

flood



THIS ISSUE

WELCOME TO 2015

Robert Falls and Celia Toose on beginning 2015

In January, I found myself with the faculty leaders of Science World for our planning days away...

Continued p2-3 >

RISING FLOOD WATERS

Rhys Ewing on connecting with new students

The vision of the Graduates Fund is to flood God's church. We need a lot of Christian leaders to achieve this...

Continued p4 >

BECOMING LEADERS

Penny Slater on training leaders for life

I am meeting with students who are doing Assistant Small Group Leader Training this year...

Continued p5 >

PLANNING FOR 2015

In January, I, the new Howie with Science World, found myself with the faculty leaders of Science World for our planning days away. Each faculty does their planning days differently. Some faculties meet on campus across a day or two, whilst others go away for several days to build in more extensive team time. For the Science World faculty, we decided three days away at Bluey's Beach near Forster was ideal. My first scientific formula: Planning + Beach = Awesome and Effective Planning Days.

We also spent quite a bit of time planning for our planning days, because planning is such an important part of effective ministry – to value planning is to value your whole ministry.



Planning days for every faculty centre around the EU's objects. Each faculty has to carefully consider what they are going to do this year to achieve the three objects in their faculty. What will evangelism, edification, and Christian service look like in Science World this coming year? Hours of time, energy and thought were put into this question at our planning days.

But planning isn't the only important part of planning days. At the beginning of each planning session, we made time to hear each other's testimonies. We asked: how has God been working in each of our lives up to this point? How can we be loving and praying for each other? Plus, Science World spent time each day in Titus, exploring what Christian leadership looks like.



One important focus of Science World this year is prayer, and so one innovative plan is to send out two fortnightly prayer reports: the "LRLR (Less Reached, Less Resourced) Galah", and the "Focus on FOCUS" (International Student ministry). We want students to be praying for the things we value, and these prayer reports will really help with this.

Each faculty has to carefully consider what they are going to do this year to achieve the EU's three objects in their faculty.

The Science World faculty, and the Evangelical Union as a whole, know that planning well is an essential part of effective ministry. Perhaps take this opportunity to examine your local Church ministry. Do you invest enough time and resources into planning well?



ROBERT FALLS

Howard Guinness Project Trainee
Robert is working with the Science World faculty.

LAUNCHING INTO 2015

At the beginning of each year, the EU holds an event called "Launch". At one level, Launch 2015 was a day the existing students ran to meet first years and welcome them into the EU community on campus. Faculties split off and had "getting to know you time" which involved a variety activities, from casual conversations over afternoon tea to scavenger hunts around the University. The day also enabled these new students to understand the values of the EU as expressed in its three objects.

Hence, Launch limited to the immediate looked like staff helping the students integrate new first years into the EU. Launch exists to help these students continue to live out their Christian lives in the context of the University, and, by being part of the EU, reap the benefits of the small groups, public Bible talks, training and pastoral care.

However at another level, Launch is one of the steps in achieving the vision of the EU Graduates Fund which is to flood God's Church with Christian leaders. Launch with a bigger perspective is about gathering together a new generation of young men and women as they come to university, so that they can be introduced to Jesus, grow in Christian maturity and then go out into His world to serve him, particularly in less reached and less resourced areas. In other words, Launch is part of welcoming more people into the EU so that as they graduate they can be sent out to flood God's church.

By your prayers and financial support, you enable days like Launch to help fulfil the vision of the Graduates Fund. Please continue to pray for us – the Staff you have put on campus – as we launch into this new year of preparing another generation of EUers to flood God's church.



CELIA TOOSE

Senior Staff

Celia encourages EUers to serve in less-reached, less-resourced churches and locations, while at uni and when they graduate.



RISING FLOOD WATERS



Our vision with the Graduates Fund is to flood God's church with Christian leaders, so naturally we need a lot of Christian leaders to achieve this vision. But how are we going to reach them so that we can then train, equip and encourage them for future ministry? And what do we do when those numbers don't reach our hopes and expectations?

In partnership with the EU on campus we have been working hard to reach students that may join this flood over the last few weeks. As the university welcomed new students and reconnected with old during Orientation Week, we made hundreds of new contacts that we have been inviting to get involved with the EU.

Over the past few years those few days have seen the number of new contacts reach into numbers as high as six, seven and eight hundred people! But this year we only made about four hundred. Zac Lukins, one of the students who helped organise Project Connect believed there were a number of contributing factors. "There seems to be a bias against faith based societies," he said. "The stall location was not very helpful. The Union also restricted our advertising ability during O-Week and we weren't able to reach out to people outside our space allocated which I think impacted the number of new contacts we made."

In order to reach out to more contacts we had to work extra hard in weeks one and two running more BBQs, contact tables in key student areas, and advertising well to invite as many new students to Public Meetings as we could. This hard work has allowed us to make contact with over 600 new students that we are currently working at getting enfolded into the EU community!

This year has given us an opportunity to rethink the way we do connecting. Is it time that we work much harder at connecting with churches? Schools? Camps? It has been a real wake up call to get innovative with our connecting so that many more may be equipped for service in God's Kingdom. As he reflected, Zac said "In the end God is sovereign regardless of the number of people we connected to, even if it's 500 and not 800, those 500 people matter." It is our good Heavenly Father who brought to us many students to be raised up into Biblically and theologically mature, servant hearted, and innovative Christian leaders. Praise be to God!

PRAYER POINTS:

- Praise God that the Project Connect team was able to make connections with hundreds of students during the first few weeks of semester.
- Pray that God would soften the hearts of the University towards the EU, that our efforts to present the gospel to the campus wouldn't be stopped and that we would continue to be able to proclaim Jesus freely at Sydney University.



RHYS EWING

Howard Guinness Project Trainee
Rhys serves with the Engineering faculty of the EU.



ENABLING STUDENTS TO BECOME SPIRITUAL LEADERS

I am enjoying meeting with the second year students who are doing Assistant Small Group Leader (ASGL) Training this year. One of these students is Sunny. She has never lead a Bible study group before. She is nervous, but also very excited to be spurring on the first years. She is enjoying learning from the engaging training material I am taking her through. Sunny has been particularly struck by the impact which she, as a small group leader, can make in the lives of those in her group. If this knowledge shapes her understanding of what it is to lead a Bible study, she will be intentional about how she invests in each person she leads, so that they will be made mature in Christ. And she'll do this not only now, but for the rest of her life!

Young leaders will learn skills which are transferable beyond small group ministry, which they can use to lead senior small groups, to serve their local church or to lead in a variety of contexts, for the rest of their lives!

learning. This results in students who are confident leading a small group, while being able to adapt to accommodate different people and situations.

These young leaders will learn skills which are transferable beyond small group ministry, which they can use to lead senior small groups, to serve their local church or to lead in a variety of contexts, for the rest of their lives. Each year the EU staff train over a hundred students through the ASGL program. What a great way to flood God's church with leaders for decades to come!

The EU aims to grow ASGL students in four practical areas to become PHAT leaders for life. People who are: Pastors (they genuinely care for each member of their group); have a Heart for others (they regularly pray for those in and outside their group); are Admin stars (they understand the importance of effective administration to enable the group to function properly); and Teacher facilitators (people who teach God's Word faithfully and facilitate deep discussion).

Each Howard Guinness Project apprentice meets weekly with several ASGL students to give them tools to think strategically about how to grow each person in their group to greater maturity in Christ. Each ASGL leads several studies and takes responsibility for the group, enabling them to practically apply the skills they are



PENNY SLATER

Howard Guinness Project Trainee
Penny is serving with the Primary Education faculty.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

2014 — Praise God! Expenses met

Thanks to God's faithfulness and through your partnership in prayers and finances we covered all our expenses for 2014. Your generosity in the 'Match+' giving campaign raised over \$60,000, without which we would not have covered our expenses for the year. We were left with a small surplus (equivalent to 1.8% of our expenses) which will help provide a small buffer for this year. Thank you to everyone who partnered with us financially in 2014 — through your generosity over a thousand Sydney Uni students heard the gospel, were disciplined under Christ and sent out as part of the Flood of leaders into God's global church.

2015 Financial update

'General' year-to-date received \$90,240
(Target: \$97,750)

'Personal' year-to-date received: \$239,900
(Target: \$249,300)

GradsFund staff are funded by both 'General' and 'Personal' donations. 'Personal' donations are in support of particular staff members. 'General' donations subsidise Senior Staff and the ministry as a whole.



Joyfully in his service,

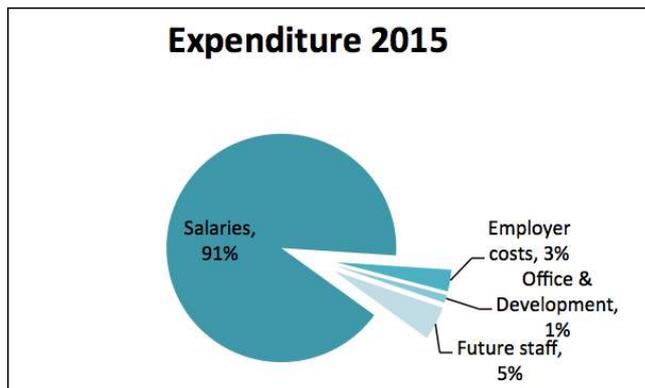
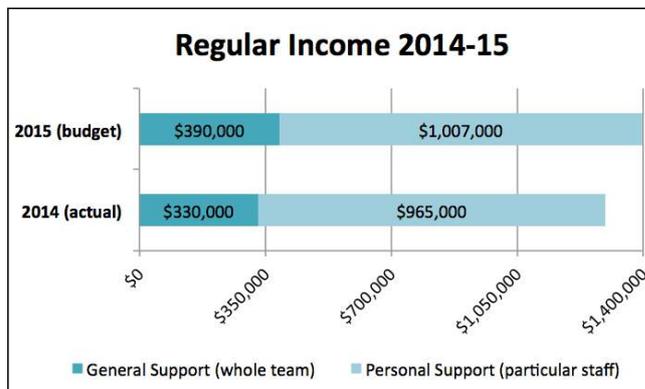
ROWAN KEMP

EU Staff Team Leader

CEO, The EU GradsFund

2015 Budget

In order to free up our EU staff for more word ministry on campus we have employed a one-day/week Media & Communications Intern, Elisabeth Neale. Liz has already proved to be a great blessing to the team (this new look Flood is but one of the improvements she has already made!). As revealed in the February issue of Flood we have also employed Matt Moffitt as a senior staff-worker one day/week and had twelve new Howies join the team. Together these explain the increase in budget for 2015. As usual we endeavour to make a 5% surplus to build up a better buffer for future years. If you are able to reconsider your giving to the ministry, you can do it through the EU GradsFund website or by contacting our administrator.



HOW TO SUPPORT US

THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY! GIVING TO THE EU GRADUATES FUND IS EASY.

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ONE

Give via **credit card**.

Go to: gradsfund.org/home/support/give/

option
TWO

Give via **direct debit**.

Acct: The EU Graduates Fund
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Acct. Number: 67 152 5641

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THREE

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When making a direct debit please include your name in the description field. When you make your first payment, email administrator@gradsfund.org to advise us of your contribution.

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