year levels at our school."*
> - Horizon Christian School

> *"I love hearing everyone's perspectives and listening to each other's practical applications when we all discuss the same Bible passage."*
> - Open Access College

> *"We have learned so much about Jesus together with our group, and we are so encouraged by it!"*
> - Ceder College

Empowering more students to lead in their school mission field was the motivation for teenagers and adults alike to participate in the national 24 hours of silence challenge (which really was a challenge for talkers like us!) and our Break the Silence Quiz Night. The funds raised through these events are crucial in supporting Mustard's work here in SA. We invite you and your church to support us through prayer and financial contributions in order to ensure this vital ministry continues.

We long to see Christian students' voices amplified in every school through Lunchtime Groups so every student has the opportunity to encounter Jesus!













Intern Hae-Gyu, Student Leaders, Mary and Hannah with Makayla

HOW WE SUPPORT STUDENTS

95 GROUPS NATIONALLY

250 STUDENT LEADERS



Kickstart Meetings
A comprehensive planning meeting with the Student Leaders to prepare them for every element of running a Lunchtime Group.

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

National Virtual Workshops
Student Leaders gather nationally to share their Lunchtime Group experiences with each other and be trained in topics such as “How to answer tough questions” and “How to run an outreach activity at school.”

Events
We organise events such as our Student Conference, Prayer Breakfast and Annual Dinner to empower students in their leadership journey and provide them with networking opportunities.

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

Whatsapp Community
We have national, state and individual school chats for Student Leaders to give them the opportunity to safely connect with like-minded peers and share praise and prayer points.

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

Handover Meetings
We guide both current and new Student Leaders through a reflection process on the past year and help them set goals for the new year.

RESOURCES

Each Lunchtime Group receives the following resources:

MUSTARD TOTE BAG
Not only a fashion statement, but essential for carrying around all the resources.

BEACH BALL
To throw around and use to ask questions or prayer prompts such as:

- What is the worst vegetable?
- What parable or miracle stands out to you?
- What do your parents think about God?
- Pray for your Principal

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.

MUSTARD PINS
One of our favourite conversation starters, the Mustard Pin goes on school uniforms, bags and pencil cases. It’s a helpful, non-confrontational way to bring up Jesus in everyday conversations.

TESTIMONY CARDS
Lunchtime Group success stories, both of leading groups and of students coming to hear about Jesus for the first time. Each resource bag contains a selection of our favourite Mustard stories to encourage students.



THE LIFE BOOK
A copy of the book of John, insightfully and creatively annotated by teenagers. This is an incredible resource for those curious about faith but not ready to tackle a whole bible yet, or for those who come from backgrounds where it might be unsafe to have a physical bible at home. Each resource bag contains 5 copies to start with, and students can request more at any time.

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 studies available to students on our Mustard Hub. 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.

BIBLE STUDIES



- Luke
- Galatians
- I AM
- Creative Psalms
- James
- Parables
- Friendship
- Women of the Bible
- OT Characters
- Fruit of the Spirit
- God and Suffering
- Person of Interest
- Heart, Soul and Mind
- Student Experiences
- Different Religions
- How to ...(read the Bible, Pray...)
- Purpose and Calling
- Romans ...and more!

ASHER & YEHEN'S STORY

Meeting students where they are

Asher's story

In Term 4 2025, Mustard came to our church to encourage the youth to start up Christian clubs in their schools. God sparked a fire within me to share Jesus with my school, Mount Waverley Secondary College. A friend and I asked our Club Coordinator for a room — but being a public school unfortunately, he denied us support. However, we decided to run it anyway during lunch underneath a shaded area with some snacks (snacks + welcoming area + a heart for Jesus = successful Lunchtime Group!) Instead of being discouraged about this setback, we acknowledge that this was all in God's plan since being outside on the school grounds allowed us more opportunities to be bold with our faith and sparked curiosity in people walking nearby.

In April 2026, I started to have doubts about God not working within the club and began to feel overwhelmed with the pressure put on me. However, when Elijah was facing a powerful wind storm God spoke to him in a small whisper saying "Get up and eat". This story resonated with me and with the help of Mustard's encouragement and mentorship, I was reminded of Galatians 6:9. It says "Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." During May 2026, our church was running a Youth Alive event which I told my Lunchtime Group about and five of my mates, including Yehen, decided to come. During the response to Jesus time, I looked up to see all of them respond! My group had helped sow the seed and now I was seeing the harvest.

Mustard has helped us out since the start of our Lunchtime Group journey. We were able to get connected into an incredible community of Student Leaders at other schools, which made me aware of my brothers and sisters in Christ who also want to spread the Gospel within their schools. Additionally, Mustard has provided skills and resources like Bible, life books, study materials and game ideas. JP has been an awesome mentor and has helped me out with number of challenges I've faced when leading.

I feel deeply joyful for God's work through my group and even more passionate for the mission of furthering God's kingdom.

Yehen's story

I didn't have the privilege of being brought up in a Christian household. I was actually brought up Buddhist. One random Wednesday, I was home alone on my bed and I was doomscrolling and suddenly, I felt this sharp sense of fear and unease. I couldn't move my body at all, I felt paralysed! I could only move my thumb enough to continue scrolling, so that's what I did. I was being exposed to more and more negative reels every time I scrolled. But after a while, a bunch of Christian reels started popping up. A sense of calm and relief washed over me as I felt free of the paralysing feeling. That day stuck with me and sparked a curiosity in my mind to learn about Christianity.

When I moved to Australia and joined Mount Waverley Secondary College, a friend told me about a Christian Lunchtime Group. I decided to check it out. When I went along to the group, it was pretty small, but it didn't matter because that's where I met some wonderful people. From the get go, Asher Jess and Luca guided me to have a relationship with Jesus. They were the best! They were there whenever I needed them, initially through answering my endless stream of questions or later whenever I was struggling with my newfound faith. So I just wanna end my little story with a message. I wanna tell everyone that Jesus's hospitality can be matched by no one! And that he welcomes everybody from all walks of life, and that's why he's the greatest of all time!



STUDENTS LEADING STUDENTS TO JESUS



One of my leaders at our youth group told me that she could see me running a Lunchtime Group in the future. Then at a camp, I heard about Mustard, and **God placed in my heart to be part of this beautiful project,** opening doors for students to learn about our Saviour and His wonderful works. **Seeing students at my school who were so lonely or excluded** confirmed my desire to have a Faith Club at school.

We love how welcoming our Lunchtime group is, how everyone is up for participating, no matter if they're growing in their faith **or just wanting a space where they are included and loved for who they are.**

MARIAN AND HANNAH, THORNBURY HIGH

TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KEW

"The group is going super well - we have got almost 25 boys coming in regularly."

JED, SAUL AND ZANDER, TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PLC MELBOURNE



"Turn out is around 60 regulars weekly which is great to see. We are going well so far and cannot wait to keep growing!"

JOSIE AND TESSA, PLC

SALT & LIGHT • LUNCHTIME GROUP •

Everyone in the group is super encouraging to the other students, and people feel safe enough to share their thoughts and ask for prayer when needed.

My hope is that for those exploring their faith, the group is a safe place for them to ask questions. **Open Access can be lonely without a supportive friend group, given the distant nature of online learning**, so I am really hoping some strong friendships come out of this group.

MEGAN, OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE

We love the community in our Lunchtime Group. It is so special to have a **space where we can openly talk about our faith, encourage each other, and grow together.** Watching God move in our Bible study and throughout our year level has reminded us why this group is so important.

We love seeing **how God can use our group to make a positive difference within our school community** and year level!

We hope that our Lunchtime Group can continue to grow and become even more passionate about Jesus.

ANNABELLE, SIENNA, AND CADEY, CEDAR COLLEGE



BRAUER COLLEGE WARRNAMBOOL

"I have been bringing lots of snacks to the club [like Mustard suggested] and that brings so many passers by to ask more questions, and some have been getting really interested."

BEN, BRAUER COLLEGE

We've gotten to watch so many students grow in their faith along with us leaders who are also **continuing to learn through Mustards resources.** We also love that **our group is a judge free zone!** Anyone is allowed to come no matter what their beliefs are.

God calls us to serve and I think starting a bible study has really helped us do that.

DAKODA, SCARLETT, ALEXIA AND BENJI, HORIZON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, CLARE



MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE



"Because Mustard came to my church and preached about evangelising in schools ... I had a desire to start a Christian club at my school"

ASHER, MOUNT WAVERLY SECONDARY COLLEGE

WSC

"Our launch party was very successful. We had about 25 people walk in and hang out, they all wrote some God questions and I was quite surprised at the legitimacy of them which was amazing."

SETH, WARRACKNABEAL SECONDARY

"Our Lunchtime Group gave out free new testaments and life books (book of John). We handed out over 100 before we ran out!"

LUCY, BRYCE AND CAMERON, OVERNEWTON

Overnewton Anglican Community College



I love that in spite of all the other **unbiblical agendas pushed at our school, we are able to have a group that can shine the light of Jesus** to unbelievers and strengthen believers in their faith.

When I was having a meeting with the Principal about running the group, **he wanted the cross symbol on the poster to be much smaller,** but the assistant principal said "Look, I don't see what's wrong with having it there, if it was a Muslim group, they would want their symbol." It was so awesome to have a non-Christian teacher stand up for us.

OLIVER, MONBULK SECONDARY

"We run the group TWO Lunchtimes per week, with majority people coming to both which is amazing!"

NAOMI, MOUNT CLEAR

MOUNT CLEAR COLLEGE

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

4.5 STARS
FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

"Simply outstanding."

JAY JOHNSTONE,
BAYSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



Heather Cetrangolo and Joyce Soe

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Wider and deeper in 2026

In the past year, we have presented 24 programs, written two original songs, refreshed our service learning curriculum, interviewed 13 chaplains and travelled across Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). You heard right!

At Mustard, we are discovering that evangelism in schools is getting more complex, as we are traversing the needs of a wide range of students. Like witnessing in Jerusalem and Judea, some of the students we serve are already committed Christians, though from a wide range of denominational backgrounds, their experiences can be significantly varied. Like witnessing in Samaria, many students perceive Christians as strange, even dangerous. There are also those who, like travelling to the ends of the earth, have no knowledge of the Christian worldview at all.

When Mustard first formed, 23 years ago, we had a large team of artists and volunteers who created engaging Gospel presentations for schools. This work continues today in the form of our School Programs, though the communities we look out at in a school auditorium have changed, always including a strong presence of all these different kinds of students. For this reason, we are building resources designed to speak to a variety of starting points.

For the natural faith leaders

We work with Student Leaders to develop their own fresh content and ideas for mission. An exciting emergence in this space has been our **Song Labs Program, where we coach students to write their own worship song across four sessions.** Congratulations to Hillcrest Christian College on recording their original work, *Anavah (Humility)* to use in Chapel. **You can listen to it on Spotify!** We look forward to continuing to see new songs composed and recorded to be shared with schools across Australia.

We are also excited to see Lunchtime Groups spring up in Catholic schools and to engage with youth workers in these contexts. This year, our School Programs Director, Heather Cetrangolo, was invited to train 25 Catholic youth leaders who are working in schools and parishes, in how to renew and grow their outreach. We look forward to expanding these training opportunities in the year ahead.



"The students were engaged and understood service from a theoretical and practical level."

ALEX FLAVEL,
CAREY BAPTIST GRAMMAR



Waking up the sleeping ones

Let's face it - we know that no matter how engaging we make Chapel and Christian Education programs, there are always students who mentally check-out as soon as they walk in the room. Our mission is to share presentations with fresh content that will wake up the 'sleeping ones' by engaging them in a topic they are passionate about and linking that to the heart of God. Our ***Climate Advocacy program*** presents the science of how our ecosystem is impacted by overconsumption and overproduction. We draw out the impact of rejecting the sabbath from Genesis 2 and Exodus 7, all whilst eating chocolate, dancing and performing an original song.

Our revitalised ***Service Learning curriculum*** takes students on a journey into understanding the multidimensional nature of poverty. We share how Jesus and the Church today minister love to every aspect of human need and experience. In the course of a day, students enhance their teambuilding and communication skills through gamified learning, are introduced to the most recent research into the causes of poverty, engage in reflective activities and meet inspiring Christian leaders from our partner organisations.

For the ones who won't attend a lunchtime group

We know the importance of providing multiple pathways for students to encounter the love of Jesus, recognising that it isn't programs that make disciples, but relationships. For this reason, we have facilitated five hands-on ***service learning days*** in partnership with St Hilary's Hope, the Boroondara Community Outreach Centre, Embrace Sanctuary and Prison Fellowship. Year 9 and 10 students have had the opportunity to bake, write cards and make cheese boards for disadvantaged community groups, alongside youth leaders and church volunteers in a relaxed setting. **This has provided informal opportunities for students to ask their questions about faith (some chatting with us for an hour!).**

In summary, 2026 has been a year of exploring a range of strategies to reach a wide audience, whilst spending time in deep conversation with students and chaplains to understand their needs and dreams. We have found that at a moment in history when chaplains often have limited time and resources, students are asking us, "Can we have retreats like this all the time? Can we write more songs? Can we ask you about faith?"

> **We can trust that what we are doing is kingdom building when at the end of a Chapel, a student commented "I like God now!"**

We look forward to taking our learnings from 2026 to partner with more schools to go wide and deep.

"Relevant, interactive and informative."

ANDRIA VAN OTTERLOO,
RIVERCREST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE





OUR PROGRAMS

Service Learning

Mustard offers a full-day or half-day service learning Incursion: A World Without Poverty. Students engage in fun, practical skill-building in how to lead systemic change both locally and globally, following the example of Jesus and the early Church. There are also opportunities for practical community service engagement with our partner organisations, where students interact with Christian leaders in the social sector and participate in hands on service activities.

Song Labs

Song Labs is a series of songwriting workshops, for students to create their own original worship song. Mustard's expert songwriter guides students through the process. Congratulations to Hillcrest Christian College on the release of their original song, Anavah!

Mustard Original

Mustard presents chapel services and seminars, bringing original songs, dramatic and audiovisual presentations to engage young people in the issues that matter. Some of our most popular programs have been:

- Climate Advocacy,
- Purpose and Potential
- Measuring Up
- Uncommon Communities
- Valleys:
  Resilience + Hope = Win
- Science and Faith

We can also create a bespoke program for your school.



"I learnt that helping people feels good"

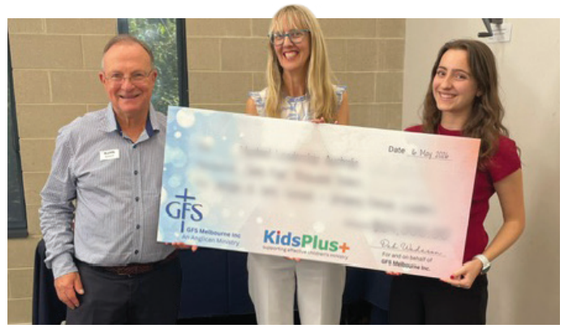
"I found what you presented really empowering"



"I like God now!"



KINGDOM PARTNERSHIPS



Keith Hanslow of Girls' Friendly Society presents a grant for new Lunchtime Groups in girls' schools

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

CHURCHES

St Hilary's

St Mark's Camberwell

CityLife Church

RED CHURCH

St Thomas' Burwood

ST JOHN'S DIAMOND CREEK

CLF Christian Life Fellowship

church @ paravista

ORGANISATIONS

BIG KIDS' TABLE

CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMPS

teen street

LiT

GFS

Alpha

BAPTIST WORLD AID

Melbourne PRAYER BREAKFAST

Milner + Huang

Morella Tyson

EVENTS, CAMPS & CONFERENCES

This year has seen a promising number of camps and conference visits from our Student Leadership Team. We have been able to facilitate many different workshops, ranging from our favourite "How to share your faith without the cringe" to new ones such as, "How to answer tough questions." We love sharing and creating these spaces, because we believe that camps and conferences are incredible places to nurture faith and grow curiosity, deepen understanding and ignite passion. Every person attending a camp/conference, regardless of their role, will always learn something new and grow in some way, because of the unique intensity and culture that is created in that space.

At Mustard, we thrive on being able to come into these places and teach and equip the youth who are hungry to learn, lead and love their peers in a more Christ-like way. We always leave camps and conferences on a spiritual and emotional high from the excited responses we get from teens about sharing their faith and we can't wait to see what 2027 holds for Mustard's future with more camps and conferences asking for our input.

With so many awesome interactions at each event, it's hard to pick just one highlight. However, Alicia and Hannah were given the incredible opportunity to be the Keynote Speakers at the *CYC Turbo Camp*, which spanned across four days. Speaking on the topic of "Having a Heart for the Lost" and presenting an evangelistic workshop, every young person in that room was encouraged and equipped to share their faith. By the end, we had seven different schools share their details to start up Lunchtime Groups. We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback following this camp.

So many students reflected that they were not only given the practical tools and resources to share their faith, but also spiritually fed and empowered to realise their calling and unique gifting to speak the gospel into their schools and to their peers.

Events:

Ballarat Regional Evanglism Training (VIC)
Deep Dive (SA)
Melbourne Prayer Breakfast (VIC)
Not Ashamed 2026 (SA)
REACH Geelong Evanglism Training (VIC)

Camps:

CYC Turbo Camp (VIC)
CYC - Phillip Island Adventure Resort (VIC)
LiT Camp - Belgrave Convention Centre (VIC)
LiT Camp (TAS)
Teenstreet - Belgrave Convention Centre (VIC)
VCYC Camp (VIC)

Conferences:

FAITH + CONF Northside Christian College (QLD)
Ridley Training day (VIC)
STIR Conference (VIC)
VCYC (VIC)
Youth Fest (VIC)

"...empowered to realise their calling and unique gifting to speak the gospel into their schools and to their peers."





YOUTH GROUPS

Equipping young people for mission

Equipping local youth ministries and their young people with tools for evangelism is something we are deeply passionate about. Every youth ministry should see its local schools as a mission field, and every young person should feel equipped to share their faith with others and bring friends along on the journey of faith. For this reason, we offer **free evangelism workshops** to youth ministries. Our workshops include training on 'How to Share Your Faith', 'How to Share the Gospel', 'How to Write a Testimony', and 'Understanding How Your Friend Comes to Faith'. Commissionings during services or at youth nights are also offered, where students starting their Lunchtime Group are prayed for and publicly supported. At the start of 2026, after a commissioning, youth from three other schools put up their hands to start a Lunchtime Group.

Looking ahead to 2027, our hope is to foster closer relationships with churches and youth ministries so more young people can be empowered to live out their faith.

It is so encouraging when youth groups embrace the Lunchtime Group model as an evangelism strategy and we can partner together to recruit and disciple Student Leaders.









VIC

Berwick Church of Christ
Beaconsfield Baptist Church
Camberwell and Canterbury Baptist
Crossway Church
Cor Youth
Cross Culture
Deep Creek Anglican
Epic Youth - Youth Leader House
Epic Youth Workshop - Casey Campus
FGA Mission Sunday
Girls' Friendly Society
Inner North Youth Group
Life Gate Youth
Lighthouse Youth
Maffra CBS
St Alfred's Anglican Church
St Andrew's and Hanbit Uniting Church
St Columb's Church
St John's Anglican Church
St John's Cranbourne
St Jude's Anglican Church
St Thomas' Anglican Church
TIMA (St Stephen's Anglican Church)

TAS

St Mark's Bellerive

SA

East Youth United – Austral-Asian Christian Church, Burnside City Uniting Church
Fusion Youth (Trinity Church Adelaide)
G1 Youth (Riverland Central Church)
Kingdom Youth (Broadview Baptist Church and Enfield Baptist Church)

THE SILENT PROJECT



Many students find it hard to speak openly about their faith at school — whether that's because of how they think they'll be perceived, or simply not knowing what words to use. The Silent Project saw Student Leaders and supporters of Mustard across Victoria and South Australia stay silent for 24 hours and their efforts **raised just over $20,000** to help support more students to break the silence in their schools.

STUDENT CONFERENCE (VIC)

The Student Conference in August was an amazing opportunity for students to be trained and equipped to 'break the silence' in their schools. We had 40 students join us from Melbourne and regional Victoria (some driving 3 hours) to share their experiences, worship and pray together.

A highlight was the 'Profesh Sesh', that had five Student Leaders from different schools speak about:

- How to run Q and A sessions;
- How to create an evangelistic culture at school;
- How to encourage longevity of a Lunchtime Group in a public school;
- How to change the perception of a Lunchtime Group; and
- How to effectively organise and plan a Lunchtime Group.

One Year 7 student was so encouraged she has now launched her own Lunchtime Group in her school!









"...A highlight was the 'Profesh Sesh...'"



BREAK THE SILENCE FAMILY DINNER (VIC)









Our Victorian 'Break the Silence' Family Dinner was a great reminder of the importance of creating spaces where students can share their stories and be encouraged by a room full of adults cheering them on. Over 130 students (from more than 20 schools), chaplains, ministers, parents and supporters attended.

The Student Panel gave people the opportunity to hear real stories of the impact of Mustard on students' lives and how they are helping lead their peers to Jesus.

It was really special being able to celebrate Gigi's perseverance over 18 months to start a Lunchtime Group and to hear how God changed her Principal's heart. Another encouraging story was from Aoife at Brunswick Secondary, who handed out free hot cross buns to students at Easter in order to promote her Lunchtime Group.

NBA Basketball Chaplain, Mason Taylor inspired us all to live out our faith boldly in an often resistant, secular environment and to not underestimate the power of "presence" in people's lives. **One final spine tingling part of the evening was hearing Hillcrest Christian College perform their original song that they had written through Mustard's Song Labs program.**

Join us next year for this special event to champion students leading students to Jesus!

QUIZ NIGHT (SA)

In South Australia, Broadview Baptist Church was packed to the rafters with over 100 Mustard supporters, young and old, as it hosted our Break the Silence Quiz Night. Following directly on from The Silent Project, with themed questions around silence, or breaking it, supporters enjoyed an evening of quizzing, bidding, and learning more about Mustard. Jemima Forsyth (Glenunga International High School) eloquently shared her experience of leading her Christian Club in a public school. She has felt equipped by Mustard with the necessary skills to articulate the gospel to her friends and empowered to answer tricky questions. Thank you to all who joined us to show their support and to those who gave generously to our silent auction.





OUR BOARD



Neale Meredith
CHAIR

Neale is Principal and CEO of the Australian College of Ministries, with previous experience in local church, state and national ministry leadership. He also brings substantial senior executive experience and is a veteran of the Australian youth ministry sector, a rare and valuable combination that serves Mustard's governance well.



Paul Tan
TREASURER

Paul is a partner at Saward Dawson, specialising in financial reporting audits and assurance for charities and not-for-profit organisations. His faith grew through a Lunchtime Group at his Malaysian high school, making Mustard's work especially meaningful to him.



William Messer
SECRETARY

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.



John Arbuckle
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.



Jo Hood
BOARD MEMBER

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



Vicky Jones
BOARD MEMBER

Vicky is Head of Junior School at King's Baptist Grammar in Adelaide and mentors Arrow Leadership participants. Passionate about Lunchtime Groups since her school years, she has spent her career nurturing student leadership and faith, witnessing their lasting impact on young lives and future leaders.



Amelia Mock
BOARD MEMBER

Amelia leads operations for the National Partnerships Team at Baptist World Aid Australia. Named VCAA VCE Leader of the Year while President of the Student Leadership Team at Bendigo Senior Secondary College. Amelia is passionate about equipping young leaders to live out Christ's ministry of reconciliation.



Elida Brereton
BOARD MEMBER

A huge and special thank you to Elida Brereton who resigned from the Board this year after 15 years of service. Her insights, passsion and unwavering support will be missed.

OUR STAFF



Lara Ruddle
CEO



Alicia Gregory
NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR



Hannah McArdle
REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Heather Cetrangolo
SCHOOL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



Joyce Soe
SCHOOL PROGRAMS & ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR



Catherine Williams
TASMANIAN DIRECTOR



Mark Marno
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIRECTOR



Makayla Lockwood
STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR (SA)



Elise Wade
DESIGN COORDINATOR



JP Ma
INTERN (VIC)



Ella Smith
INTERN (VIC)



Lachie Ramsey
INTERN (VIC)



Hae Gyu Kim
INTERN (SA)

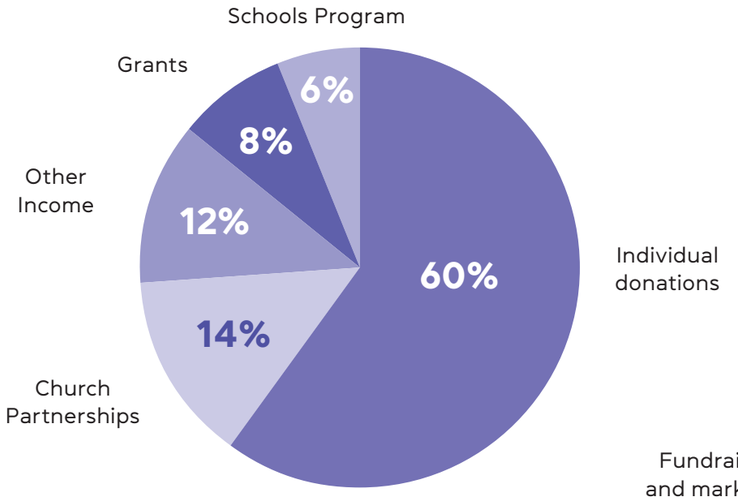
Jack Holloway
ACCOUNTS MANAGER

VOLUNTEERS

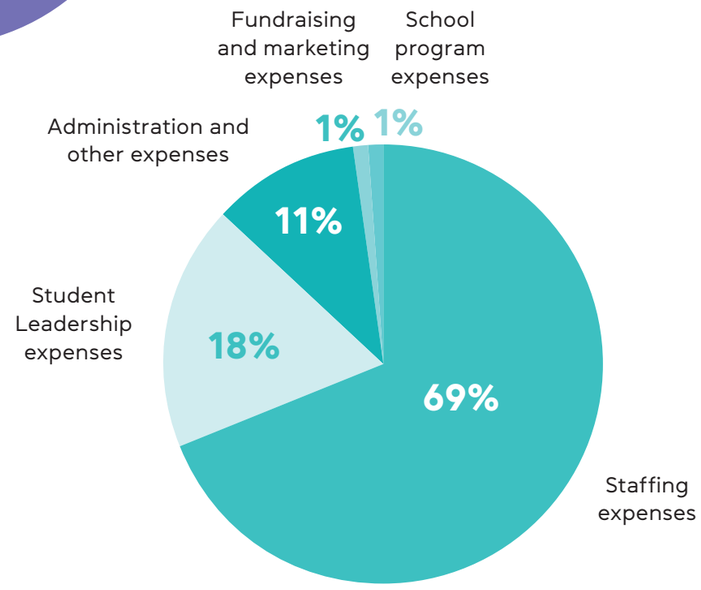
Amanda Barnes
Anna Boland
Geoff Buchanan
Adam Cetrangolo
Jonathan Chapman
Elizabeth Chapman
Michelle Chua
Yi Cheng Shih
Natalie Dixon-Monu
Peter Elliott
Peter Halliday
Roy Hamer
Wade Mataira
Sue Pollock
Michael Shepherd
Tammy Shepherd
Mark Sneddon
Daniel Soe
Glenda Trist
Gwen Turner
Mike Urwin
Ian Wallbridge
Paul Yonchiggio

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME



EXPENSES



Throughout Mustard's 23 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 who 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, conferences, camps and youth nights, mentor students one-on-one, present large group seminars and chapels services 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 to raise the funds to sustain this increased staff team.

BE PART OF THE MISSION



The Mustard family includes our Student Leaders, Lunchtime Groups, Chaplains, Churches and Youth Groups. 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 join our WhatsApp group

Give

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**



"I wanna tell everyone that Jesus welcomes everybody of all walks of life"

- YEHEN, MT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE

Connect with us on social media

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MAGAZINE

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