



RAW NEWS

FRIDAY NIGHTS 6 - 8:30 THROUGH SCHOOL TERM



WELCOME TO RAW YOUTH!

Raw is the youth group of St Stephens Belrose.

We are a community where young people from years 6 - 12 can have fun, feel a sense of belonging and ultimately encounter God.

We meet on Friday nights during the school term and run camps and fun-days through the holidays.



What Parents Say

"I think some of the most important things RAW offers is an inclusive community, alternative option on a Friday night, an opportunity to connect with peers and another friend group, especially when things are tough at school."

- Andrea Sargeant



St Stephens Anglican Church
16 Lockwood Ave, Belrose

Meet the Leaders!



Henri & Bec Simpson

"Henri is the youth co-ordinator here at St Stephens and teaches SRE at a number of high schools in the area. He is also finishing up at Bible college this year and continuing his studies in Exercise and Sports Science. Bec is a Photographer/Graphic designer working from home when she can between caring for their 2 boys, Asher and Hadley."



Kathleen Purkis

"I work at St Stephens as Worship Coordinator and am a Chaplain and teachers aide at Yanginanook School. I have also been involved in teaching scripture at Forest and Davidson high schools for a number of years. I've recently completed a bachelor of science psychology. I'm passionate about Jesus, music, bad jokes and embroidery."



Rachel Renouf

"I'm a social work student who can make coffee. On occasions I gets the privilege to go to schools to talks to youth about emotions and why they are interesting. I teach teakwondo and I am passionate about small groups and teaching other about the awesome love of Jesus!"



Jordan Bamford

"I've recently graduated from Davidson High and started as a wardsman at Royal North Shore Hospital and volunteer as a scripture teacher at Davidson High School. My interests are sports, socks and being annoying to everyone!"



Nick Sumsky

"I've recently completed a Bachelor of Music at The Australian Institute of Music. I work as a Dental receptionist and as a tutor and coach. I have alot experience working with youth. I'm passionate about helping young people navigate adolescence. I have a heart for worship and prayer. I also like socks."



Just a few of our amazing team of leaders

TRAINING LEADERS

One of our values is to always be training up the next generation to lead and serve. The last few years we've been so blessed to have a large team of older and younger leaders working together to run Raw.

Some of the skills we seek to instill into our leaders is to walk close with God themselves, show commitment, take responsibility for tasks, run games, prepare words, run small groups and learn how to use authority with kindness and self-sacrifice.

What do we do at youth?

Raw usually meets every Friday night 6-8:30pm at St Stephens Belrose. We start with dinner which we ask for a gold coin donation, cans are also available for \$2.

Apart from that, we like to create variety and excitement throughout the term so we rarely do the same thing 2 weeks in a row. Some things we do regularly are -

Raw Party - We like to start the term off with a bang, a great time for new people to join in. We play games, enjoy party food and catch up.

Raw Church - We move from dinner into a time of music and a talk. We like to use this night to hear from the youth too. It's always great to see young people step up in front of their peers and share what God has been teaching them.

Raw Outing - We meet at church and travel together to an activity. Some we do regularly are a bonfire at McCarrs Creek, tenpin bowling, rock climbing, putt putt golf and more. For activities, we ask kids to bring the cost of entry and money for dinner at MacDonaldis.

Boy Girl Split - This is where we break up into boys and girls and do something more targeted for each

group and focus on speaking into appropriate issues. This will usually be off site.

Raw Groups - We start with games and then break into small groups so the youth can have an opportunity to share and ask questions.

Development Night - These are nights where kids can explore areas of interest. Some options we've done before are music, drama, speaking and leadership.

Combined Youth Night/MERGE - Once a term we try to connect with some of the other youth groups in the area for a big night of games, music and sharing.



We always want to keep you informed so do our best to send out a text the day before youth to let you know what is happening that week.

Sometimes the length of youth varies to accomodate different activities.

If you would like to be kept in the loop, please contact

Henri -
0414 932 422.





Upcoming Camps

Camps are a big part of what we do, here are some of the camps happening this year during the holidays and school term.



Surch Camp – Spring and Summer

Yrs 7-8 - 28 Sep - 2 Oct

Yrs 9 up - 5 - 9 Oct (Mon-Fri)

For Surch camp, we meet up at Tea Gardens with youth groups from all around Sydney for an awesome week of beach fun, games, worship and talks.

Find more details closer to the dates at: www.surchcamp.com

Cost \$150 but early bird price is only \$90 so book early!



River Camp – High School Scripture

6-8 March (Fri-Sun)

This midterm weekend is held at Galston Gorge and is aimed mainly at local high school scripture kids. We have an awesome time kayaking, playing sport, swimming, testing out the inflatable obstacle course and bushwalking.

Cost \$85



Raw Camp – Fight Those Winter Blues!

7 - 11 July (Tue-Sat)

Once a year during the winter school holidays, Raw Camp is like our youth family holiday. In the past it's been at Tea Gardens Baptist Church but we may change it up this year. We'll keep you posted. It will definitely include sessions, campfires, walks and games.

Cost \$90

5pm Sunday Church

Every Sunday 5pm, join our young peoples service (and young at heart) for worship, sharing, a good word and usually dinner!

We aim to be cross generational, loving community. There are many opportunities to grow your faith in learning and serving.

The whole family is welcome!





Permission Form

We ask parents to sign the enclosed form once a year. Any medical information should be recorded and brought to our attention if vital.

Keeping Kids Safe

Keeping your kids safe is your top priority and it's also ours. If you have any questions or concerns, please raise it with us immediately.

This is something we take very seriously and are very conscious of leaders' behaviour with youth. Every leader is required to undergo safe ministries training regularly and have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) number.

We are careful to avoid being alone with youth where possible. If there is an occasion where it is necessary for a child to be alone with

a gender appropriate leader, permission from a parent will be sought first.

We have recently purchased a 12 seater church bus which is what we use on youth outings. There is also the option of creating a bus run for pickups and dropoffs if the need arises. If this would be a help in your situation be sure to let us know! When we need extra vehicles, we have a number of fully licenced

drivers, we also allow Green P Platers to drive youth but never Red P Platers. If this is still a concern please let Henri know and we will make sure your child travels only with fully licenced drivers.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child please speak directly to Henri. Feedback is always appreciated so we can deal with any issues immediately.



What Do We Teach?

We always want to see young people connect with God themselves and want to create opportunities to see that happen.

Ultimately we teach for kids to love God and love others. Everything we teach is from the Bible and we focus on key things that will help them make good choices while they are young.

Things that come up often are - obeying your parents, having good relationships, how to spend time with God,

how to avoid bad influences along with such questions as 'why should I do well at school?'

These days there are a lot of issues that the church is seen to view with a strong opinion. It is never our aim to focus on controversial topics, but when they do come up, we always want to deal

with those things gently and positively. We encourage kids to think it through for themselves and equip them on how to do that.

We always want to respect your authority as a parent in their lives and actively encourage them to be mindful of your wishes.

Parent References

If you would like to talk to another parent from the raw youth community here are some who are happy to answer any questions.

Andrea & Chris Sargeant - 0402 436 228 (Andrea)
(Roseville Girls)

Claire & Colin Purkis - 0450 017 035 (Claire)
(St Ives High)



Contact Us

Henri - Youth Co-ordinator
0414 932 422
henri@ststephens.net.au

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16 Lockwood Ave Belrose

www.ststephens.net.au

Facebook - www.facebook.com/rawststephens

Instagram - 'rawyouthbelrose'