

starts Feb

THE BIG YEAR OUT



overseas mission exposure trip

From 22nd June to 19th July 2009, the BYO group will participate in a short term exposure trip. Choose to visit an Indigenous Community in Australia or churches in Asia or the Pacific. This will be a fantastic time of exploring the faith, culture, hurts and hopes of people from another culture.



Peter Grant with local children in the Philippines

"The mid year trip to the Philippines was awesome! The people we got to meet were really amazing and as an outcome my faith was challenged. To see leaders giving up what they have and love to follow God's call, even when there is so much danger was really inspiring"

Sharnie Pattinson, 2008 BYO trip to the Phillipines.

discernment retreat

The BYO year closes with a spiritual retreat – a weekend of prayer, conversation, worship and listening to God. This is a celebration of a journey but also a time of looking ahead and discerning God's next steps for you.

Program Options

The Big Year Out is a part-time program. Along with the Discipleship Intensive and Overseas Trip, each week from March you will participate in the Community gathering and one day of mission service. That leaves the rest of your week free for part-time work, study, or whatever.

You can also make The Big Year Out a full-time year by

- > adding some study in Certificate/Diploma or Degree programs through the Adelaide College of Divinity
- > offering more than one day a week for your mission service placement
- > combining the BYO with service or work in your church or a Christian organisation

Talk to us about these options!

costs and enrolment

Application forms for The Big Year Out are available from the website or by contacting us. Applicants will be interviewed before selection for the program and you will need a reference from your local minister or pastor. Applications close no later than 31st December. Interviews will be held from early December. Cost information for The Big Year Out will be available on our website. Scholarship assistance is available for Uniting Church participants.

Contact us

Website: <http://thebigyearout.com>
Email: info@thebigyearout.com
Tel: 08 8416 8427
 talk to Nichola



Parkin Wesley College

Are you ready for God to take you on the trip of a lifetime?



the Big Year Out is an activity of Parkin-Wesley College the ministry training and theological education body of the Uniting Church in Australia, Presbytery and Synod of SA

an adventure

in Christian
living & service

"I have felt privileged to be a part of the BYO program and to see the way the participants have grown this year. My own passion for the global church has been re-ignited seeing these young people connecting with the work of the Uniting Church."

Jo Robertson, Big Year Out Coordinator



The **Big Year Out** is your chance to have a new adventure. To get some space. To make new friends. To go deeper in your faith. To do something that makes a difference. To be an agent of change for Jesus.

The **Big Year Out** is for young adults aged 18 to 30 years who want a **'gap' year** between whatever you have been doing and whatever you might do next. It's a time to discover your gifts and explore your directions for the future.

The **Big Year Out** is not a study program, although it will give you the **opportunity to learn** and grow in your faith. It's a time to go deeper with God and fire your passion for serving Jesus in a needy world.

The **Big Year Out** includes

- > a one-week discipleship intensive
- > a weekly community gathering
- > a regular hands-on mission service placement
- > a mid-year cross-cultural mission trip
- > going deeper into the Bible
- > a spiritual growth track
- > an end-of-year spiritual retreat

Are you ready for a big year out?

discipleship intensive

The year kicks off with a live-in discipleship week on the 9th to 13th February. This is where you get to know other BYO participants, share in daily Bible study, have fun, learn about the mission placements, and begin to explore what it means to have a strong, hopeful, risk-taking Christian faith. There'll be excellent speakers, time at the beach, a field trip, and more.

weekly community gathering

From 2nd March, BYO participants will meet each Tuesday afternoon and evening for community time. This is a key part of the Big Year Out experience. Our time together includes community-building, Bible input and small group sharing, spiritual formation activities, reflection on our learnings from mission placements, and meeting and hearing from a range of awesome Christians from around Australia.

spiritual growth track

Discipleship is a spiritual journey, and like a journey, it relies on our willingness and fitness to last the distance. You will be invited to take on a spiritual growth plan with regular prayer and action steps to help faith become more real in your everyday life.

We'll be using an excellent new resource from The Upper Room called "**The Way of Pilgrimage**". This involves a guided daily prayer experience along with other spiritual growth activities, and a weekly group time that will take place on our community days. Check it out at <http://www.upperroom.info/way/>

We will also be asking you to find a mentor from your local church or faith community. This person will meet with you regularly to reflect on your BYO journey.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you to step out.



mission service placements

Each week from the beginning of March, Big Year Out participants will be involved in a hands-on mission placement one day a week with a church community service agency, school or city mission project. This is an opportunity to experience Christian service first-hand and to learn about the lives and needs of people who are struggling.

Over the year you will be involved in 3 or 4 placements lasting up to 12 weeks each. Placements will include agencies such as

- > Drop-in centres
- > Community mental health services

- > Drug & alcohol recovery services
- > Support for homeless people
- > Aged care and dementia support
- > Working with Aboriginal communities
- > Local community support schemes
- > Providing emergency relief

These voluntary placements will be supervised, and we will endeavour to match your placements with your maturity, interests and gifts. The regular day of the week on which your placement is undertaken can be set to work in with your other work or study commitments.