

# CREATIVE

THE SALVATION ARMY • AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY • JULY 2014 • VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 3

## COFFEE CULTURE

*DOING LIFE OVER A LATTE*



# FROM *the* WINGS

## SALVOS GET INTO SWING OF WARWICK FESTIVAL



By ANNE HALLIDAY

For 10 days in July, the streets, cafes and pubs of Warwick are filled with the colour and rhythms of the annual Jumpers and Jazz festival (17-27 July). This year, for the first time, Warwick Salvos will be hosting their own Sing and Swing at the Salvos on the final weekend of the festival.

Headlining the event will be a brand-new 15-member big band with musicians drawn from corps in The Salvation Army's South Queensland Division, under the leadership of Carindale Corps member Sam Creamer.

Lieutenant Steve Spencer, corps officer at Warwick 130km south-west of Brisbane, says the idea for corps participation in the Jumpers and Jazz festival was first explored last year as a new missional opportunity.

"We identified that the Jumpers and Jazz festival was a community event in which the corps could provide a positive impact on our town and surrounding areas," says Lieut Spencer.

"The 'stroll and swing' element of the festival

provides an opportunity for musicians to play in the main streets of town where people can move between one act and another and enjoy what the town provides."

The corps is hoping to invite festival-goers to an evening concert at the Warwick Salvation Army and to the Sunday morning church service.

Sam quickly got on board with the corps' vision, enthused by the possibilities of the project.

"I have a passion for jazz and I know there are many Salvo musicians around south-east Queensland who also love playing jazz," he says. "It's a great opportunity to get out into the Warwick community and to support Warwick Corps."

"The band is made up of a variety of musicians of all ages and experience. The instrumentation follows closely to a traditional big-band line-up including saxophones, trombones, trumpets, piano, bass guitar, drums and a vocalist."

The band, which has drawn together musicians from corps at Brisbane City Temple, Carindale, Centenary and North Brisbane, Lake Community Church and Brisbane Streetlevel Mission, has met for monthly rehearsals since April.

Joining the big band for both the Saturday night concert and Sunday morning church service will be talented Brisbane-based barber shop group Blindside Quartet, whose bass singer, Tim Green (from Brisbane City Temple), will also be playing drums for the big band.

Lieut Spencer hopes the corps can establish a long-term presence at the festival, just as The Salvo Country Band had done at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

"We anticipate the concert could become a staple showpiece of the Jumpers and Jazz festival and we are hoping that this event will provide another avenue to connect with people within the community to promote the gospel," he says.

For more information about the festival, go to [jumpersandjazz.com](http://jumpersandjazz.com)

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### CAFE CULTURE

Doing life over a latte



Photo: Shairon Paterson

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# THE AROMA OF CHRIST

HOW THE HUMBLE COFFEE BEAN IS HELPING CHRISTIANS CONNECT WITH THEIR COMMUNITY

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**There's no other way to say it: coffee is an Australian obsession.**

Is it the deep, rich aroma of freshly ground beans, the allure of a perfectly brewed crema or the pleasant lingering aftertaste of the subtle, smooth flavours of the bean's place of origin?

Across age demographics and socio-economic groups it is our hot beverage of choice. In the past 50 years we have increased our annual consumption per person, from 0.6kg to 2.9kg. And it's big business. In the next five years, the cafe and coffee shop industry is predicted to be valued at almost \$5 billion.

But Australians are not just looking for their next caffeine hit. According to research carried out by BIS Food Service in 2012, 47 per cent of coffee drinkers identified that meeting friends is the main reason they order a cup when they go out.

Coffee as a social connector is not a new phenomena. The social pull of the coffee bean has been a part of cultures around the world for centuries. Coffee houses in Europe and the Mediterranean coasts of Africa and the Middle East not only fuelled social networks, they were also meeting places for artists and intellectuals. In post-World War II Australia, Italian immigrants forged a unique espresso-driven coffee culture, shaping a national obsession with a good brew that has only intensified over the decades.

Christians with an eye for connecting culture with faith have recognised that in the face of an emerging generation marked by a desire for relationship and a suspicion of institutions, the humble coffee provides a kind of leverage.

For many years, a number of Salvation Army centres have established cafes as training facilities providing job skills for those at-risk, such as Oasis Hunter's Olive Branch and Wollongong Corps' Banjo's (now Café Essay) which both opened their doors in the mid-1990s. Alongside these training initiatives, coffee spaces and fully-fledged cafes have become a non-threatening "third place" for churches to connect with their community.

In the following pages, *Creative* profiles four Salvo communities where relationships are forged over a cup of coffee.

PHOTO: SHAIRON PATERSON



the **BIG** picture





**(LEFT)** Theresa Elliott, with her children Uniqwa, Xyliah, Valykai and Zephyar.

**(FAR LEFT)** Theresa is one of the parents who enjoys a cuppa at the cafe run by Stafford Salvation Army while her daughters participate in their Street Dreams hip-hop dance class. Photos: Shairon Paterson

## CAFE CONNECTING FAMILIES AT STAFFORD

By **SIMONE WORTHING & ANNE HALLIDAY**

**T**he “Street Dreams” program at Brisbane’s Stafford Corps is fast becoming an event for all the family.

While the hip-hop students enjoy the classes, up to 30 parents and siblings are relaxing in the cafe. They’re chatting with each other and the volunteers from the corps who come to spend time with them, savouring a coffee and snacking on the fruit and other healthy treats prepared for them.

Children are exploring the adjacent playground, having fun with the toys provided, or simply playing in the foyer near their parents.

“The cafe is enabling us to become a part of people’s lives, build relationships and invite them to our activities and to church,” says Captain Michelle Oliver (pictured bottom

right), corps officer at Stafford with her husband, Captain Deon Oliver.

The Street Dreams program began last year, with just three children. The program now runs two sessions, one for children in grade five or below which is full, and one for older children that is almost at capacity.

“We planned to have our cafe open at that time and thought a handful of parents might hang out there while waiting for their kids,” explains Captain Michelle.

“Word of mouth got around and now many parents come as a family with all their children. Some stay for the entire time and I have to shoo them out at 7pm!”

Theresa Elliott and her four children are one family whose involvement has had a positive impact on the whole family. Staying for a cuppa with other parents while two of her daughters, Xyliah and Uniqwa, dance, has become part of Theresa’s weekly routines.

“I always stick around and have got to know some of the people,” she says.

“You talk about your day and your kids. It’s great to be with other people who can relate to what is happening with me. Deon and Michelle always ask how my week has been and it’s nice to know someone is there for you. As much as I know they are there for my kids, they are there for me too.”

Theresa takes her younger son, Valykai, to Mainly Music and attends Stafford’s afternoon church Connexions.

“I’ve actually got quite involved,” she laughs. “I just want to be proactive. Being by myself with the four kids takes its toll, so I need to put myself out there.

“It has really given me more strength and confidence that I don’t have to do it all on my own. I know I still do it on my own, but now the days are few and far between when I wallow in that. It helps me to be positive.

“When I am there, people lift me up and remind me that I have value and I am important. And for me to start getting that for myself, it can shine through for my kids. I am so grateful for it.”

“My eldest daughter Zephyar and I went Red Shield collecting this year. It was our way of giving back.”

Michelle says: “It’s a gradual thing, but what is really cool is that we are becoming a part of people’s lives.

“One lady, who had a terrible day with a car accident on her way to Mainly Music, borrowed a car to come to Street Dreams because she said her kids really love it and she needed to be with other adults who would look after her!

“So many connections are coming from people just talking to each other.”



# CAFE 47 BUILDING A LOVING COMMUNITY

By ESTHER PINN

It's a crisp winter's morning in Sydney's north-west. Tenants of Ivanhoe Estate, and residents from suburbs surrounding Macquarie Park, sit wrapped in blankets and clasp a hot drink to warm their hands.

Judy stands diligently behind The Salvation Army Justice Van's mobile espresso machine, making lattes, cappuccinos and hot chocolates. Janet circles the tables taking coffee orders. Through a simple cup of coffee a tight-knit community has formed.

"My family is here. We are brothers and sisters and we love each other," says Nathalie who regularly attends Cafe 47 after visiting her mother who lives nearby.

Every Wednesday morning from 10am until midday, The Salvation Army Macquarie Park Community House, nicknamed "Number 47", opens Cafe 47 to serve free espressos and cake to tenants from Ryde's Ivanhoe Estate and neighbouring suburbs. The cafe has been running since 2003.

"[It's] a safe space, a welcoming space where people can come and gather," says Nathan Moulds who, with his wife, Karen, runs Number 47. "It's where people can walk out of the door of their home and meet one another, connect and build relationships and actually get to know one another in a safe and positive, meaningful way."

Quality coffee is the initial attraction for visitors to Cafe 47.

"It's all espressos, that's something we're really big on, not just doing the kettle and water thing or instant [coffee]," says Nathan.

And while good coffee is the major drawcard, there are many disadvantaged, poor and lonely people in the community who are looking for friendship. At Cafe 47 they find it. Nathan believes the coffee is a metaphor for relationship.

"Someone saying, 'I want to have a coffee with you', is them really saying, 'I want to spend time with you'. We



thought that would be a great way to engage people ... you know, free coffee, get people out of their house."

Anthony, who lives in the area, often feels lonely. That's why he has been coming to Cafe 47, and also Number 47's church service on Sundays for the past 12 years.

"In modern life you feel a bit isolated," he says. "The sense of community makes you bond and make friends."

Cafe 47 has given Anthony more than just friendship. The previous managers of Number 47, Envoys Craig and Danni Stephens, helped him to get back into painting by providing him with art supplies such as brushes, paints and easels.

## Biblical basis

The inspiration for Cafe 47, says Nathan, is Jesus' example of hospitality in the Bible.

"Jesus would often share a meal with his disciples," he says. "So much of the stories of scripture were around the dinner table, around food, and we're trying to emulate that sharing life together image around the table by sharing coffee."

At Cafe 47, people are encouraged to share their stories with others.

"Coffee is not the type of drink that you down quickly," says Nathan. "You drink it with something on the side you are nibbling on."

"We've always tried to give our community the best and create a really warm, hospitable, quality space for

people to come into, to connect and engage and bring their story and share their story.

"We're trying to create an atmosphere of community and hospitality where they are welcomed, because when people engage in that space there's an experience with the love of God."

Many from Cafe 47 also come to the Sunday church services held at Number 47. Some are even involved in the services, sharing their stories or reading Bible passages.

For a few individuals, Cafe 47 has been their launch pad for employment. Nathan has sent a few people to barista training courses and some now work in cafes in the Macquarie Park neighbourhood.

"We're interested in being community builders," says Nathan.

"We've had partnerships at various times with barista training services for our neighbours who have been long-term unemployed or battled with mental health issues and we actually put them through courses so they are the ones who actually make the coffees."

The success of building a community through coffee has inspired Nathan to take the ministry to other areas of Ryde using the Justice Van, and also to have a "pop-up" Cafe 47.

Nathan says that, ultimately, he hopes to build not only communities of coffee lovers, but communities that love each other.

(ABOVE) Nathan Moulds, pictured with local resident Judy, says Café 47 is a place where people have a place to share their story.

(TOP RIGHT) Mary is one of the local residents who enjoys her weekly coffee time at Cafe 47. Photos: Shairon Paterson



## ALL LINES LEAD TO KAFFEE BOOTH

By ESTHER PINN

The offer of a cappuccino, hot meal and friendship is a simple way Calamvale Corps welcomes people into its church community.

For a few hours every Tuesday from 10am, Kaffee Booth, in Brisbane's south, opens its doors for coffee, cake and conversation, followed by lunch. Up to 40 people attend the weekly gathering.

Over the two years Kaffee Booth has been running, the ministry has seen different groups of people come and go. The focus of the cafe's outreach is flexible, shifting to meet the needs of those present.

Major Ross Brown, who is the corps officer at Calamvale with his wife, Major Jo-anne Brown, describes Kaffee Booth as "a central train station", where people arrive from different points of origin to have their needs met in one place. And this place offers a space for all types of needs and people of all ages and cultures.

"People from all different walks are coming in and finding their ministry or their areas of need, [from] different areas at the station, different

platforms, whether it's just healing prayer," he says.

When Kaffee Booth started, it offered English lessons to local Asians. The classes lasted for 12 months, then other groups of people started coming along including some women who wanted a community environment to relax in after their Tuesday morning Bible study meeting. For a period of time, many of the Kaffee Booth attendees were people from the corps.

"Even if we're just touching our own people and we're getting them to open up more, it's beneficial," says Major Ross.

The cafe offers a space where people can connect with each other and God. At times, it has offered a prayer ministry before lunch is served, and Major Jo-anne Brown is a professional counsellor who is available to chat with anyone in need.

Kaffee Booth has also been the connector for people to access other Salvation Army services including soldiership classes and the Army's Positive Lifestyle Program, a 10-step counselling course.

All meals provided at the cafe



are donated by volunteers from the corps. The coffee is made by a trained barista using a machine purchased through a financial grant provided by the local government.

Kaffee Booth's ministry also extends beyond the local community. While the food and drink are free, donations are welcome and funds raised go towards overseas aid.

Kaffee Booth sponsors a child in Uganda and also supports a school in Israel for children who suffer from post-traumatic stress as a result of living in a region of conflict.

The need is for more volunteers to be involved in ministry to the Asian student population.

While many of the community's international students speak English, some struggle with Australian conversational style. Calamvale Corps has teachers available to help the students overcome the language challenges they face.

(ABOVE) English lessons for the local Asian community has been one of the ways Kaffee Booth has been used by Calamvale Corps to serve local needs.

## FINDING THE BEAT SPARKS NEW POSSIBILITIES

By SIMONE WORTHING

**D**rumbeat is a new program being offered through Salvos Counselling Brisbane. Led by Doug Taylor, Manager of Salvos Counselling and an experienced and enthusiastic drummer, the program promotes social understanding and connection through a team drumming experience. It's fun, safe, creative and rewarding.

Originally developed by Holyoake, a leading drug and alcohol rehabilitation and counselling services organisation in Western Australia, Drumbeat is engaging people from all ages and backgrounds who are struggling with a range of issues, including lack of social skills, anger management, isolation, anxiety, self-esteem, toxic relationships and entrenched behavioural problems.

The program has already had success in working with people with addictions, brain damage, mental health and trauma.

"The results are just amazing and can be applied in so many different areas," Doug says.

Doug has already run one Drumbeat group in Brisbane, with colleague Getano Bann, who works for Edmund Rice Education Australia. The group target young people under 25 who have dropped out of regular school and now want to complete their high school education.

Says one teenage participant, "I used to be shy, but not anymore, now I'm confident to speak and do what I want to do." Another comments, "It taught me not to punch people and get angry. It's not just about drumming; it's about learning social skills and skills that will help us in life." Groups are usually made up of 8-10 people, who do not require any prior knowledge of drumming or music. There is a focus on social skills, patience, cooperation, tolerance, empathy and commitment. The drum circle offers a safe environment for the clients and they are encouraged to connect with each other and engage with and respond to what is happening around them.

"The program allows people to be creative, and opens up new possibilities and ways of thinking,"



(ABOVE) Doug Taylor finds the Drumbeat program creates opportunity for its participants (RIGHT) to build the confidence and social skills they need to overcome life challenges. Photos: Shairon Paterson



says Mr Taylor. "We use rhythms as a way to talk about an issue, based on one of the program's themes, that allows the person to engage with both the rhythm and the theme. The physical nature of drumming has a cathartic effect and allows for the expression of emotion and release of tension."

Salvos Counselling Brisbane is hoping to find funding to purchase 12 drums. The drums currently in use are on loan and need to be returned.

Drumbeat, which is active in 500 schools, youth centres, children's

hospitals, refugee centres, prisons and other organisations throughout Australia and New Zealand, has helped clients to understand relationship issues and how to get along with people, increased self-esteem, developed long term behavioural changes, reduced school absenteeism and given people hope.

For more information, go to the Drumbeat video on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/HolyoakeDRUMBEAT](http://www.youtube.com/user/HolyoakeDRUMBEAT) or check out Salvos Counselling's new website [salvoscounselling.salvos.org.au](http://salvoscounselling.salvos.org.au)

## FOUNDERY AT HEART OF SUBURB'S TRANSFORMATION

By ANNE HALLIDAY

**E**ach day, Lieutenant Paul Kurth, dressed in his barista "blacks", serves a steady stream of regular customers who drop into The Foundery cafe.

Four years of planning and six months after opening its doors, the urban-styled cafe is fast becoming an integral part of the transformation of Port Kembla's Wentworth St. With its retro-lined lounge chairs, cosy fireplace and bookshelves lined with second-hand books, the cafe is luring locals and coffee aficionados alike.

It's hard work but Paul and wife, Captain Christy Kurth, have a deeply embedded desire to be part of the transformation of this community.

At the heart of that vision is The Foundery gathering a reputation for excellence as a cafe and becoming a successful social enterprise that would enable community outreach programs in the local area, in Wollongong's industrial belt.

"I remember when we first came to this area and it was a pretty desolate place," says Christy. "Paul said, 'I don't know what he's doing but God is at work here'."

"In our research at that time, there was a gap in attracting businesses to this area because there wasn't a cafe to service their staff and customers.

People are flocking to cafes but not the church.

"We simply asked, 'what if we did?' [The Salvation Army's founder] William Booth set up match factories. He saw a need and then found a way to meet it."

### Breaking down barriers

It's been hard work, getting a fledgling business off the ground in a suburb struggling to get back on its feet, but the growing community gathering around The Foundery affirms Paul and Christy's conviction that the work of ministry doesn't happen on Sundays in church, but in the everyday world of every follower of Jesus.

"It's about doing life with people," says Paul with infectious enthusiasm.

"It's about recognising our contacts in everyday life – our hairdresser, local barista, sports team, or supermarket attendant and intentionally building those relationships.

"As a local barista, I am coming in contact with more people than I would as a corps officer – and there is a lot less barriers to that relationship. Because I am dressed in normal cafe attire, we are just people engaging on equal terms on an everyday basis.

"One of our occasional customers is one of the local 'working' girls. There is no way I could engage with her as a male in other settings. But because she

comes here, I have the chance to talk with her.

"And as we share the vision for the cafe, we are actually finding that people are buying into that vision. They pose more questions, so the ministry unfolds as more of a journey. We are seeing the community unfold in the everyday."

On Sundays, The Foundery is not officially open, but the coffee machine is on for the small faith community that meets there twice a month. It's informal and multi-generational. On the edges are people who haven't yet taken the step to join in but feel comfortable enough to look on.

"Maybe one day some of those people will come in and sit down and join us," says Christy.

"We would want this to be a community of disciples making disciples. One of the tensions is that the people in the corps are the marginalised of our community, but the cafe community is not.

"We may not see bums on seats but if through our presence this area becomes a consistently safer place; if we could show the 'johns' it's not appropriate to come down to pick up one of the girls; if we could see value and respect grow in the community, then lives are being impacted," she adds with a determined and quietly confident smile. □

(ABOVE) Lieutenant Paul Kurth does life with the Port Kembla community from behind the coffee machine at The Foundery cafe. Photo: Shairon Paterson

THIS YEAR, HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WILL ATTEND THE SALVOS' EQUIP CAMPS – AN EVENT THAT EMPOWERS THE CREATIVE ENERGIES OF AN EMERGING GENERATION

**F**anning into flame the creative talents of hundreds young people is no small task – but it is one that the EQUIP teams willingly and enthusiastically take on year after year.

This year, the event will bring together 30 creative tutors for 500 participants over two camps, aiming to envision and empower youth and young adults. The staggering range of performing visual arts electives available to participants includes brass, graphic design, photography, video production, art, timbrels, drama, dance and vocal. The camps will offer four electives specifically designed to meet the needs of older youth and young adults in areas of leadership, the Bible, social justice and youth ministry. Worship and smaller “life” groups will ground the discipleship focus of the camps.

“Our focus is really for the young people to take what they learn and apply it back at home after camp,” says EQUIP director Nate Brown.

“Our big challenge is the range of ages that we cover. We have the exuberance of the young teens and also want to create an event where young adults feel they are being genuinely equipped for ministry.”

## Investing in the right EQUIPment

Photo: Shairon Paterson

Attending a graphic design elective at EQUIP last year has put Craig Pennell in the frame to use his creative streak for The Salvation Army. See his story on page 14 >>>



## INVESTING IN OTHERS NO DRAMA FOR AMY

AMY LABAN OWES HER TEACHING CAREER TO THE INFLUENCE OF A SALVATION ARMY CAMP. NOW, WRITES **ESTHER PINN**, SHE IS GIVING BACK

**A**s Amy Laban stands in front of her drama elective group at EQUIP QPAS (Queensland Performing Arts School), there is a sense of having come full circle.

Raised in The Salvation Army, Amy (pictured above) was once one of these young people enjoying the ministry development camp. Now she is one of its leaders investing in young lives.

“It’s really interesting to have a different point of view of the whole process,” she says.

“Back when I was a camper I really enjoyed it. I thought it was really fun and valuable and all that, but didn’t realise the impact that it had on young people.”

That includes the impact EQUIP QPAS has had on her own life. The 32-year-old says she owes her teaching career to the time she spent at camp in her adolescent years.

“It [EQUIP QPAS] gave me the confidence to really know that I was important and what I was doing was valuable,” she says.

“When I was a teenager I didn’t set out to be a drama and English teacher ... these foundations laid [from EQUIP QPAS] really took hold and were really important to me.”

Amy has a heart for people and always wanted to pursue a career

that would incorporate this passion. After leaving high school, she began studying a Bachelor of Human Services.

She quickly realised she wasn’t heading down the right path and changed to drama teaching, combining her passion for people with her passion for drama.

Since 2000, Amy has been living out what she teaches at EQUIP QPAS by being involved locally at her church with drama ministry.

Becoming a mother six years ago has meant taking more of a back-seat role recently, focusing more on being a facilitator and encouraging others to get involved.

But last year, she signed up to teach drama at EQUIP QPAS for the first time.

With more than 50 young people choosing the drama elective for this year’s camp, it will be split into two streams: screen drama and stage drama.

The stage drama elective will be taught by Amy and will involve script writing, acting, behind-the-scenes work and all aspects that revolve around stage drama based on the camp’s theme. Amy has also organised a guest speaker from the Queensland Theatre Company to speak at one of the workshops.

“I’m really encouraged by it all and really enjoy it,” she says. “It’s exhausting and exhilarating, and to meet all the people there and watch them flourish is really exciting.”

The elective will also provide opportunities for young people to rehearse for the EQUIP QPAS concert night, held at the culmination of the camp, and for the in-house talent night show.

Rather than operating to a strict structure, Amy aims to provide a program that suits the needs of her students to help them grow in their skills.

“I’ve learnt to be really flexible and responsive to what is needed,” she says. “I don’t go in with, ‘OK, we’re doing this and I expect everyone to follow it’. I kind of go with what is relevant to this group of people.”

### Fanning the flames

Amy also believes that EQUIP QPAS is an opportunity to help fan the passion already ignited in young people.

She wants her students to go home equipped with ideas and confidence for ministry work within their own Salvation Army corps.

“I’m encouraged by today’s young people, the voices they have and the way they are really trying to live a godly life,” she says.

“What I really want to do is encourage young people to recognise that they have a valid and relevant voice within their church communities and the wider community.”

For Amy, the journey from participant to leader has been an exhilarating one.

“I see all these young people [who have previously attended the camp] stepping up into these roles of leadership and that’s really exciting to be a part of that with them.”

The Army’s South Queensland Divisional Youth and Children’s Secretary, Lieutenant Narelle Unicomb, echoes this sentiment.

“Because so many of our staff have been campers before they don’t see this [volunteering to lead at EQUIP QPAS] as a huge sacrifice because they see the investment camp had into their life and ministry and they now want to invest into the next generation.”

Amy attends The Salvation Army Life Community Church in Slacks Creek with her husband, Carey, and their four children: Thomas, Isabel, Amelia and Sophie.

Design an outlet  
for Craig's  
creativity



Photo: Shairon Paterson

By ESTHER PINN

**W**hen six young people signed up for the new graphic design elective at EQUIP QPAS last year, Craig Pennell had no idea it would bring together a powerhouse of talent that would serve The Salvation Army's South Queensland Division.

"We secretly call ourselves the 'Creative Ninjas,'" laughs Craig (pictured left), resisting an official title for the group of four who have continued to complete design work for the division for the past year.

The volunteers - Samantha Lynch (Tweed Heads Corps), Michael Ball (Carindale Corps), Tim Ivers (Carindale Corps) and Craig (Centenary Corps) - give up their time outside their normal work hours to design flyers, brochures and other material for corps and youth ministries or divisional events.

"It's a very loose thing. We aren't the [divisional] graphic design team but as far as our DYS (divisional youth secretary), or here at DHQ (divisional headquarters), if there's something coming up they want designed we are a group of people they can call on and we can work on it," explains Craig.

While they may have limited time to offer, Craig and his team are committed to excellence. The amount of design projects they take on fluctuates - some months there are no projects while in others, Craig might spend more than 50 hours on a particular job.

"It's something good about me but also bad, my heart for excellence is so particular," he says. "If someone says, 'Craig, can you make a flyer for me tomorrow?', I can't work with that. I spend a lot of time until every detail is displayed the best."

For Craig, a successful project does more than just look good. When designing a flyer, application form, information booklet and Facebook event images for EQUIP QPAS last year, Craig saw how his design could reflect the ministry it was prepared for.

"With EQUIP QPAS last year, I put so much time into that and unpaid hours to make this flyer the best possible, purely because the better the design, the better the reach of how far the event will go.

"And I really hoped and prayed it would >>>

not only reflect the heart of God but encourage people to see they're coming to an event that's going to be great and it will be all the elements we incorporated into the design."

Craig's design inspiration not only comes from his own creativity, but also from God. When Craig designed this year's Australia Eastern territorial youth councils flyers, he represented each division by a different colour and shape.

"There's a hidden layer [to the design], a hidden meaning into what God is speaking to me about it, but most of the time people don't know that," he says. "I'm watching things unfold and there's a prophetic element in what we did in the lead-up to this [youth councils flyer]."

### Design by accident

Interestingly, graphic design is not Craig's profession. The 27-year-old is a radiographer who became a part-time graphic designer by accident.

"What I do at work is really limited creatively," he says. "That's why I've really enjoyed doing this graphic design stuff on the side, just exploring things you can't normally do in a medical environment."

Just over nine years ago, Craig starting tinkering with idea of designing a logo for his youth group to put on T-shirts. Having a friend who owned photoshop – a software program that is used in the graphic design industry – Craig began to experiment.

A few years later, he was asked to design a flyer for Fuel, a quarterly youth rally held in the South Queensland Division. From there, Craig kept improving his skills and it's his journey of development that he is most proud of.

"Seeing the evolution over time and seeing things more refined and, I guess, for me I'm most proud of where I've come as a graphic designer," he says. "I love when every time I do a new thing I look back at a previous one and go, 'this is where I came from'."

Craig's creative talents also extend beyond graphic design. He has played the piano since seven and is the worship leader at Centenary Corps. He has been involved musically at divisional events including South Queensland's Riverfest and North NSW Divisional Youth Councils.

To contact Craig and his team about having a flyer or brochure designed, send an email to Captain Narelle Unicomb, South Queensland's Divisional Youth and Candidates Secretary (narelle.unicomb@aue.salvationarmy.org).

## SPORTS ELECTIVE HELPS JASON PROVIDE A PATHWAY INTO MINISTRY



By ANNE HALLIDAY

Opening doors for young people to connect with their community sits at the heart of why Jason Poutawa is passionate about The Salvation Army's EQUIP camps.

Two years ago, with Mark and Lauren Soper, he pioneered the first elective in sports ministry at EQUIP as a way of giving value to the diverse range of ways young people are wired.

"We could see that we had a large group of boys who didn't see themselves fitting into those traditional outlets like a brass band, but were so keen for sport and so we started to ask what could we do for them" says Jason, who works as a youth programs consultant for the Army's Australia Eastern Territory.

He is also involved with the youth ministry at his home corps at Ryde, in north-west Sydney.

"Sports ministry has been a strong part of my growing-up years and working out who I am, and at EQUIP it's vital that we celebrate a wide range of passion areas so that young people know we value who they are and what they bring. We want to provide

pathways for people to express who they are. And we want to catch them early so we can build into them.

"With the sports ministry elective, we want to give them an understanding of the foundations of sports ministry and translate how that works for them back home. I would love to see an army of sports ministers – normal, ordinary people who are able to operate in their gift to lead people to Christ and make an impact through sport which is something Australians really engage with."

Central to achieving this vision is creating an environment at EQUIP where discipleship is highly valued, says Jason.

"EQUIP is an absolute ball of fun. Young people come for the experience but underneath that is the culture of relationship, connection and sense of belonging that creates the platform for us to build into their lives and say, 'we love you too much for you not to grow'."

"We're wanting to help them build their character, develop spiritual understanding and encounter God for young people, to discover a new norm of reality for when the campers head back home."

## CONNECTION AND DISCIPLESHIP PART OF GREATER WEST'S PLAN FOR EQUIPPING KIDS

The Salvation Army's discipleship and creative arts camp, EQUIP, has been reinvented for children.

Run by The Greater West Division, its previous Discovery Camp, which was for primary and high school students, has been rebranded and reworked to become EQUIP Kids and is exclusively for primary schoolchildren aged nine to 12.

Greater West Divisional Youth and Candidates Secretary, Captain John Viles, says EQUIP Kids is aimed at both un-churched children who attend the Army's summer and Easter camps at The Collaroy Centre, and for Salvo kids.

"GOD HAS CREATED US SPECIAL AND WE WANTED THE KIDS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT GOD HAS MADE THEM SPECIAL."

"While they [Easter and summer Collaroy camps] are absolutely fantastic and many kids find salvation there, many are community kids who don't have a connection to a church and need that ongoing discipleship that they only get at summer camp or Easter camp once," he says.

"EQUIP Kids has started up to grasp those kids and also provide churches within The Greater West with an intensive discipleship tool to grab these kids and provide them with fellowship and provide them an intensive discipleship tool."

Seeing the potential of the EQUIP

camp to impact kids, The Greater West Division narrowed its focus to primary school-aged children, releasing their high school students to attend the senior EQUIP camps.

"Senior EQUIP is a fantastic camp and there's no reason why we should be reinventing the wheel," says Captain Viles.

From 21-24 April, 60 children gathered at The Collaroy Centre in Sydney. About half of the children made first-time decisions to become Christians while many others recommitted their lives to Jesus.

Many of the sessions focused on equipping children with the skills to live a godly life. Guest speaker, Major Stephen Briggs, Territorial Youth and Children's Ministry Secretary (Communication), used an illustration of two chairs facing each other to illustrate being in a relationship with God.

"They were all sitting on chairs that were facing away from God. He then gave an invitation to the kids at the end, saying, 'you know, if you want to bridge that gap and connect back with God and go into relationship, this is an opportunity to turn your chair around'. And just about every kid in the place did," explains Captain Viles.

The theme for the camp was "believe". Captain Viles says he wanted the children to go away from the camp believing they are valuable.

"God has created us special and we wanted the kids to have an understanding that God has made them special," he says. "He has created them with special gifts and understanding that only they have."

Captain Viles says the electives were another way to show children their value, by learning and sharpening their talents. Ukelele, cooking, sport, vocal, percussion and video production, making stop-motion movies using Lego, were the electives on offer. □



(TOP) Primary school kids take part in the first EQUIP KIDS in April this year. (ABOVE) Inspiring young people to use their creative talents to serve is the focus of the EQUIP camps.

EQUIP QPAS is held in Queensland (6-12 July) and EQUIP NSW and ACT at Collaroy, Sydney (28 September-4 October). Registrations are still open for EQUIP NSW & ACT. Go to [salvos.org.au/more/events/2014/09/28/equip](http://salvos.org.au/more/events/2014/09/28/equip)

# MUSIC THE BRIDGE TO MEANINGFUL WORSHIP



AS A CHILD, JARED PROELLOCKS HATED ANYTHING TO DO WITH MUSIC, INSTRUMENTS AND BANDS. THESE DAYS, SAYS **ESTHER PINN**, AMONG HIS MANY MUSIC-RELATED ROLES IS BEING THE BANDMASTER AT CARINDALE CORPS

*Jared's passion for music was given life through a worship encounter with God at the age of 14. Photo: Shairon Paterson*

**J**ared Proellocks was a musician long before he had a passion for worship. He admits that he was not a willing participant in following his family's Salvation Army musical tradition.

"Yeah, I hated it," he says with a smile. "I think from memory, a tenor horn or trumpet or something was brought home for me once and I wanted nothing to do with it. I couldn't get a note out of it which didn't help.

"I remember my Dad saying, 'You have to [keep playing] until you reach grade eight while you're at school, you have to keep going.'"

"I owe a lot to my dad for that!"

Time didn't increase the enjoyment and Jared still recalls questioning whether he had any musical talent.

"I was awful. I was clearly the worst player in the [school] band."

His music teacher suggested that he try a different brass instrument – the tuba.

"My teacher said, 'If you play tuba you will go straight to the top band [at school]. I thought 'OK, I can deal with that.'"

But it took a teenage encounter with God to ignite his journey as a worshipper, infusing him and his music with a new, life-transforming reality.

"I remember being at a [Salvation Army] youth councils when I was about 14," remembers Jared. "It was down at Life Community Church in Brisbane and I just remember having that revelation; 'I get it. This is real now.'"

The encounter gave him a new energy for the music that had previously been such a chore. Jared went on to study tuba at university, completing a Bachelor of Music, majoring in performance and minoring in conducting and composing, followed by a Diploma of Education.

For the past four years, he has been teaching children to play brass instruments at a number of schools in Brisbane.

## National success

Along with forging a career in music, Jared has enjoyed success as a member of Brisbane Excelsior Band, which for the past decade has been the premier band in Australia, winning many national brass band championships. While this has brought Jared much happiness, he says the joy he experiences when worshipping is much greater.

"Sometimes [in Excelsior] there's that hollow feeling,

**"I just remember finally going, 'I get it. This is real now'."**

you're kind of just doing that for yourself ... there's a great satisfaction from beating other bands in Australia but that worship experience isn't there," he says.

"There's something really unique about being with a bunch of Christian musicians, you're doing this because you love music but more so because this is a form of ministry, a form of worship to God. This is you offering your voice."

For the past seven years, Jared has been co-leading – with Matt Ivers – the worship team at Carindale Corps, where he's been attending church his whole life. He says good worship starts from the moment the team begins practice, so it will flow on into the service.

"We try to make our practice times worship-filled experiences, which is really good to be a part of. It's not just nutting out the notes and getting the music right, it's a time set aside just worshipping."

"For me, the way I have my strongest connections with God is through music; that connection with God, that engagement, that one-on-one with God, that can happen through a meaningful worship time."

## New challenge

This year has seen him take on additional creative challenges, stepping up as bandmaster at Carindale and taking on a part-time role as a Divisional Worship Arts Facilitator for The Salvation Army's South Queensland Division.

"From my own experiences of connecting to God through music, I just want to see that facilitated through The Salvation Army," he explains.

"We're just looking at finding the best ways to resource, to train and to equip. Not just leaders but those who are actively interested in being involved with the arts in The Salvation Army around south Queensland."

Jared is eager to equip all corps, particular the smaller centres, across the South Queensland Division with worship resources.

"I want to make sure they feel supported, they feel loved and connected. You don't have to be a huge, resourced corps to facilitate those good worship experiences ... I want to make sure that people know they are valued."

Jared has also been able to have some of his brass and instrumental worship music published through the Australian Southern Territory Creative Arts Department. The sheet music for Jared's pieces can be found in three different series: *Noel Jones Series* (five-part brass band), *Arthur Gullidge Series* (eight-part brass band) and *Instrumental Praise* (combined series for rhythm team and brass band).

To view catalogues, go to [www.sarmy.org.au/en/Resources/Creative-Arts/Publications/Brass](http://www.sarmy.org.au/en/Resources/Creative-Arts/Publications/Brass) or to purchase these series, visit [commerce.salvationarmy.org.au](http://commerce.salvationarmy.org.au)



## BLESSINGS FLOW AT BOSCOMBE EASTER CONVENTION

Sydney Staff Songsters ministered to capacity congregations at the Boscombe Easter Convention as part of their 10-day UK Tour in April.

By Lieut-Colonel Ramsay Caffull

The excited anticipation of the return to Boscombe of former corps officers, Commissioners James and Jan Condon, to lead the Boscombe Easter Convention, was well rewarded by the capacity congregations who attended most of the seven meetings over the weekend.

One of the highlights was the Maundy Thursday evening of devotional music by the corps band and songsters. This was an hour-long meditation of soul-searching music interspersed with readings, which paved the way for Good Friday. The junior musical sections and senior band supported the Commissioners' leadership and the Sydney Staff Songsters exuded total sincerity in their singing. The recurring theme of *Jesus Keep me Near the Cross* rang around the hall as the visiting songsters sang *Beautiful*, *Terrible Cross* and the band gave a soulful rendering of *Precious Fountain*.

In her address, Commissioner Jan Condon spoke movingly of a cross of redemption, rebuke and restoration. On Good Friday evening the

Sydney Staff Songsters sang *How Love Wins* and *Unredeemed* and the corps band paved the way for Commissioner James Condon's address with *Written in Red*. With great clarity the Commissioner used numerous scripture verses to emphasise the message of the cross as being one of love, victory, reconciliation and peace.

Saturday evening was billed as a Festival of Praise, but was not so much a festival as a Gospel meeting! Under the leadership of Graham Ainsworth, the Sydney Staff Songsters took centre stage.

Members of the SSS were interviewed by Executive Officers, Majors Stuart and Donna Evans. Numerous soloists performed including Ash and Brooke Sellers, Genelle Cross, Hayley Grigg and Ashlee Sheppard. From their large repertoire their songs included, *Joyful Noise*, *The Voice of a Saviour*, *The Lamb upon the Throne* and *Come as you are*.

"Standing room only" was the rule for Easter Sunday morning. Memorable moments included the moving and sincere testimony of Sydney Staff Songster Kim Entwistle and the beautiful rendering of *They*

*Could Not* by Boscombe Singing Company.

Commissioner James Condon spoke on Jesus' words "I am the Resurrection and the life" (John 11: 25-26) and of the supreme question of Easter, "Do you believe this?"

The cancellation of the proposed march of witness due to bad weather allowed for an extra meeting of praise, followed by the final meeting of the convention. The Lord spoke through the testimony of Major Stuart Evans, the SSS performance of *God's Glorious Light*, the band selection *In Christ Alone* and a powerful monologue by Hayley Grigg, SSS leader Graham Ainsworth was then joined by local songster Fiona Mercer in *Your Grace Amazes Me*.

The final Bible message was given by Commissioner Jan Condon, who spoke from John 20: 19-23 on God's transformation – to joy, to faith and to life.

So ended a glorious and blessed weekend when several seekers claimed God's grace.

Lieut-Colonel Ramsay Caffull is the Boscombe Corps reporter



(TOP) The Sydney Staff Songsters toured with Commissioners James and Jan Condon, who ministered at Boscombe in the 1990s.

(ABOVE) A highlight of the tour was sharing the stage with the International Staff Songsters for a performance in Staines.



## STAFF SONGSTERS MINISTRY TOUCHES LIVES IN THE UK

The Sydney Staff Songsters made a telling impact on their recent UK Tour, with a whole new journey beginning for those who were touched by their vibrant music and ministry.

The group, who travelled with Australia Eastern Territorial Commanders, Commissioners James and Jan Condon, for the 10-day tour in April, performed in front of several thousand people during the four-day Boscombe Easter Convention and a five-city concert series in the south of England.

The tour, which included a joint concert with the International Staff Band in Staines, was the first SSS tour under the guidance of songster leader Graham Ainsworth.

For the Commissioners, it was an especially poignant opportunity to return to a corps where they had ministered for three years in the 1990s.

"It was a great pleasure to return to Boscombe Corps. A special homecoming for us," said Jan. "Not only a homecoming – it was an oasis and bonus to be able to reconnect with so many friends from past years and receive encouragement and inspiration from this return visit.

"What a joy to see young children who are now adults totally committed to the Lord and serving him in the corps and faithful soldiers and friends still connected to the Boscombe Corps. How blessed and privileged we were to share with our UK family."

Boscombe corps officer, Major Ray Begley, said there was a great sense of anticipation for the 2014 convention.

"The Easter Convention was the vision of General Albert Orsborn almost 60 years ago and remains a yearly spiritual highlight for all who attend," he says.

"The impact of the 2014 Easter Convention continues. Two of our young people made new commitments to Jesus Christ and have asked to become senior soldiers. One of our young mums has asked to become a soldier and go into Salvation Army uniform.

"Some people who visited the corps for the Easter Convention have returned most Sundays since. These are tangible answers to prayer."

Following the Easter concerts, the group performed in Worthing, Bristol, Birmingham and Chelmsford. A highlight of these was a performance shared with the International Staff Songsters in Staines. Tim Hopkins, a member of the Staines Songsters, said the combined forces of the ISS and the SSS at their corps made for a "moving, motivating and thrilling evening of music."

"The International Staff Songsters and the Sydney Staff Songsters may differ greatly in their overall style of music-making, but they have the same mission and they complimented each other beautifully," he said. "For everybody present this concert wasn't a performance, it was worship."

## Where words fail, music speaks

By ESTHER PINN

Talitha Evans' love for music and her passion for helping others is catching on fire across The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory.

The success of two music therapy initiatives run by Talitha out of the Army's Parramatta and Tuggerah corps, has seen the program recently expand to Dural Corps and The Hills Private Hospital in north-west Sydney.

The Dural corps officer, Captain Russell Hung, said he was looking for an opportunity to reach out to his local community and was inspired by Talitha's impacting ministry.

"It seemed if we let Talitha loose on doing some research to find out whether she could find an interest [in the program], that would be a wise thing," he says. "She came back and showed us there was viable interest in our community."

Supported by generous donations made by the Dural community and surrounding areas, Talitha began two new free programs in August last year. The first music therapy program is held every Friday morning at The Hills Private Hospital, in the mental health ward, and regularly attracts up to 16 patients.

"Collaborating with The Hills Private Hospital has been wonderful," says Talitha. "The impact that we have seen on a weekly basis has been incredible."

Following the morning session, an outpatient program continues throughout the rest of the day at Dural Corps. This program offers both individual and group sessions to adults and children and has as many as 41 participants.

Music, says Talitha, is an excellent way to help those who have mental health issues, disabilities, autism and emotional and behavioural disorders.

"Music therapy promotes well-being, socialisation, communication, relaxation and stimulating ordered thinking [and] encourages the expression of emotions while also decreasing anxieties," she says.

"The flexible and supportive nature of music therapy allows for a comfortable, non-threatening and creative environment for the individual mental health client."

In the group and individual sessions at both The Hills Private Hospital and Dural Corps, Talitha uses different techniques to help patients achieve their behavioural goal changes.

Talitha's patients play tuned and percussive instruments as a way to express their thoughts and emotions and to develop



Talitha Evans has found that her music therapy programs have been well received in The Hills Private Hospital and Dural Corps. Her programs use tuned and percussive instruments as a way to express patients' thoughts and emotions.

and enhance motor skills, brain power, memory, confidence and creativity. Talitha also gives them an opportunity to listen to live or recorded music.

"The listening experience may focus on physical, emotional, intellectual or spiritual aspects of the music, and the individual may respond through activities such as relaxation or meditation, structure or free movement, telling stories or drawing," she explains.

Finally, Talitha uses improvisation, an activity where an individual and music therapist relate to each other through creating impromptu music.

Helping people gain a better quality of life is the purpose of this program, something Talitha is passionate about.

"I love my job and love being able to work through music to help people," she says.

"Music has the ability to express what feelings sound like, it can help me get through a tough situation or celebrate a happy time.

"My job allows me to help others discover that, no matter their background or ability. For my clients, where words fail, music speaks."

### Spiritual element

Talitha, who attends The Salvation Army at Parramatta, also looks for opportunities in

her sessions to share a spiritual message.

"The aim of this program is to develop a safe, creative outlet in which patients can develop skills which help people with understanding and developing self-identity, promoting quality of life and maintain well-being," she says.

"I also wear a Dural Salvation Army Music Therapy shirt with the red shield and with that and prayer, it opens doors to talk, pray and minister with the patients often in one of their darkest times."

By hosting the music therapy program at Dural Corps, Captain Hung hopes other ministry opportunities will arise.

"I've very happy for people to become accustomed to being on the premises so the church isn't a strange thing to them," he says. "They just feel it's [an] actual part of what's happening in our community, and that just opens the doors wider for people to feel comfortable within the corps."

For the past six months, Talitha has been overseeing two music therapy programs at The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus dementia units at Elizabeth Jenkins Place (Collaroy) and Woodport (Central Coast).

Among her busy schedule, Talitha also works part-time at Redbank House, in north-west Sydney, as a music therapist.

## Just Brass has corps and community working in harmony

Each week at Dulwich Hill Corps in Sydney, a group of kids excitedly arrive for their music lesson. A few of them come from the corps but the majority are from the community, connected by the Just Brass program that started at Dulwich Hill late last year.

Just Brass offers free music lessons to children who want to learn a brass instrument.

The program already has 10 students, aged between eight and 12.

"It's not just teaching kids brass instruments but it's involving the whole family," says Norman Short, who coordinates the program. "Parents come and some people at the corps make contact with them. What we're trying to do is build up some friendships so they feel comfortable when they do come to church."

Many Dulwich Hill Corps members are jumping on board with support for the program, spending time connecting with the parents who bring their children along. Three people from the corps teach the children

cornet, tenor horn and bass, and corps members have also donated funds to buy Just Brass T-shirts for the children to wear.

While they are a small band with limited musical experience, it hasn't stopped them from performing. Just five weeks after the program began, the students performed two songs in front of 3000 people at a Dulwich Hill Christmas carols event last year. They also recently played eight songs at Maybanke Nursing Home in Dulwich Hill.

### Realising potential

Norman says they decided to run the Just Brass program at Dulwich Hill after seeing its success at Orange Corps, in the Central West of NSW. Since 2011, the Orange program has grown to 31 children. Many of these students have become involved with Just Brass through the corps' reading classes, a partnership program between The Salvation Army in Orange and The Smith Family.

"It's about helping young people become their best," says Captain Greg Saunders, Orange Corps Officer. "We do have a high

percentage of kids who probably don't read very well. So they also attend our reading program and they play music and it helps them with their schooling."

The Orange Just Brass program has also opened other ministry doors for the corps. After the music lessons each week, parents, children and members of the corps have dinner together. Here they build relationships which has seen people enter church life at The Salvation Army in Orange.

"It's because of Just Brass that we have a Sunday school," says Captain Saunders.

The program is now also starting to expand throughout the Army's Australia Eastern Territory.

In May, two Just Brass information forums were held in Toowoomba and Brisbane. The founder of Just Brass, John Collinson, from the Army's Australia Southern Territory, spoke at the forums about the impacting nature of the program. As a result, a number of corps in the Brisbane area are looking to implement the Just Brass program.

— Esther Pinn

## Fun and praise at Blacktown Subscription Concert

Showcasing music and evangelism were the focuses of Blacktown City Corps' first Subscription Concert of the year on 3 May.

"It's got a twofold purpose," said Captain William Geracia, Blacktown City Corps Officer. "It is to highlight our musical groups but my main goal is the evangelistic purposes. It's to reach out to the people who we do not have contact with otherwise."

More than 150 people from both the corps and local community came to the biannual concert to enjoy performances by Blacktown City Corps' citadel band, a contemporary ensemble and timbrel brigade. It's the 17th year in a row that the concerts have been held.

Guests were also privileged to hear the musical talents of two well-known Australian musicians. Trombonist and didgeridoo player Warwick Tyrrell began with a didgeridoo/trombone solo of the piece *Africa*.

"That was the favourite piece of the evening," said Captain Geracia. Professional pianist Paul Young was the other guest soloist at the concert, playing Gershwin's 18-minute version of *Rhapsody In Blue* and also performing a solo in *A Bit Of Jazz*.

The citadel band played a variety of pieces including *Ein' Feste Burg*, *Michael Row!* and *Dance-beat*. The timbrel brigade also performed two numbers.

While the popular songs are always well received, Blacktown bandmaster Doug Hardy said the corps' music groups always make a point of including devotional pieces in their repertoire. The citadel band performed *Who Is On The Lord's Side?* and *They Shall Come From The East*, and the contemporary ensemble played a song about grace to aid the evangelistic vision of the concert.

Corps officer Captain Suzanne Geracia added to the spiritual focus of the evening with her message about the importance of worship.

"She just talked about the element of worship and how important

worship is to us as Christians," said Doug. "When you have that popular song in your head you can't get it out and our praise should be on our lips."

Colonel Richard Munn, The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Chief Secretary, was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

The next Subscription Concert is on 29 November and will have a Christmas theme.

— Esther Pinn



Blacktown's first Subscription Concert for 2014 featured Trombonist and didgeridoo player Warwick Tyrrell (centre).

## New church vibe at the Roxbury Hotel

By ESTHER PINN

Sundays at the Roxbury Hotel in Sydney have a new vibe. Once a month, a relaxed and informal church service, conducted by The Salvation Army's Glebe Corps, is held at the hotel, starting at 5pm. It runs for an hour and everyone present is encouraged to stay for the pub's \$10 dinner special. The first service was held in March.

"We wanted to connect with people who wouldn't normally connect with church," said Lieutenant Christian White, Glebe Corps Officer.

The opportunity for a pub church came through the corps' existing relationship with the Roxbury Hotel. For many years, the corps has been collecting at the hotel and neighbouring pubs in the Glebe community.

Lauren Mason, who attends the corps, said they took the decision last year to stop collecting at the Roxbury and, instead, focus on developing a relationship with the pub's managers.

"We've been an active ministry presence in their lives. We've helped them a bit and shared the love of Christ with them," said Lauren, who works as a chaplain at Sydney University.

Out of this connection evolved a Christmas carols event, held at the end of last year. This was where the idea of a pub church was born.

"We always wanted to do a pub church but we didn't know how that would come about," explained Lauren.

"At the end of it [carols event] the female pub owner [Michelle] really loved the vibe and the community atmosphere ... so they loved the idea [of pub church]."

Michelle, who's been the manager of the Roxbury Hotel for about 10 months, said she jumped on board with the idea because she wanted to create a safe place for the local community.

"We feel that it's going to be good for the community," she said. "It will break down a few barriers. Some people won't walk into a Salvos church but will be more comfortable walking into a pub. And we want to be here for the community as much as the Salvos are."

Informal, innovative and interactive are the three words Lauren uses to describe the pub church. Individuals can sit down and enjoy acoustic-style worship, she explains. A short testimony from a university student follows and then a guest speaker teaches from the Bible for



Lauren Mason (left) and the Glebe corps officers, Lieutenants Beth and Christian White.

about 15 minutes.

"The main thing we're trying to make sure is that people are not preached at," said Lauren.

"Often when you go to churches there can be an underlying pressure about how you behave and we're trying to tear that down with running it out of a pub."

While the services are relaxed, Lauren says the aim of the pub church is to see lives changed for the better.

In an effort to maintain momentum, the other Sundays in the month have their own identity. Known as "Sunday Sessions", local musicians are invited to play a mix of Christian and popular music.

Before Sunday Sessions officially began, Lauren and Lieutenant White ran two successful live music nights which each attracted more than 50 people.

Pub church is held on the first Sunday of every month.

## Trombone talent takes centre stage at Brisbane City Temple

More than 200 people attended The Salvation Army's Brisbane City Temple over the Easter weekend for "Quest - A Night With the Troms".

The concert was held as an outreach event, deliberately targeting Australia's brass band community which had gathered in Brisbane for



Hannah Gibbons performs her trombone solo with the Brisbane City Temple Band over the Easter weekend.

the National Band Championships in April.

"The focus was definitely getting non-church brass band personnel from around Brisbane who were here for the competition, into church," said Todd Everitt, Brisbane City Temple's band secretary.

Performing with Brisbane City Temple Band was Salvationist and accomplished trombonist Ron Prussing. Two other well-known trombonists, Hannah Gibbons and Ashley Gittens, also took part in the concert, with Ashley's performance of Burgmayer's version of *Nothing But The Blood* particularly memorable.

"No-one oozes their love and devotion for Jesus through their playing quite like Ashley," said Todd.

Brisbane City Temple Band displayed its ability with performances of Corder's *Fusion* and Sharman's *Quest* in the first half of the evening. After the interval a few upbeat items were played, among them pieces written by local composers and arrangers including Sam Creamer (Carindale Corps) and Michael Cooper (Brisbane City).

The three guest soloists ended the night by combining to perform Boyer and Broughton's *Now I Belong to Jesus*.

"To see such a high percentage of people who were non-Salvo there was what made it a high success and the simple fact that people wanted to see it happen more often," said Todd.

- Esther Pinn