

ANNUAL REVIEW

AROTAKE Ā-TAU
2025

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OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS¹



582

Campers attended our adventure-based camps discovering Jesus and learning to serve the world around them



413

Young people underwent training to become God-centred leaders of influence today and in the future



8,992

Opportunities were taken up by people to open the Bible in life-changing ways with the help of our Bible reading guides and Engage app



994

Church workers were supported and equipped to minister to children and young people in their churches and communities



1,203

Wonderful supporters donated a combined total of \$2,182,034.57

¹These numbers were sourced from the Statement of Service Performance as well as programmes with informal registration systems.

BOARD CHAIR:

Neil Walbran

I write this heading into Easter and my readings have been in John 18 and 19 focusing on the Holy Week.

It is a timely reminder of why we exist as an organisation, to help children and young people discover and follow Jesus.

With that in mind I want to remind you how last year we shared how we were launching a 3-year strategic focus on evangelism and how we can help the church in this area, for children and young people. To do this the Board accepted a budget which would eat into some of our accumulated surplus (we proposed a deficit budget for last year). This followed on from a previous year's proposed budget deficit.

However, for both years God has been amazing in his provision for us, through our wonderful donors, and we have managed a small surplus in both years.

We want to continue to build momentum gained so far in our strategic plan. To do this we propose another deficit budget, which is utilisation of the previous years' accumulated surpluses. As a Board we see this as a prudent use of the funds God has provided over many years to

take forward the vision for helping children and young people discover and follow Jesus.

However, I want to assure our faithful supporters that as a Board we are watching the sustainability of our finances very closely. We are acutely aware that we cannot continue to eat into our accumulated surplus indefinitely and we are working hard towards long term sustainability.

Once again, I want to emphasise how this continued growth and bold steps forward are only possible because of God's amazing provision through our faithful donors. In closing, I particularly thank our many volunteers, supporters, and prayer warriors for your unstinting support of Scripture Union NZ.

*Mā te Atua koutou e tiaki,
e manaaki i nga wā katoa.
May God bless and keep you always.*



N. J. Walbran

NATIONAL DIRECTOR:

Hilary Hague

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Kia tau ki a koutou, te atawhai me te rangimārie o te Atua - Grace and peace to you from God.

Many of you will have visited Tāne Mahuta, the giant kauri tree standing strong in the Waipoua Forest in Northland. It is the largest living kauri tree known today. While its age is unknown it is estimated to be between 1,250 and 2,500 years which means that it was on earth at the same time as Jesus. I like this thought!

This year in SUNZ, we have been considering Tāne Mahuta. The tree has been a helpful metaphor for us to consider as we have worked to concentrate on what keeps us strong.

We are of course held strong by God. As the tree of Scripture Union grows here in Aotearoa, New Zealand, we have been working hard to make sure that we are growing first and foremost in God. We want our roots to be, in the words of Jeremiah 17:7-8, 'reaching deep into the water'. This makes us very glad for everyone who prays for Scripture Union. We have 12 prayer groups across the country and 629 people who pray using our Prayer Adventure and e-prayer. These people

help keep us drawing from God's living water in all we do.

We are held strong by healthy ministry. This year we have focused afresh on our mission statement. This statement is more than words. It is our calling and our mandate from God. This year is the second year of the strategic plan we set in 2023, and we have worked hard to be 'mission-true' in all we do, taking time to identify and understand exactly what this means for us. We want to ensure we are being as effective as possible in our ministry. A particular focus has been to lift registrations on our camps so that they are either full or nearly full and increase the number we reach through the training and leadership development we offer to support churches.

We are held strong by our volunteers. People contribute in so many ways - camp leadership, kaiārahi (mentors), workshop leaders, practical help and support, wisdom from Board and committee members. SUNZ is a movement of volunteers, and we are very grateful for all these people. This year over 600 people volunteered in or through SUNZ.

We are held strong by our staff.

This year SUNZ has had 27 staff, the equivalent of 19.4 full-time people as many worked part-time. Staff are an integral part of SUNZ and work creatively and hard to help us outwork our calling. This year Paul Martell, Andy Banks and Andrew Ramsbottom have moved on from staff after many years with us. We have been very glad for them, and we wish them well. Personally, I have been glad for the appointment of Hana Leofa as Operations Manager. Hana is already lifting the load many have been carrying. She's also enabling me to concentrate on some of the strategic areas I have identified with the Board.

We are held strong by our donors.

This last financial year, we have been incredibly blessed by consistent and generous support. This year we budgeted for an intentional deficit but in fact, have finished the year with a small surplus. Although we will continue to work to ensure our ministry is supported in ways that are healthy and sustainable, it is good to be able to propose that we put this surplus back into ministry in the next financial year. We are very grateful for the people who have given to make this happen.

He tina ki runga, he tāmore ki raro

- to flourish above, one must be firmly rooted below. Of course, the point of being a tree firmly rooted and stretching deep into God's living water, is that we produce fruit. Scripture Union's fruit is shown in the lives of the children and young people we work with. Some we work with directly on our leadership development programmes and camps, and some we work with indirectly as we offer training and support to churches and leaders.

Sometimes the fruit of our ministry is hard to measure - quality faith formation is hard to measure. But feedback and anecdotal stories show clearly that it is happening.

This review reflects the children and young people we are praying for. Our prayer for all of them is that they will discover Jesus and become lifelong disciples who serve the world around them.



Hilary Daigue

CHILDREN & FAMILIES:

Liz Eichler | Children & Families Team Leader

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." - Mother Teresa.

In 2024 our WAY2GO theme was 'The Ripple Effect', and who better to quote than Mother Teresa, who had a big impact by living out this example - recognising the power of small actions to set in motion changes that transformed the communities around her.

We may never see the impact of our actions. We may be part of the beginnings of a ripple that goes well beyond us. Mother Teresa knew the power of small actions, of faithfulness in the small things, of trust in God to bring about the change in God's way and in God's time.

This is ministry and it is certainly true for those involved with children and families in Aotearoa New Zealand. It continues to be a privilege to walk alongside Kiwis whose passion is the faith formation of those who are still overlooked in many of our churches.

Our Children and Families team has done amazing mahi this year. Thank you to Andrea Lukin (Wellington), Andrew Ramsbottom and Annette Osborne (Auckland), and Nigel Winder

(Invercargill). Thanks too, to Grace Matravers-Rock (née Clark), our team administrator who has added so much value to our team.

I want to particularly mention Andrew, who after 29 years of faithful service, left the staff in March. We will miss his energy and enthusiasm and wish him well in the next chapter of his ministry journey.



We celebrated 20 years of training children's ministry practitioners through our seven WAY2GO conferences held from 4 May to 22 June, with 369 attendees. A further training day was held on 21st September in New Plymouth for 13 attendees.

We looked at the story of the Woman at the Well from John 4 and in it saw Jesus taking bold steps, stepping over social barriers to connect with this woman and her village. Jesus met her where she was and as who she was.

The challenge for us is who are the children, families and whānau that we can invite to encounter Jesus for themselves? What small step might we



take to meet them where they are, and what barriers might we need to overcome to do this? How, like Jesus, might we meet them as equals, where they are, not as and them?

These training days would not work without the wonderful help of our dedicated volunteers, who help in so many ways.



CAMPS: Our staff were involved in

4

Kidz Camps

99

Campers

49

Leaders

Nigel ran the **Polar Explorers** themed Southland SUPAKidz Camp for Years 4-6. Here's what one of the dads said after camp:

"Our son had a wonderful time and came home brimming with every aspect of camp. He enjoyed sharing some of the photos and videos with us at church a couple of Sundays ago. Be encouraged, this is fantastic work you're doing. Camp was a really positive experience of Christian community, and the gospel applied together."

Annette ran the **Pōnui Spring Adventure** camp, for Years 6-8. Here's some feedback from a camper's mum: *"From everything I have heard, it sounds like you guys poured heart and soul into everything and invested so much into our kiddos. She said that when she arrived everyone was strangers but when she left, she felt like everyone was family. She said that you guys spent time regularly talking to them and teaching them about God throughout the day and she just loved that so much!"*

Andrea pioneered the new **Creative Edge** camp for Years 6-8. They used nature sculpting, painting, flax weaving, and photography with Psalm 148. Throughout the week they were encouraged to weave together their creative skills to imagine how they could take their thoughts and actions around, looking after creation back into their own communities.

Andrea also ran a SUPAKidz Camp in **Foxton** in January for Years 4-6. For a lot of the campers there were some activities that, after giving some things a go, it strengthened their confidence to come back to a task or to then encourage and inspire others.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In August we met together as a team and spent time refreshing our Strategic Plan. We are excited about the work God has

called us to focus on in the coming years. Here is a summary of our foci:

- We will help churches create the best environment for children's faith to grow, with a focus on Bible engagement and prayer for children and families. We will do this through gathering a selection of resources for children and their families, and church-based curriculum resources.
- We will support churches to work in the context of their own communities to intentionally build relationships to express the love of God to children and families to help them discover Jesus. We will do this through resourcing, training, and supporting church-based holiday programmes and one-off specials, eg. for Easter and Christmas.
- We will support, train, and develop leaders of children's faith formation, through conference events (WAY2GO), supporting individual children's ministry people and networking in the regions.



We have also reviewed our training and refreshed it under new branding - **Kia Tipu: growing children, growing leaders, growing faith.** Kia Tipu means let's make it happen, let's grow, and it encapsulates everything we believe in for our Children's Ministry training. Our vision for Kia Tipu is to see thriving Children's Ministry across Aotearoa

New Zealand and Children's Ministry leaders who feel nourished and equipped to help children grow their faith.

We continue to preach at churches, run Intergenerational Services, mentor children's ministry practitioners, gather people regionally for training, connect with others in regional and national positions of leadership, and respond to individual requests as they arise.

I started with Mother Teresa's quote, acknowledging that one person cannot change the world on their own. They are one small stone.

Clarissa Pinkola Estes (American writer and Jungian psychoanalyst) says this: *"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach."*

This is so freeing. God works through us all; through the person he has individually created us to be and through us collectively. God once told Moses to look at what he held in his hands, as he panicked about leading the people of Israel. What is in your hands? This is our task.



Liz Eichler



YOUTH MINISTRY:

Neville Bartley | Youth Team Leader

A YEAR OF MOMENTUM AND MINISTRY IMPACT

What a difference a year makes! A year of settling into new roles, strengthening relationships, and seeing the early fruit of the strategic shift of creating space for growth for both SUNZ youth and camp ministries. A long-term team member moved on, and we welcomed a new member as a replacement. Throughout the whole journey we have continued to see God's hand guiding us and bringing fruit to the things we do.

Your ongoing support, through prayer, practical help, and financial giving continues to be the backbone of what we do. Together, we are equipping and empowering youth ministries across Aotearoa, New Zealand, and it is making a lasting difference.

SUNZ YOUTH CONSULTANTS

Our Youth Consultants continue to play a vital role in supporting youth pastors and their leadership teams. They have been providing high-quality, relevant training and resources, while also dreaming big - developing fresh, practical tools to equip youth ministries.

Following our youth team hui on 29-30 April 2024, we have been creating discipleship resources that can be shared widely to support youth ministries on their journey of growing and discipling young people. We are

excited about the potential these tools will have to encourage and strengthen leaders in a variety of church contexts.

In December, SUNZ farewelled Andy Banks, our long-time Youth Consultant for Auckland. He formally ended his position on 31 January. Andy and his wife Carol have returned to England, where Andy has taken up a pastoral role at a Baptist church in High Wycombe. We are so grateful for the years of faithful service Andy gave to youth ministry in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

In Andy's place, we welcomed Sapati Tima on 17 March. He has hit the ground running and is bringing a fresh dynamic to the team.



Our team of Youth Consultants pictured L-R:
Sapati Tima (Auckland/Northland)
Larissa Pearce (Otago/Southland)
Piper Clare National PA (Wellington)
Eli Savill (Waikato/BoP)

Piper Clare holds a dual role as National PA and Youth Consultant. Please continue to pray with us for the necessary funding to expand her role from the current two days per week, as this would benefit the youth team and her ministry in the Wellington area.



Our youth leadership training events, known as **ANAMATA**, have been a highlight this year. We successfully ran three major gatherings in Dunedin (1 March), Wellington (15 March), and Auckland (8 March), with 92 participants in total.



Our **MHFA** training courses continue to be meeting a real need within youth leadership and church communities, with **60 people** trained at **five events** held April 2024 - March 2025. SUNZ are now approaching the milestone of 150 people trained since we first started MHFA.

With Andy's departure, Larissa Pearce and I are now the presenting team, and this has naturally added to our workload and required us to be intentional about when and where we offer courses. Eli Savill and Piper will train to be MHFA presenters in July 2025. This will significantly strengthen our capacity and allow us to expand this vital ministry even further.



Exodus Prime, our young leader training camp and mentorship programme, continues to equip emerging Christian leaders to make a meaningful impact - both now and in the future. Young people in Years 10-13 are nominated by their churches to

attend, and on 12-16 January, we hosted a colourful group of **15** at Brookfield Centre in Wainuiomata.

There is growing interest from churches, with more leaders recognising the value of this initiative and nominating young people. This year's group included participants from the deep south, all the way up to just north of Auckland, a true national gathering of future leaders. Please keep these 15 incredible young leaders in your prayers, as well as the team guiding and mentoring them on their discipleship and leadership journey.

We also want to acknowledge some important transitions within the EP leadership team. We have farewelled several key leaders - Andy, Jay and Dani Brantley, and we are deeply grateful for the passion, wisdom, and heart they brought to the programme.

We are pleased to welcome Majella Aneru to the leadership team, and we look forward to announcing further new appointments as well as a new venue for EP.



The Āpōpō
Mental Health &
Suicide Prevention

programme continues to make a meaningful impact by equipping young people with helpful information practical tools, and strategies for



mental wellbeing. Delivered by a trained facilitator and a team of supportive helpers, Āpōpō is designed to be highly interactive, incorporating games, activities, and role-playing exercises that allow participants to safely practise what they are learning.

A major development this year has been the completion of a 60-minute, fast-paced version, a shorter format for school settings. We have also seen a renewed interest from youth ministries, and it has been a real joy to present Āpōpō in youth group settings where young people are eager to engage and grow.

SUNZ deliver this programme for secondary schools and youth groups. We ran **five** successful **sessions** in schools and groups with **113 attendees**.

ENGAGE APP

Daily Bible Reading

Our Engage Bible Reading App continues

to provide daily Scripture readings in both English and Te Reo Māori, helping young people across Aotearoa engage with God's Word in a deeper way. In total there were 294 downloads and 1103 launches.

The upgrade planned for end of 2024 is still being developed into an updated version of the app. While the core format will remain familiar, the updated

app will offer expanded language options and video-based teaching, offering a fresh and engaging way for young people to grow in such areas as prayer and engaging with Scripture.

On 27 March we were pleased to partner with Converge Oceania to run Your Story Conference evening in Auckland. People attended in person and online. Your Story is a research project involving 16- to 20-year-old Australians, focused on their spiritual journey. Next steps include creating workshops on the findings and how to use it effectively in ministry as well as the opportunity to do the same research here in Aotearoa.

Please continue to pray for our Youth Consultant team as they serve and encourage youth pastors and leaders around the country. Your support - through prayer, giving, and encouragement - makes a real difference.

May God richly bless you and your whānau in the year ahead.



Neville Bartley



YOUTH CAMPS:

Natalie Duchesne | National Youth Camp Teams Leader

The April 2024 - March 2025 year was of improvement and due diligence. This was the first full year of our new Youth Camps Ministry team after our restructure, and we focused on stabilising camp numbers and increasing the support systems around our Team Leaders, leaders, and programmes. This included resource creation, designing development plans for our Team Leaders, upskilling as staff, rearranging, and rebranding some of our camps, and more.

Throughout this focus we started to see the fruits of our efforts, with camp numbers increasing to a higher number than we had even pre-covid! This increase was a welcome

acknowledgement. Now that we have done some of this mahi, our hope is that we will be able to direct more attention to innovation and new initiatives, while continuing to strive for excellence and updating the infrastructure necessary for the ministry to flourish.

We also had Grace Tennent on an eight-week placement from Venn Foundation.

Our growth and development are a result of our team's work as well as colleagues, volunteers and partnership organisations consistently feeding into the health of this ministry. It is a joy to be part of a ministry that intersects with so many driven, creative, and relational people.

Together we rolled out 12* youth camps and four camp leader training weekends across autumn, winter, and spring, six youth camps in summer, and four E3 expeditions.

*Includes Pōnui Fishing Adventure led by Youth Ministry Team.



Our Youth Camps team:
Back | Jayden Meads (South Island Camps Facilitator)
Caitlin Janes (North Island Camps Facilitator)
Front | Donna Beech (Administrator)
Natalie Duchesne (National Youth Camps Ministry Team Leader)

20
Youth Camps
& E3

468
Campers

193
Leaders

107
Leaders
Trained





BIBLE ENGAGEMENT ON YOUTH CAMPS: FAITH IN ACTION

Our theme for most of our camps was 'faith in action'. For many years now, compounded by covid and the post-covid age, we have noticed our young people being very self-focused (likely due to self-preservation) and thus faith formation has taken that bent as well... in many ways perhaps appropriately to build people up and address anxiety.

Our aim with our year-long 'faith in action' theme was to expand the imagination of our young people as to how their faith can work out. This in part reflects the Scripture Union vision: "to support churches to help children and young people discover Jesus and become lifelong disciples *who serve the world around them*" and thus invites youth to join in Christ's restorative action.

To explore these concepts, we used a camper-driven model where they learnt the skills to self-discover what lies within the Scripture they are engaging with. This meant our role as leaders was to facilitate that discovery and not to just be providers of information and answers. We hope this contributed to

developing a long-term curiosity about Scripture and faith for our campers that lasts beyond camp, even for a lifetime!

For our next year of Bible engagement, we will be exploring 'wisdom' through the book of Jonah for winter camps, exploring friendship and community for our spring camps, and the parables of Jesus for our summer camps.

CAMP SPOTLIGHT: HANMER EXPLORERS

As part of our review of the camps we have on offer, we shuffled around some of our South Island camps to ensure that when and where we hold camps makes strategically sense. This meant our October Kaikōura camp Season & Alight was shifted to Hanmer Springs to be renamed Hanmer Explorers in Spring 2025. A camp that was previously difficult to fill, was full, and with a wait-list due to the efforts of Jayden and his co-Team Leader Kieran. The local churches that they engaged with were excited by this new Scripture Union camp in their area and showed a vested interest in our camp ministry, with hope for future engagement as well.



GATHER YOUTH CAMPS LEADERSHIP WEEKENDS

Our theme for 2024 leadership training was culture. We focused on equipping our leaders to establish healthy camp culture on camps, and how to respond when camp culture goes awry. We saw the leaders and Team Leaders of our camps step into camp spaces with confidence. Having intention sewn into the ways our leaders facilitate, set up camp, and have restorative conversations with our campers meant that the flow-on effect was great. Many of our Team Leaders

reported back on the shift in culture and personal confidence and across our camps we saw a new tone set.

Following Gather North 17-19 May and South 16-18 August, we trialled a new structure of Gather over 23-25 August in Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. Instead of doing a site-based weekend, we organised a hike into Waitawheta Hut with 25 leaders. It was so popular we had a wait-list. It was good to explore different methods of presenting and we were able to offer experiential facilitation - something that we aim to run across our leadership development initiatives, and amplified further in this format.

There was also a Gather weekend in the lead up to summer camp on 23-24 November.

Upskilling people in culture setting will continue to be offered to our leaders, especially as new leaders come through and understand what makes our SUNZ youth camps unique. Looking forward we will have a focus on wisdom to integrate the Bible engagement theme as well as exploring what wisdom looks like in youth camp settings.



Our **E3** expeditions are a three-way partnership between SUNZ, A Rocha Aotearoa, and Adventure Specialties Trust, with Paul Humphreys representing Scripture Union. On our three expeditions from 10-12 December,

we had 31 campers and eight leaders journeying through wilderness and personal faith growth. This was the second year we ran E3 Bay of Islands and campers experienced a revised route. Due to the significant landscape, campers journey through on Bay of Islands expedition, Aotearoa's story is explored alongside the focus on leadership development, creation care, and faith formation. This is a wonderful expression of the ways at SUNZ we are continually exploring how to outwork our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Paul Humphreys also led 11 campers on E3 Young Adults, 3-9 February 2025 in the Nelson Lakes area.

I am grateful to have experienced such a rich year of Youth Camps Ministry. As we continue to refine what we do, as a staff team and in our community of leaders, we often put words to the uniqueness of what makes SUNZ camps special, and time and time again, I am humbled to be part of this expression of camping ministry and to be carrying SUNZ's long legacy of adventure-based camps into the future.

Ngā mihi nui.



Natalie Duchesne



BEYOND EXPERIENCE:

Paul Humphreys | National Leadership Development Facilitator



February 2025 signposted five years of Beyond Experience (BE). And what a time it has been.

Everything from ending our first BE retreat early because of an impending Covid-19 lockdown to over 150 young people who have now been part of the BE programme. It is my opinion that one does not have to look far to see the impact that BE has had across wide swathes of Scripture Union NZ.

In October 2024 we approached The Longview Trust with a proposal for our third round of funding. They responded, *"we love BE and what it does, we will get back to you"* and in late November we had our proposal for the next three years approved. SUNZ value the support and investment into growing young Christian leaders. God is good.

The BE annual weekend was on 5-7 April 2024 at Woodend Christian Camp for 31 first- and second-year participants, 25

Kaiārahi and six helpers. Everyone was gifted the BE handbook and *The Hare and The Tortoise* as their study guides for the 10-month long programme. Every BE'er meets monthly with their Kaiārahi to reflect on the readings and its ongoing intersection with leadership development, using the SUNZ Leadership Diagram as an anchor.

As BE Tuatahi (1st Year) and Tuarua (2nd Year) unfolded throughout 2024, we quickly saw a need to focus on discernment and formed a team of SUNZ Staff and Kaiārahi to formulate a plan on how best to respond. This transformed into additional reading, social media posts and guest speakers from within the BE programme reflecting using different creative styles to share their story. This proved so popular that while planning for April 2025 BE weekend, we embraced this same theme for this retreat.

Beth Coates, Leadership Development Administrator updated our website with more thoughtful information on

the shape of the BE programme, including emphasis on discernment and service opportunities.

Our BE Kindred programme continued for a second year, and the lessons learned from 2023 were helpful in moving forward. We now dedicated a full day where our three BE Kindred would meet weekly.

These were Annabelle McLennan, Jesse Major, and Kaitlin Sampson, who also attended the BE weekend. We spent our morning in conversations round "What's on Top" questions, Bible Engagement and spiritual practices. This left our afternoons open for them to complete their projects. The projects are not designed to be an exercise in efficiency but to slow it down and each week examine the opportunities for growth around the tangibles of working with deadlines, getting feedback, relying on other people, negotiating and consensus building. This takes time; however, this training sets up these young adults for leadership now but more importantly in the future. Sounds like our motto, *"Something in the now... Somewhere in the next."*

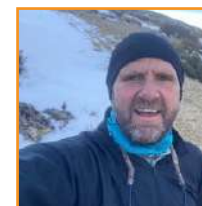
In February 2025, we enrolled a larger BE Kindred group, four of whom joined SUNZ at ministry hui in March.

BE Kindred (pictured L-R) Josh Sapsford, Bella Denny, Ashton Lay, Isaac Cairns, and Eliece Button.



BE is now an ensconced programme as these three expressions (Tuatahi, Tuarua, Kindred) in developing leadership skills and faith formation. While the Leadership Development Team is small, our impact is far and wide across SUNZ. So much of this growth is thanks to the dedicated ministry of mentoring and administration that Beth Coates undertakes in her part time role.

As always, the BE leadership development team covets your prayers for the programme, our Kaiārahi and for the minds and faith of these young adults. And your prayers can provide the 'Peace of Christ' in uncertain days ahead.



Paul Humphreys

SU INTERNATIONAL:



Scripture Union is an international movement present in more than 120 countries across the world. So many different countries, but all with the same heart for helping children, young people and families discover and follow Jesus, with an emphasis on helping them to meet God through Bible engagement and prayer.

» In Malawi, the Scripture Union team is excited about the Bible engagement project among the Yao people in Malawi's Eastern Region.

» Scripture Union In Timor Leste are thankful for the publication of The Beginner's Bible in the local language of Tetun. The team are praying that it will bring joy and understanding to many children.

» Scripture Union Scotland is giving thanks for the 38 senior pupils involved in leading 'equip!' events. These events aim to help young people tackle the big questions of faith, strengthen their leadership skills, and deepen their confidence in God.

» As children, young people and families are affected by the fighting that continues in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Scripture Union has stepped in to help, distributing vital food and supplies to displaced families.

One mother of five, collecting food from Scripture Union, appealed for prayers for peace amid fear.

This year was particularly exciting for SUNZ as we sent a team of young people to be part of the December 14-21 Emerging Leaders' Conference in Fiji to experience being part of the wider SU family. It was a significant experience for them along with 100 more young people from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, along with the newly formed Scripture Union Samoa.



Pictured on Location L-R: Patrick San Jose, Leanne Burton, Eleanor Fletcher, Penelope Trout, Meshach Singh

Annette Osborne works for SU on their International Team for 40% of her time. SUNZ funds her to do this, and we are glad to contribute to SU International in this way.

Annette says: "Coming out of the Global Gathering in March 2024, key priorities were set for the next five years. These priorities shape the strategic plan for the SU International Team that I am part of. It is exciting to be working on topics such as our Global Prayer Life, Creation Care, and our SU values. We recently launched a Children's Global Day of Prayer, where we were led by children from six countries. What an incredible opportunity to give children a voice into our SU Global Family."

OUR BICULTURAL JOURNEY:

HE WAKA EKE NOA - WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

This whakataukī is a powerful reminder that we are all interconnected. It speaks to the heart of Scripture Union's bicultural journey as it asks us to remember that we all need each other. As Treaty partners, we want to work together to see all children and young people discover and follow Jesus.

This year we have focused on what it means to invite people to bring themselves as they come into SUNZ spaces. We have sought to make space for people to be themselves in ways that are authentic and inclusive. We have wanted this to happen in ways that genuinely reflect values of Te Ao Māori, rather than a veneer, and so this has taken thought and care, and the journey has sometimes felt slow.

These are some of the key ways we have worked to bring this about:

» We have continued to employ Gwen Hague (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngā Puhi, Te Rarawa) as Māori Strategic Advisor. Although she has very few paid hours,

Gwen has been generous with her time and advice. She has advised us on kaupapa, tikanga and kawa and upskilled us. She brings so much value to SUNZ.

» A group of Scripture Union staff and volunteers went on the hīkoi ki Waitangi this year with Karuwā Trust. This was a special time of learning and connection. Staff from the group reported back to our Ministry Hui and encouraged others to attend this coming year.

» We are working hard to encourage diversity and to include Te Reo in all we do. This year we have noted an increase in use from both staff and volunteers. This has been possible because of the ongoing commitment to learning Te Reo amongst staff, and the encouraging of volunteers to join us and bring their skills.

» In December, we sent a group of young adults to the Emerging Leaders' Conference in Fiji.

Hilary Hague National Director

Gwen Hague Māori Strategic Advisor



RESOURCES FOR LIFE:

AnnaMarie Slessor | Resources & Office
Administrator



Resources for Life (RFL) ended the April 2024 - March 2025 financial year in a break-even position with a small surplus of \$536.00 on the final profit & loss report.

Donations to RFL ministry totalled \$17,417. Most donations are received with Bible reading guide subscription renewal payments. The Bible reading guides are Daily Bread and Encounter with God. The content is published by Scripture Union England and Wales and the books are designed and printed in Wellington. SUNZ pay 2% royalties for the content.

Sales of Bible Reading Guides dropped slightly from previous year by 2.74% to \$43,376. Totals are given below:

The binding of these reading guides were changed from a PUR to spiral bound for easier handling and reading. This change was well received by subscribers.

Sales of SU Brand stock totalled \$6,444, a marked drop of 36.60% from previous year, reflecting the trend of Scripture Union England & Wales to discontinue many SU titles. Publication and sales of the Light series of Sunday School curriculum (Bubbles, Splash, XStream, theGrid) was formally ended by SUEW on 31 December 2024. SUNZ continue to sell remaining printed stock.

Sales Income of Te Tia dropped substantially by 20.96% to \$3,349, with 4218 reading cards sold and distributed across New Zealand & Cook Islands. The key difference was due to Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC) making other arrangements for their churches in Australia.

Sales - All others totalled \$3,661.

Total operating expenses totalled \$50,325. An increase in the postage charges kept the income-expense balance within a 3.17% deficit.

Thank you for supporting RFL by purchasing and promoting our resources and Bible reading guides and donating to this ministry.



4478
Books
Distributed



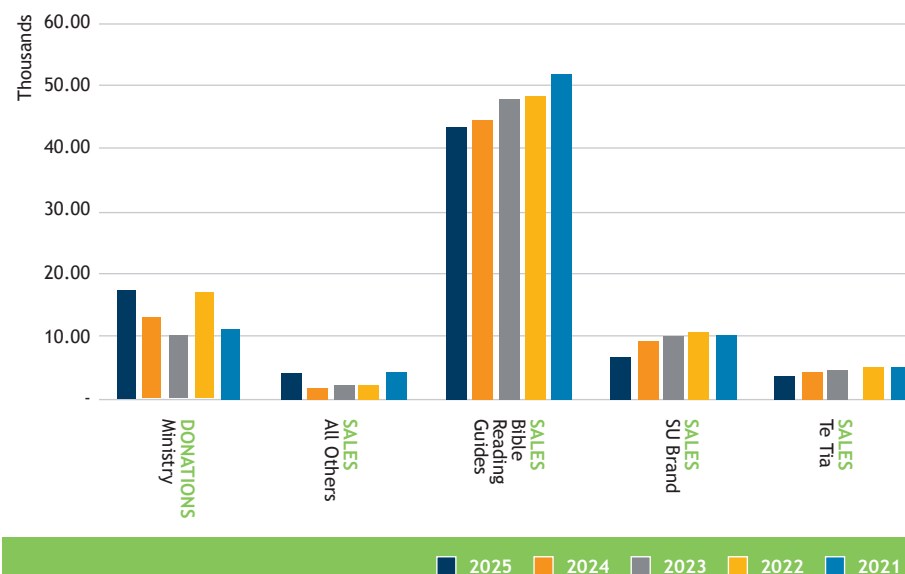
665
Subscribers



4
Wholesale
Bookstores*

(*Bible Society, Christian Superstore, Sonshine Book Centre and River Books).

SUNZ RESOURCES INCOME 2021 - 2025



THANKSGIVING:

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS

We are deeply thankful to everyone who makes SUNZ ministries possible. Your time, generosity, and prayers are the foundation of our mission.

CAMP VOLUNTEERS: We are especially grateful for our amazing camp leaders and cooks. Their hard work and dedication make every camp possible. From preparing meals to leading activities and Bible sessions, they introduce children and young people to Jesus and help nurture their faith journeys.

EVENT SUPPORT TEAM:

Our conferences, workshops, and training sessions could not happen without you. Whether you've provided accommodation or transport, helped in the kitchen, taken on leadership or site management roles, cleaned facilities, or faithfully prayed – we thank God for your time, energy, and support.

PRAYER GROUPS: Across the country, twelve dedicated prayer groups regularly lift SUNZ up in prayer. We deeply appreciate every person who participates, and especially the group leaders who organise and facilitate these gatherings. Your faithful prayers are a vital part of our ministry.

ADMINISTRATORS: Many of our administrators are volunteers who work quietly behind the scenes, ensuring everything runs smoothly. Your time, skills, and faithfulness keep the wheels turning. Our ministry could not function without you.

SUPPORTERS: Our supporters give, pray, and spread the word about

SUNZ. You are a living testimony to God's provision. **1,203** individuals, trusts, and businesses supported SUNZ financially during the FY 2024-25 year. **624** supporters received our bimonthly SUNZ Prayer Adventure newsletter, encouraging daily prayer for our ministries. **1208** people received regular staff prayer letters, staying connected to our team and supporting them in prayer. **31** Bible Reading Representatives helped distribute our Bible Reading Guides in churches and communities across New Zealand.

BOARD: We give thanks for the dedication and faithful service of the SUNZ Board and Finance Committee:

Neil Walbran (Chair)

Ruth Early (Treasurer)

Hilary Hague (National Director)

John Cleary

Jason Masters

Mark Nichols

Jason Kelsey

Joanna Overall

Meredith MacKenzie

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Ruth Early (Chair)

Neil Walbran

Alastair Boulton

Hilary Hague

Meredith MacKenzie

Mark Nichols

Andrew Slessor

Peilin Cheng

BEQUESTS:

We are humbled and honoured to have been remembered by the following people in their final wishes:

Bernard Cox

Janet McKinlay

Jean Alice Fink

Marjory Allpress

Rosemary Elizabeth Squires

Velma June Dixon

Forest Road Trust - Norman Morrison

Marian Gwendoline Glen

Raewyn Phyllis Yeoman

Eric Alexander Dunlop

Hewlett Family Trust

We appreciate their gifts, which will bless the children and young people we serve.

TRUSTS, CHURCHES, AND ORGANISATIONS WHO GAVE MORE THAN \$1,000:

Arohanui Charitable Trust

Ann Sinclair Charitable Trust

Eden Community Church

Decal Trust

Jones Missionary Trust

Lichfield Lands Incorporated

Longview Trust

St Chad's Anglican Church

Wyndham Presbyterian Church

River Valley Baptist Church

Nelson Christian Trust

Otama Missionary Trust

Lochiel Community Church

Trinity Baptist Church

G & S Vickers Charitable Trust

Windsor Community Church Missions Group

Gumgo Trust

PC & HPW Green Charitable Trust

Glendowie Presbyterian Church

Titahi Bay Community Church

Broderick Road Chapel

Porirua Gospel Chapel

Wellington South Baptist Church

Fraser Charitable Trust

Milford Baptist Church

KB and RJ Taylor Charitable Trust

Rosedale Bible Church

Cornelius Charitable Trust

Wilberforce Foundation

Waidale Missionary Trust

Belmont Baptist Church

Daphne Ford Trust

Hillcrest Baptist Church

Glenfield Community Church

Merit Car Company

Stoney Farm Charitable Trust

Shepton Trust

The Guy Colville Nicholson Charitable Trust

Bollard Charitable Trust

The Tidd Foundation Incorporated

W Crighton Charitable Company Ltd

Soul Purpose Trust 1999

David Ellison Charitable Trust

Milford Baptist Church Craft Group

Te Ora Hou Trust

Sadgrove Charitable Trust

One T Six Trust

Light of Life Chinese Church

Kaiarahi Trust

B R Malcolm Foundation

Forest Road Trust (legacy)

Hewlett Family Trust

ML Paynter Trust

Benevolo Trust



Thank you

FINANCIALS



These summary financial statements have been extracted from SUNZ full financial statements. Summary financial statements do not provide the same level of information/ understanding as full financial statements. The full financial statements were approved by the SUNZ Board on 3rd July 2025 and both periods covered by the following financial summary were audited by accountants BDO who provided an unqualified audit opinion.

The full financial statements for both years include a statement of compliance with the XRB's Tier 3 (NFP) standard.

A copy of the full financial statements may be obtained by writing to Scripture Union, PO Box 760, Wellington 6140.

OPERATING RESULTS

We continue to be thankful that God is faithful and the needs of SUNZ are met. Through our generous supporters SUNZ achieved an operating surplus of \$228,881 for the year ended 31 March 2025, compared to the original budget deficit of \$26,864. The legacies were significantly higher than previous years. This surplus provides the necessary foundation for the planned deficit in the new financial year of 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Total operating expenses increased by \$46,740 in 31 March 2025 financial year compared to the previous year, representing a small increase of 2%.



FINANCIAL POSITION

SUNZ continues to be in a strong and stable financial position. Total cash and current assets on the balance sheet at 31 March 2025 were \$3,024,491 which includes bank term investments beyond the three-month timeframe. Equity includes the Development Fund of \$955,487 which is set aside for special projects in the future.



SCRIPTURE UNION NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

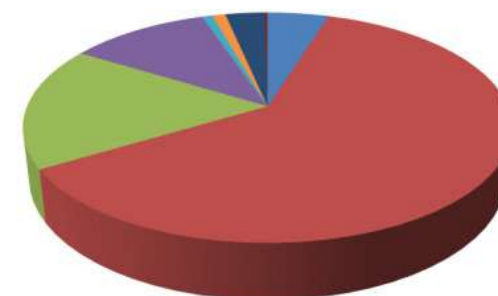
	31 MARCH 2025	31 MARCH 2024
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Donations - Regional & National Team Support	736,647	713,878
Donations - Ministry	127,554	290,667
Donations - General	470,336	340,140
Donations - Tagged Funds	350,306	355,853
Donations - Legacies	481,020	169,485
Revenue from providing goods or services	321,739	317,847
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	138,351	125,891
Other revenue	20,555	53,046
TOTAL REVENUE	2,646,508	2,366,807
EXPENSES		
Expenses related to public fundraising	117,533	134,373
Volunteer and employee related costs	1,487,711	1,405,607
Costs related to providing goods or services	419,824	433,097
Camps & Event Costs	267,008	277,232
Grants and donations made	20,000	20,000
Audit expenses	24,939	21,578
Depreciation and Amortisation	75,197	72,594
Finance & Bank Charges	5,414	6,406
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,417,627	2,370,887
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	228,881	(4,080)

INCOME FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



- Donations - Regional & National Team Support
- Donations - General
- Donations - Tagged Funds
- Interest, Dividends and other Investment Revenue
- Donations - Ministry
- Donations - Legacies
- Revenue from Providing Goods or Services
- Other Revenue

EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



- Expenses Related to Public Fundraising
- Costs Related to Providing Goods or Services
- Grants and Donations Made
- Depreciation and Amortisation
- Volunteer and Employee-Related Costs
- Camps and Event Costs
- Audit Expenses
- Finance and Bank Charges

SCRIPTURE UNION NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	31 MARCH 2025	31 MARCH 2024
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	887,647	686,995
Debtors and prepayments	112,072	50,719
Inventory	14,773	17,045
Investments	2,010,000	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,024,491	754,759
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	1,542,221	1,618,136
Investments		2,010,000
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,542,221	3,628,136
TOTAL ASSETS	4,566,712	4,382,895
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	93,861	86,492
Employee costs payable	212,064	190,721
Unused donations and grants with conditions	576,325	567,843
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	882,250	845,056
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	71,371	86,279
TOTAL LIABILITIES	953,621	931,335
TOTAL ASSETS LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES (NET ASSETS)	3,613,091	3,451,561
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	3,613,091	3,451,561

SCRIPTURE UNION NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31 MARCH 2025	31 MARCH 2024
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	2,168,521	1,944,932
Gross sales from commercial activities	311,979	423,988
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	118,206	127,867
Other cash received	14,805	57,370
Cash was applied to:		
Payments related to public fundraising	(117,533)	(134,373)
Employee remuneration and other related payments	(1,446,962)	(1,347,670)
Payments related to commercial activities	(763,356)	(780,526)
Grants and donations paid	(20,000)	(20,000)
Other payments	(4,127)	10,606
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	261,533	282,195
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Receipts from the sale of property, plant and equipment	6,778	
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(67,660)	(44,616)
Payments to purchase investments	-	(2,010,000)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(60,882)	(2,054,616)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	200,652	(1,772,421)
Opening Cash	686,995	2,459,417
Closing Cash	887,647	686,995
This is represented by:		
Bank Accounts and Cash	887,647	686,995



SCRIPTURE UNION NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025	TOTAL NZD	GENERAL & REGIONAL FUND	REVALUATION RESERVE	J& M LAIRD FUND	KERSLEY FUND	DEVELOPMENT FUND	CAMP & WORKING GROUP FUNDS
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,451,561	997,325	1,252,913	1,107	101,539	947,791	150,886
Reserve transfers in	83,864	83,864					
Reserve transfers out	(83,864)					(46,977)	(36,887)
Surplus or deficit from continuing operations	161,531	115,965	(67,350)	65	6,002	54,674	52,175
Other comprehensive income and expenses -Gain/losses on revaluation of property							
TOTAL SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	161,531	199,829	(67,350)	65	6,002	7,696	15,288
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	3,613,091	1,197,153	1,185,563	1,172	107,541	955,487	166,173
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024	TOTAL NZD	GENERAL & REGIONAL FUND	REVALUATION RESERVE	J& M LAIRD FUND	KERSLEY FUND	DEVELOPMENT FUND	CAMP & WORKING GROUP FUNDS
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,455,640	1,015,617	1,252,913	4,463	96,446	931,158	155,048
Reserve transfers in	56,072	56,072					
Reserve transfers out	(56,072)					(23,405)	(32,667)
Surplus or deficit from continuing operations	(4,080)	(74,365)	-	(3,356)	5,095	40,040	28,506
Other comprehensive income and expenses -Gain/losses on revaluation of property	0						
TOTAL SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(4,080)	(18,293)		(3,356)	5,095	16,635	(4,161)
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	3,451,561	997,325	1,252,913	1,107	101,539	947,791	150,886



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Christchurch 8023

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212 Bourke Street
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He rama tāu kupu ki ōku waewae
Your word is a lamp to my feet Psalm 119:105

SUNZ is a member of the Scripture Union
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