



Dollars & Sense

February 2017 Newsletter from the UCSA Resources Team

Returning to say thank you

During last year, I was reminded several times about the parable recorded in Luke 17:11-19 where ten lepers were healed and only one returned to say thank you. The parable provides a stimulus for many great conversations, but on the simplest level, the act of saying thank you to God is central to the story. Recognising that all we have is given to us by God is fundamental to our understanding of stewardship (another story for another day), therefore being thankful should come easily. But while I would love to be that one person returning to say thank you, for many reasons I know that's not always true.

Within the Resources Team we are intentionally developing a culture of gratitude and to do so we have implemented several 'thank you' initiatives. Recently I had the privilege of sharing lunch with our Congregational Bookkeeping Unit Auditors to say thank you for generously giving their time and expertise to audit congregations' accounts. Together they audited over 40 congregations in 2016. It was good to be able to honour these contributions that otherwise may go unrecognised.

So as we begin the year, as we ponder the months ahead, plan our meeting schedules and look over our task lists, I want to say thank you for your service to the Church.

Thank you for your dedication to serve in your congregation. Thank you for accepting the responsibility to undertake work which is vital to support the mission and health of your congregation.

I hope this edition of Dollars and Sense will provide you with helpful information as you serve in your local community. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us at resources@sa.uca.org.au.

Peter Battersby
Executive Officer, Resources

Beyond Limits



Beyond Limits Outdoor Education – growing by the grace of God

In 2012, Uniting Venues SA introduced activity programs at three of our five campsites – Adare, Nunyara and Tarooki. At the time, over 50% of Christian campsites across Australia were successfully providing programs and it was clear that we simply needed to make a start.

Five years on, during 2016 Beyond Limits hosted just over 100 programs at six different locations and reported a small financial surplus without the need for financial support from Adare and Nunyara.

Our activities and programs are now designed within the framework of a 'Sequential Camps Experience'. A school group can attend a four / five / six year level program camp at Nunyara, then progress to a seven / eight program camp at Adare, a nine / ten program tent camp at Adare and return to Nunyara



for a leadership retreat in years 11 / 12. Most schools conduct their own program for 11 / 12 leadership retreats however we have been successful in providing team building activities of approximately 90 minutes in duration (generally on the morning of each day of their retreat).

We now employ 20 - mostly casual - staff who all maintain an active Christian faith as we provide a sequential camps experience across a variety of year levels to a number of Catholic, Independent Christian and government schools.

The secret to the success of Beyond Limits is twofold; continuous prayer and careful selection of staff. Prayer speaks for itself but selection of the staff who share our vision, passion and culture has been fundamental in the growth of Beyond Limits.

Mark Lee
General Manager, UVSA