

CREATIVE MINISTRY

THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY OCTOBER 2009 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 4

Blown away by PNG

Sydney Youth Band gets a cultural reality check

Hot off the Press



Graeme Press
Territorial Music and
Creative Arts Coordinator

Changing lives one smile at a time

I've just managed to escape the world of cyber communication for a few minutes to focus on and write this article, and my mind is racing as to why and when we learned to smile sideways!

This seems to be the new way of signing off on an electronic message or an email to a friend. It's a non-formal, "cute" way of saying goodbye. Whatever happened to "Yours sincerely" or "Yours faithfully"? Now it's just :-)

I have often heard, and occasionally used the phrase "a sideways glance". This meant to quickly (and sometimes sneakily) take a peek at something or to double-check the meaning behind someone's comment. A sideways glance isn't always a positive thing! And so my dilemma continues as I try to get my head around this prevalent use of the sideways smile!

I read with interest the report in this magazine regarding the Sydney Youth Band's recent tour of Papua New Guinea and was captivated by the accompanying photos. Take time to have a good look at the pictures that appear in this issue of *Creative Ministry*. Study them. Enjoy them.

You will see the Sydney Youth Band and the local PNG young people engaging and interacting with each other. I couldn't help but notice that there is nothing "sideways" about the smiles on all the faces. They are genuine and obviously heartfelt. True connections were made and this was evident by the expression on the faces.

Sydney Youth Band member, Cadet Nathan Hodges, shared with me that this tour was all about engagement and interaction. The contacts that they made with the local Salvationists and young people from PNG were life-changing.

Many of the members of the band said that the tour changed the way that they view their possessions and what is needed in life to bring real

joy and a real smile to the face. "The locals seemed so happy. Their smiles were contagious!"

There is much to be learned here. Do we bring the spirit of encouragement to the house of God by the very expressions on our faces? How do we interact with each other and engage with each other as a Christian family? Are we throwing the occasional sideways smile or are we genuine in our expression of brotherly love with each other?

We have much to share that should make us smile. Jesus makes us smile.

A smile is an outward expression of an internal feeling or disposition. In this high-pressured, self-focused world that we live in, not much thought is given to the simple things in life. A smile is the simplest form of communication. We should make every effort, not only verbally but in our non-verbal communication as well, to share the joy that we find in living a life with Christ.

A smile is alarming, captivating, communicating, and as evangelical followers of Jesus it should be part of our very make-up. It is no wonder that the prophet Job after, all he had experienced and been through says: "When I smiled at them, they scarcely believed it; the light of my face was precious to them," (Job 29:24).

That's what we need more of! People at our places of worship saying of us: "I can scarcely believe it! They seem so happy, they have real joy. They smiled at me!"

Now I've just spent a few minutes here trying to come up with a computerised non-sideways smile and it just hasn't worked. So let's just accept that the sideways smile is the best way to say it electronically for now and make sure that the smile is always accompanied by a genuine, heartfelt attitude of joy!

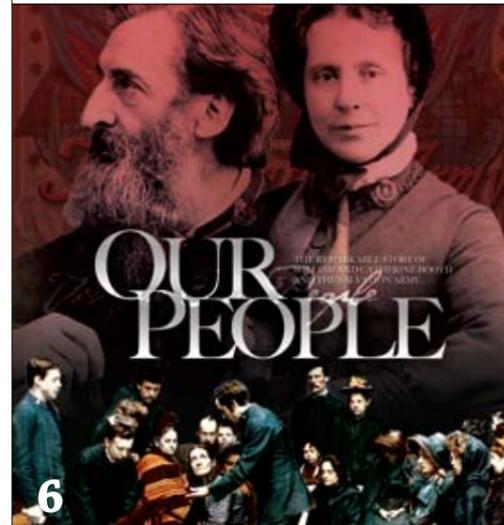
Keep smiling! :-)

"A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face; a sad heart makes it hard to get through the day," Proverbs 15:13 (The Message).

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BLOWN AWAY BY PNG

The Sydney Youth Band gets more than it bargained for on its recent tour of Papua New Guinea



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CREATIVE MINISTRY The Salvation Army WILLIAM BOOTH Founder
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS 101 Queen Victoria Street London EC4P 4EP SHAW CLIFTON General
AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY 140 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000 LINDA BOND Commissioner, Territorial Commander
PETER MCGUIGAN Captain, Communications Director
EDITOR Scott Simpson GRAPHIC DESIGN Kem Pobjie COVER PHOTO Shairon Paterson
CREATIVE MINISTRY is a publication of the Communications Department
EDITORIAL AND CORRESPONDENCE PO Box A435 Sydney South NSW 1235
PHONE (02) 9266 9639 EMAIL eastern.editorial@ae.salvationarmy.org
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Redeemed: It's who we are



Salvation Army Captain Lauriee Arthur works on her piece “Redeemed” during the Uprising weekend held in Sydney recently. The focus of the Sunday morning meeting at Uprising was “being who we are”, and creating a piece with that theme in mind meant one thing for Lauriee. “For me, being who we are is summed up in one word; redeemed,” she says.

Lauriee, who says every artwork she creates is inspired by God, is Assistant Manager at The Salvation Army’s Fairhaven Gold Coast Recovery Services Centre. She incorporates her artistic talents into her ministry at the centre.

A feature-length article on Lauriee and her art will appear in the January issue of *Creative Ministry*.



THESE ARE OUR PEOPLE

More than five years in the making, **JULIA HOSKING** tells the story behind the creation of new documentary which charts the early days of The Salvation Army

There is a moment in *Our People* when London's Royal Albert Hall is packed to capacity and every person is captivated by William Booth's "I'll Fight" speech.

At this point in the film Booth is aged in his eighties, and yet he is still avidly preaching the Gospel, saving souls and alleviating the plight of many suffering individuals. Always a man of action, it was Booth who, along with his fiery and passionate wife Catherine, established The Salvation Army.

William and Catherine Booth never ceased to follow God or give him their all. And never once did they stop showing compassion to the alcoholics, prostitutes, and beggars living on the streets.

Their powerful and inspirational journey that resulted in the creation of what is now the global Salvation Army is what forms the basis of an Army documentary, produced by Radiant Films and Carpenter Media, called *Our People*. The high-quality, original film was officially premiered in the east end of London by The Salvation Army's Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Robin Dunster, on 23 August.

Major Peter Farthing, executive producer and writer for *Our People*, explains the documentary. "It's the story of how God used William and Catherine Booth to take his love to the poor," he says.

Corey Baudinette, director and producer of *Our People* and founder of Radiant Films, adds that the film "gives a little bit of a glimpse

into the relationship between William and Catherine and how that evolved over the early years of the Army".

Our People is the result of Major Farthing's desire to share the messages of William Booth with today's Salvation Army. Booth influenced the major's life, and he wants others to have a similar understanding and passion for The Salvation Army and the lost in society.

When asked, Major Farthing reveals a personal motivation behind the emphasis on "our people".

"If I walk past a homeless person in the street, I feel a responsibility very often to at least say hello, if not offer help. And it's because when I was young, I read that William Booth said 'these are our people'."



At the premiere of *Our People* in London were (from left) Corey Baudinette, Chief of the Staff Commissioner Robin Dunster, Colonel Bramwell Booth, and Major Peter Farthing.

Guided by the hand of God

Our People features interviews with 11 historians and oral history tellers such as the great-grandson of William and Catherine Booth, Colonel Bramwell Booth. For graphics, it features nearly 350 photos, illustrations and paintings retrieved from 33 different museums, collections and websites around the world.

Six artists worked together to produce 30 original paintings for the film. Among the artists are Major Marie Hambleton, from the Australia Eastern Territory, and Major Haydn Rive, from the New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory.

Every theme addressed within the documentary is well connected, allowing the story to flow seamlessly. Corey and Major Farthing attribute the effectiveness of the story to the documentary's English narrator, Russell Boulter, whose resume includes five years working on long-running English TV show *The Bill*.

"Between all the different historians and different characters, Russell's kind of the bedrock of the whole thing and he does a terrific job," says Corey.

Russell is also a Christian, and Corey believes that this enables him to resonate with the stories he tells. He has made a significant contribution to the emotion and dynamic of the film.

In light of that, Major Farthing adds: "[Russell] was really touched by some of the stories from those early days, and he really brought that out when he narrated it. It makes [the story] all the more powerful."

Major Farthing also credits Corey's expertise and gifts in creating *Our People*.

"He's a good example of a Salvationist who has developed his skills in ... film and media,



Major Peter Farthing spent most of the five-year production process researching and writing the script for *Our People*.

and now he's bringing that to ministry for The Salvation Army and for the Lord. I think that's a great example and what we'd love to see other young Salvationists doing."

Dream comes true

Major Farthing's long-term dream to tell the Army's story started to become a reality as he spent time at the Army's National Archives in Arlington, Virginia. As he read copies of the *War Cry* from the 1890s, he found some compelling illustrations which have helped make *Our People* memorable.

"Our People will become the standard way in which Salvationists around the world learn about their movement."

"I was so moved to find these amazing pictures. They gave a whole new insight into the early Salvation Army, yet few of them had been seen outside museums for over 100 years. I realised then that there was a movie to be made," he says.

He has received strong support from the Australia Eastern Territory's leadership. "They gave me the encouragement to look into this dream," he says. The territory has also financially invested in the project, making the dream a reality.

Despite that support, Major Farthing still faced many challenges. He knew how to research and was able to collect images, find

historians and locate musicians, but had never written a script before.

During the development stage, which lasted for the majority of the five-year creation process of *Our People*, he prayed a lot about writing the script, and researched the art of writing documentaries.

Documentary-makers will normally have their story planned prior to interviewing historians. Major Farthing, however, was still developing his story when filming commenced in London. That presented some challenges for Corey as director.

"I said, 'Peter, paint me the picture so I can develop some sort of treatment for how I shoot things'. He said, 'oh I think we'll just leave it in God's hands. I've got a rough idea, but we'll see where it goes'. So I really had to trust that Peter knew what he was doing, and obviously that God was in the project," laughs Corey.

"It came together better than even I had envisaged."

Film of high standards

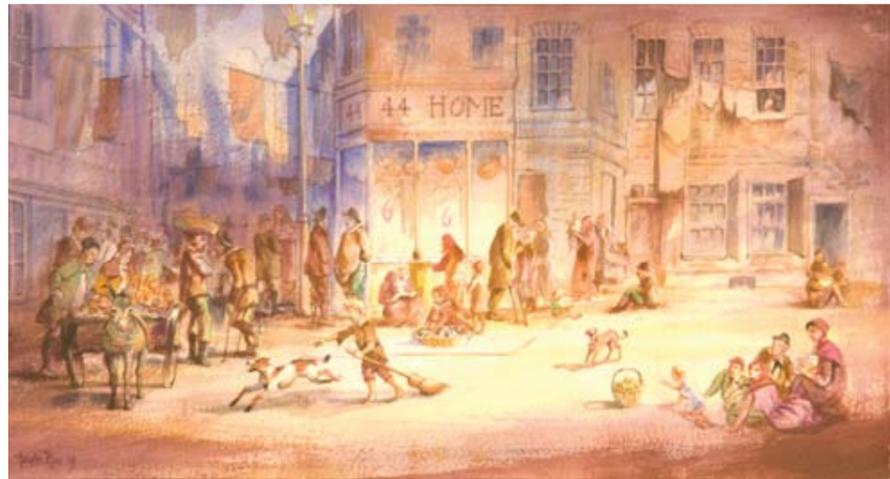
Based at Fox Studios in Sydney, Corey's work with Radiant Films has allowed him to gain experience and develop skills through producing and directing films, as well as events and commercials for companies such as Audi, Getty Images and Sheraton Hotels.

This has then enabled him to lend his expertise to The Salvation Army and help them produce a range of media projects, such as *Our People*.

"I can actually take my professional capacity and my resources as an external company and support something that the Army wants to do. And to try and do it as best as we can," Corey explains.

Producing the film also involved >>>

Staff Songsters' anniversary a Revelation!



Some of the original artworks (right and bottom right) sourced for the production of *Our People*.

An Australian launch of *Our People* will be held on 11 October at 6pm at the School for Officer Training, 120 Kingsland Rd, Bexley North, NSW. For more information on the film, please visit salvos.org.au/ourpeople. The 74-minute documentary, which comes with more than 45 minutes of bonus interview material and a mini-documentary on Samuel Logan Brengle, is available from Salvationist Supplies in Sydney (www.salvosuppliesyd.com) for \$24.95.

collaborating with other companies who work on the Fox Studios lot, for aspects including music recording and sound effects.

High standards were set for *Our People* and once Corey came on board, it was agreed to film everything in high definition.

Corey admits, however, that doing so has created several challenges.

"It increases the specifications in terms of the technical requirements to make it appear on screen at a suitable resolution. That certainly made things harder, but in the end you've got a beautiful image to work with," he says.

Additionally, filming in high definition preserves the documentary for future use, and allows it to be distributed worldwide in any format or language with only minor changes.

Producing *Our People* came with numerous learning experiences and discoveries.

While engaged in research, Major Farthing discovered many things that he never

knew about the early Salvation Army.

For example, he says, "the most common image the early Salvation Army used was of people doing acts of compassion, and almost always they were women". This message is communicated in the film, along with other images, messages and stories that many would not know about or have seen before.

The creation of *Our People* was an international project with research, interviews and filming conducted across the globe. This fact emphasises the dream of Major Farthing and Corey for the international Salvation Army world to use and connect with the film. They do not believe it belongs to a single territory or country.

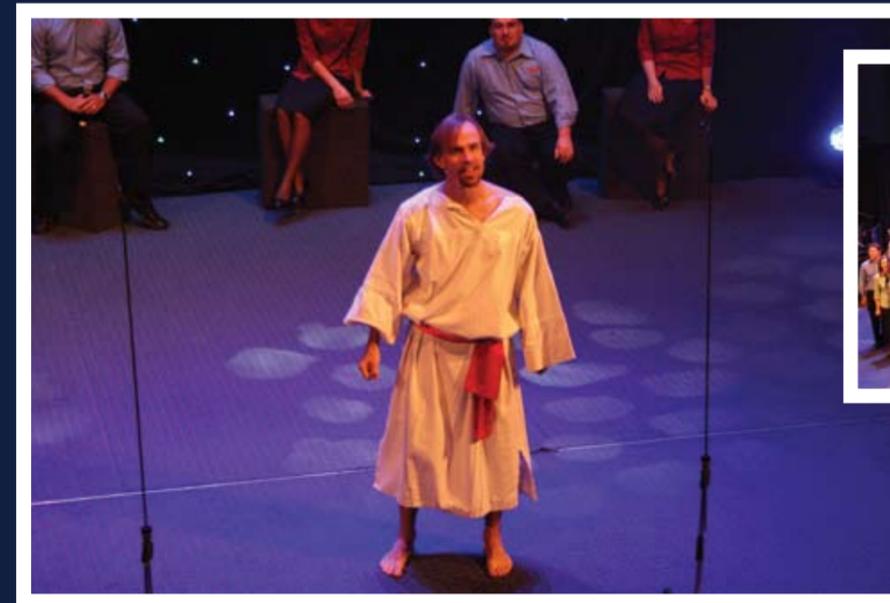
Overall, the vision behind *Our People* is that Salvationists would be inspired by the early days of the Army. Commissioner Robert Street recognises the film's potential to ignite a passion for The Salvation Army's mission today.

"I expect *Our People* will become the standard way in which Salvationists around the world learn about their movement," he said.

Major Farthing couldn't agree more. It is his hope that at the conclusion of the film, after hearing how many lives were transformed, that people will pray, "Do it again Lord!" □



Julia Hosking is a staff writer for *Pipeline* and supplements.



Rich Swingle (left) performs his one-man play *The Revelation*; and (above) the Sydney Staff Songsters perform at the 20th anniversary celebration.

By JULIA HOSKING

Over the weekend of 29-30 August, New York-based actor Rich Swingle was the special guest as the Sydney Staff Songsters celebrated its 20th anniversary.

More than 250 people were at Sydney Congress Hall on the Saturday night to see *The Revelation*, a one-man play performed by Rich, intermingled with music from the Sydney Staff Songsters.

In *The Revelation*, Rich adopts the person of the apostle John as he is given the Revelation of Christ while on the island of Patmos.

The play is divided into nine scenes carrying thematic titles such as "The Scroll and the Lamb", "Seven Angels and Seven Trumpets", and "The Rider and the White Horse". The transition for each scene was made through song, led by the songsters, all of which were moments integrated into John's telling of the Revelation.

One of many poignant moments was when John wept because he realised no-one was worthy of opening the scroll sealed with seven seals (Revelation 5:4). When John saw the Lamb (Jesus) and he came forward to take the scroll, John, the songsters and the congregation began to sing *Days of Elijah* in praise and adoration.

Rich's performance as John was

captivating. His skill as an actor provided him with exceptional body awareness and the ability to transform into various characters as well as react to the supposed thoughts of the audience and described characters such as Jesus and the angels.

Coupled with the powerful music and worship led by the Sydney Staff Songsters, the performance created an inspirational, emotional and outstanding evening.

Throughout the play, during the moments when "John" worshipped Jesus, Rich says he was also worshipping.

"I, Rich, have to really be at the throne connecting with the Lord and sharing what comes out of that," he said.

Rich says that if he doesn't connect with God both before and during the piece, the performance will have limited impact.

The worship experience with Rich and the Sydney Staff Songsters continued on Sunday 30 August, at Rockdale Corps in the morning and William Booth House in the evening.

At Rockdale, Rich performed a humorous and yet poignant one-man play that told the story of Lazarus (John 11). It was followed by a biblio-drama on the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4), acted out by volunteers from the congregation. During the drama, Rich interrupted the performers to ask questions, allowing a deeper perspective of the Scripture.

Staff Songsters leader Graeme Press

Copies of the Sydney Staff Songsters' 20th anniversary publication, *More than a Song*, are now available. The magazine details the history of the songsters and feature many photos, interviews and reflections from past and present members. To obtain a copy, contact Christine Plumridge on christine.plumridge@aue.salvationarmy.org or phone 02 9266 9570.

described the evening at William Booth House as sensational with many positive responses.

Rich again performed a one-man play, based on the story of Gideon (Judges 6). He also coordinated a biblio-drama which told the story of the paralysed man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5).

The most powerful moment of the night, however, was during "enacted prayer" when prayer requests were acted out. Following the message, while the songsters sang *Still*, members of the group moved among the congregation praying with a significant number of people who had responded.

For a feature story on the ministry of Rich Swingle see January's issue of *Creative Ministry*, or for more information visit www.richdrama.com

A godly man, a great musician

Doug Smith will probably be best remembered by Salvationists for his music. He was regarded as an excellent bandmaster and exceptional solo cornet player.

But family and friends who knew him well will also remember him as a man of the Word.

Doug's last earthly memory was sharing with family and friends in a Bible study. He became unwell during the study, collapsed from the effects of a heart attack and never regained consciousness.

He died a week later, promoted to glory on 2 July 2009.

Close friend and banding colleague Barry Garnon says Doug's conducting and playing were special because he knew the experiences portrayed in the music.

"Doug was passionate about Salvation Army bandsmen knowing the words as their own experience. He encouraged them to carry The Salvation Army Song Book and the Bible with them, and to know both.

"He rarely used music when he played his many cornet solos. He knew the music, he knew the words and he knew the experience."

A celebration of Doug's life was held at The Salvation Army, Dulwich Hill (Sydney), on 10 July. Doug, with wife Jackie, and family moved from New Zealand in 1987, to become Dulwich Hill bandmaster.

The centre was packed to capacity for his service of thanksgiving, which was led by Major Errol Woodbury. More than 60 bandsmen played in a combined band. The service concluded with one of Doug's favourite pieces, *Kingdom Triumphant*.

He was born in New Plymouth, New Zealand, on 21 June, 1942, to Salvationist parents, Albie and Elizabeth, and was the youngest of eight children. He later had four children of his own and seven grandchildren.

In New Zealand, he played in Salvation Army bands in Wellington, Newton and Auckland. He was Auckland Congress Hall bandmaster for 14 years before moving to Sydney to lead Dulwich Hill band. He led the band on a trip to China.

Doug also played in Sydney Congress Hall band and was the deputy bandmaster of the Veterans band.

After retiring from a long career as Finance Manager then Bursar at Sydney's



Doug took the Dulwich Hill band to China (above) in 1987; (below) Doug conducting the Auckland Congress Hall band. Photos supplied

Kings Schools, Doug joined Jackie in managing The Salvation Army Waterloo drop-in centre for three years, assisting needy people.

Barry Garnon says there was a lot more to his friend than music, although it was in music that he excelled.

"I first met Doug at Auckland Congress Hall when he was bandmaster and I was in New Zealand on a business trip. He was the sort of man you knew straight away was solid.

"I had the pleasure of playing under Doug's leadership in Auckland and later, when he came to Dulwich Hill.

"We formed a special relationship. Doug was quiet, but definite once he made up his mind on something. He was strongly supportive of people he believed in. He strongly supported me in a very personal issue and I have never forgotten it.

"Doug was probably the best principal cornet player I have played with. He was gifted. He didn't just play music for the music. He had a message.

"He was a great Salvationist, a great bandmaster, a great player and a great man."



A history worth celebrating



Cadets from the training college re-enact an open-air scene (left) from the 1890s; and the Veterans Band performs at the "Celebrate Banding" evening. Photos: Carolyn Hide

On Sunday 16 August, Parramatta Corps hall was packed as people anticipated the start of The Salvation Army Historical Society's "Celebrating Banding" concert.

The night included performances by the Veterans Band, congregational singing, an 1890s-style open-air presentation by training college cadets, and segments led by various speakers.

The congregation was invited to sing *O Boundless Salvation* to commence the concert, setting the scene for an evening of celebration. This was followed by prayerful participation in singing Len Baxter's arrangement of *Spirit of the Living God*, introduced by Australia Eastern Territory Chief Secretary Colonel James Condon, who highlighted the impact of bands on the spiritual life of The Salvation Army.

A variety of music was heard, with pieces such as Leslie Condon's *Celebration* receiving enthusiastic applause, while the silence that followed the playing of Dean Goffin's *Light of the World* spoke volumes about its positive impact. There were also contemporary compositions featured such as *Lightwalk* and *Majesty*.

Salvation Army bandsman, Christian commentator, historian and ABC broadcaster John Cleary was a highlight of the evening

for many. He captivated the congregation by sharing authentic and engaging stories about composers and compositions.

The cadets performed a compelling and dramatic presentation of an open-air meeting. It was led by a five-piece band and resulted in the conversion of an onlooker, an alcoholic, who joined up immediately, playing the drum for the "return to the citadel".

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Laws presented bandsman Ray Entwistle with a Salvationist Supplies voucher, after he produced the winning entry in the "Top Ten Favourite Band Compositions" competition (see survey results in sidebar).

Cadet Nathan Hodges, who plays in the Sydney Youth Band and recently returned from its Papua New Guinea mission trip, was interviewed by Music and Creative Arts Territorial Coordinator Graeme Press. He explained that he loves playing in the band because it provides him with an opportunity to connect with people. His dream for the Sydney Youth Band is that it will not be

Favourite Salvation Army band compositions

Ranking	Title	Composer
1	Divine Communion	Gullidge
2*	Light of the World	D. Goffin
2*	Praise	W. Heaton
4*	Montreal Citadel	Audoire
4*	The Kingdom Triumphant	E. Ball
4*	Celebration	L. Condon
7	Anthem of the Free	D. Goffin
8*	The Old Wells	E. Ball
8*	In Quiet Pastures	R. Steadman-Allen
10*	Just as I am	W. Heaton
10*	The Call of the Righteous	L. Condon
10*	The Red Shield	H.C. Goffin

*Denotes same number of votes
Survey conducted by The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Historical Society

focused on concerts, but on ways to connect and engage with others.

To conclude the celebration, the congregation joined in singing *Lo! He Comes* to the accompaniment of Eric Ball's *The Kingdom Triumphant*.

"It was very successful in showcasing the heritage and history of Salvation Army brass band music. It was a great night from an historical perspective and the historical society did a great job," said Graeme.

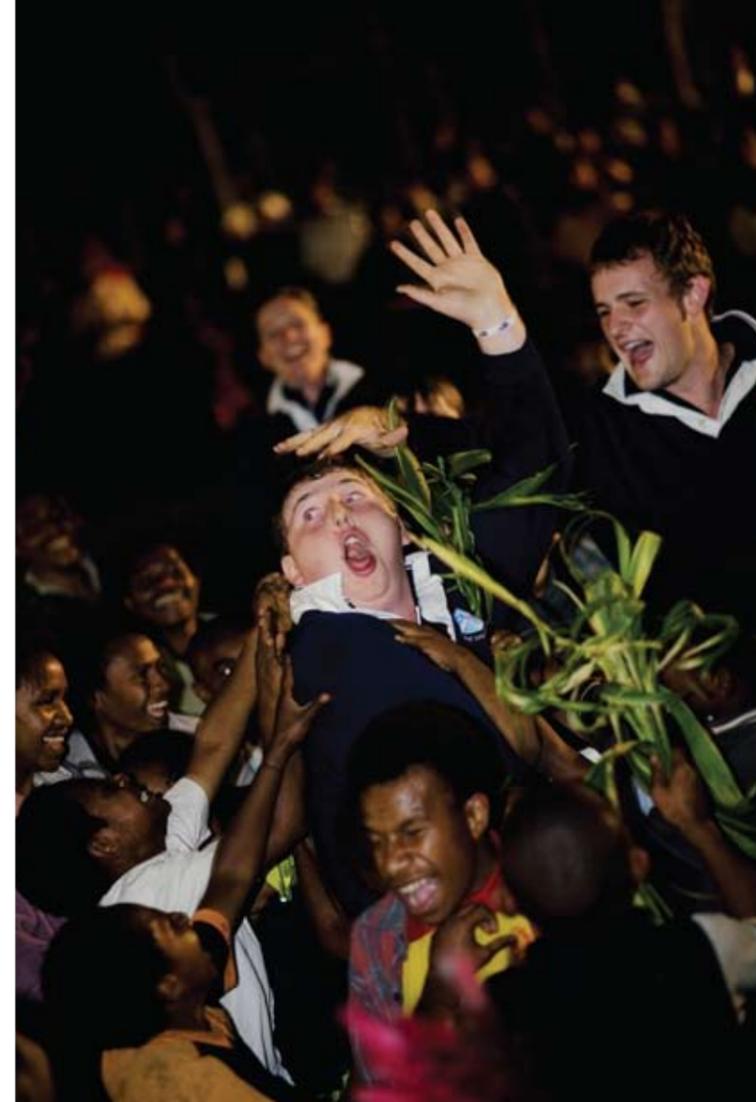
Blown away by PNG



Papua New Guinea prides itself on being the land of the unexpected. The Sydney Youth Band, as **SCOTT SIMPSON** reports, certainly got more than it bargained for on its recent tour of this fascinating country



(From top) Joshua Mann passes on some banding tips; James Hill plays a trumpet solo; and the locals get into the spirit of things.



Daniel Evans (centre) and Josh Godkin join the crowd in a celebration dance. All Photos: Shairon Paterson

Major David Godkin (right) chats to some high school children in Port Moresby. Photo: Shairon Paterson



The Sydney Youth Band had just finished the first full, tiring day of its Papua New Guinea tour. It had been a heavy schedule and many of the band members were heading to bed, allowing their weary bodies some well-earned rest.

Major David Godkin, however, couldn't sleep as the reality of what he'd experienced that day began to sink in.

"From a ministry point of view this has been the best day of my life," he enthused.

Twenty-four hours later, after another incredible day of ministering to and in turn, being ministered to by the people of PNG, David told *Pipeline*: "I've changed my mind, today has been the best day!"

Life-transforming experience

The Sydney Youth Band spent 11 days in Papua New Guinea. The first part of the trip was spent in the Eastern Highlands towns of Goroka and Kainantu, before the band flew south to the capital, Port Moresby, where it was based for the remainder of the tour.

From its first concert when an estimated 2000 people surrounded the band as it played in a traditional market place in Goroka, the crowd pressing ever closer, until the climax of the tour when thousands again turned out

for the final performances in Port Moresby, band members continually referred to the experience as life-transforming.

"The moment we got off the plane, we'd been in the country 10 minutes and we were driving through some of the most amazing slum and poverty-stricken areas myself and the rest of the band had ever seen," says David.

"That alone hits you immediately because that's not home, that's not the life you're conditioned to.

"And then coming up into the highlands [Goroka] and seeing the crowds of people – thousands of people really – crowding in on the band as we were playing, it was just incredible. Seeing the interest and the fascination on their faces was just remarkable."

So remarkable, in fact, that in 23 years as a Salvation Army officer, David rates the tour as his best experience in ministry.

"Absolutely," he says. "I think in the context of my ministry as a Salvation Army officer, these have been certainly some of the best days of my life.

"For me, to make it such a great experience was to see their [Papua New Guineans] response to us. They welcomed us with open arms – the children were reaching out their arms; they just wanted to shake our hands.

"To realise just how much it meant to them, it really struck a chord in my heart.

"It was all a bit overwhelming, actually. I'm just an average Joe and yet to come into this culture and to be treated in such a special way and for people to be so grateful that you've come to play to them, it's just an amazing feeling."

"Anything we've done in the past can't compare to this. It's just been awesome."

The tour of Papua New Guinea was also a personal triumph for David. It was he who was instrumental in starting the Sydney Youth Band in late 2001, after being approached by a couple of young people at a Territorial Music Camp.

Fifty-eight people attended the Sydney Youth Band's first practice, including 15

trombonists. It was then that David knew this unique Salvation Army band had a valuable role to play in mission.

"We had a very firm mandate that the Sydney Youth Band would not be just another Salvation Army band," he says.

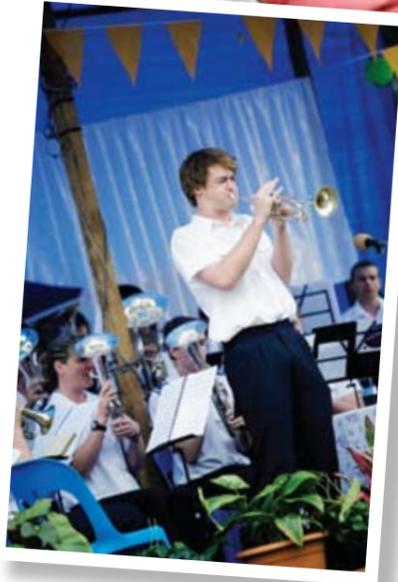
"We wanted to be a band that played contemporary music and did mission-style trips rather than just concert trips.

"We have tried on several occasions over the last eight years to do some sort of overseas trip but for one reason or another that hasn't happened. But to come to PNG – and the locals told me it's been 25 years since they've seen a touring brass band – for us to go there, I think it's just great."

Rising to the occasion

Twenty-five members of the Sydney Youth Band were on tour; 23 guys and two girls. Major Kevin Unicomb, who spent four years serving in PNG in the 1990s, joined the trip in an executive officer capacity.

The band was involved in almost 20 events over the 11 days, playing concerts to mass audiences, holding outreach programs in villages and settlements, presenting workshops in schools, and taking part in church services. The settings were as >>>



Nathan Hodges (above) speaks to children at a high school in Port Moresby; (left) Jason Sandercocock plays a trumpet solo at Goroka. Photos: Shairon Paterson

diverse as they were challenging and yet in each instance, the band rose to the occasion.

The Saturday night concert at Goroka, held outdoors at the Divisional Headquarters compound, was memorable for the series of power blackouts that occurred. The band simply responded by playing by candle and torchlight.

At the same venue the following night, to see band members leaving the stage mid-performance to join hundreds of Papua New Guineans dancing in the mud below was a particularly heart-warming sight. For Sydney Youth Band Leader James Hill, it was confirmation of the band's unique qualities.

"I firmly believe there is no other band in the Salvos that could do what we do, with the energy we bring to our performances and the conditions we're happy to play in," he says.

"On this trip we've played in villages, had blackouts while playing at night, we've set up on dirt, mud, basketball courts, old rickety halls, and the crowds have been fantastic. Anything we've done in the past can't compare to this. It's just been awesome."

Nathan Hodges, a cadet at The Salvation Army Training College in Sydney, was the only band member to have previously visited PNG. For him, it was the people who made the trip special.

"Wherever you go in PNG you experience

a lot of joy; the people are so welcoming. They just love you so much and it's just an absolutely amazing experience to be here," he says.

"There's always been a passion in me to come here, and to experience PNG for a second time has been fantastic. I just have a real love for the place and to be able to come here and minister to the people and to be ministered to by them is amazing."

Culmination of a vision

David Godkin describes the Sydney Youth Band's tour of PNG as "the culmination of a vision that God gave me when we started the band eight years ago".

This, he believes, is reflected in the trip not only being an outlet for the band's unique ministry capabilities but equally, that the band members have been ministered to themselves in a powerful way.

"I said to the band a couple of weeks before we left for PNG that this trip would be life-changing for them. One of the young guys in the band, after being in PNG for just 48 hours,

said to me: 'When you told us it would be life-transforming I just thought it was an old man rambling on, but already I know my life won't be the same because of this experience'.

"I think this is the beginning of a new journey for many of these guys. It will change their lives; it's been incredible."

As the Sydney Youth Band assembled at Port Moresby's Jackson's International Airport on the Monday of its departure, a PNG officer made the comment: "You will never know what the band's visit has done for Papua New Guinea."

Papua New Guinea, however, will never know what it has done for this group of young Australians. □



Scott Simpson is Managing Editor of Pipeline and supplements.

The band members take in the view from a lookout (right) on the track; (below) a memorial stone is laid by James Hill and Captain Steven Briggs.



The Kokoda experience

The Kokoda Track has become an icon of Australia's war history.

Recognised as arguably Australia's most significant campaign of World War II, it was along the track that our troops held up the Japanese forces as they marched over the Owen Stanley Ranges with the intent of capturing Port Moresby. Had the Japanese succeeded, the mainland of Australia would have come under dire threat.

Australia lost more lives in that seven months of fighting than in any other WWII campaign. Many of those young Australians now lie buried at the Bomana War Cemetery, outside Port Moresby.

Armed with this information, it was with a sense of excitement and anticipation that the Sydney Youth Band members prepared for their first taste of the Kokoda Track. Major Kelvin

Alley, Programme Secretary for the PNG Territory and WWII history buff particularly in relation to the Kokoda campaign, briefed the group on the history of the track and the role of The Salvation Army on Kokoda.

With just a day to experience the track the youth band members were taken on a 5km round trip. It may have been relatively short in distance but the steep gradients encountered made for an arduous hike.

A swim in the Goldie River, at the bottom of a steep descent, was a welcome though short-lived respite, before the group climbed to a plateau high above. Sixty-five years ago, this elevated site had housed a field hospital and The Salvation Army's Red Shield hop-in centre.

The moment was captured in an impromptu ceremony, with a memorial stone laid by the band's executive officer,

Captain Steven Briggs, and its leader, James Hill.

The return journey was an opportunity to process what had been experienced, band member Juliana O'Brien capturing it best. Relatively new to The Salvation Army, she spoke of the sense of pride and excitement the experience had brought her.

"The Uprising weekend in June was a brand-new experience for me as far as my involvement with The Salvation Army goes, so I didn't have any real knowledge of how the Salvos are linked to Kokoda," Juliana said.

"I was just blown away by it all and as I walked the track and heard the stories about the Salvos, I thought 'of course the Salvos would be here, they're always there!' It's just made me feel privileged, honoured, and blessed to be part of this organisation. I just feel encouraged and uplifted by the experience."

Alabaster Box homeward bound

By **JULIA HOSKING**

Christian pop/rock band Alabaster Box are back in Australia on a two-month tour.

After relocating to Nashville, United States in 2006, the former Queensland-based band will be playing a series of dates and venues in October and November on their biggest tour to date.

Their tour comes on the back of their latest album, *We Will Not Be Silent*, which has had three number one (Christian) radio singles in Australia: *New York*, *Fearlessly Stumble* and *We Will Not Be Silent*.

Starting in Sydney on 23 October, Alabaster Box will embark on a tour which visits more than 20 towns and cities. They will be performing in places such as Mackay, Melbourne, Bundaberg, Brisbane, Taree, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Albany and Alice Springs.

"We have a heart for places on the map that are off the 'standard touring circuit'," says keyboardist Josh Brown. "Years ago, that is where we cut our teeth. We are passionate about the message we believe Christ has given us. We want to share the hope that can be found in Christ with everyone, not just those in the cities and big towns."

Alabaster Box began 10 years ago as a youth group band on the Gold Coast. Their big break came when they won a song competition on Brisbane radio station 96five, the success delivering their transition into full-time ministry with their music.

"We had some amazing opportunities to play in public schools, festivals and different churches. We played everywhere and as often as we could, including small and remote country towns," says lead vocalist Naarah Seagrott.

The Salvation Army was often on Alabaster Box's schedule.

"The Salvation Army has always stood for those people who have no voice; we are passionate about partnering with people who share this heart," explains Josh.

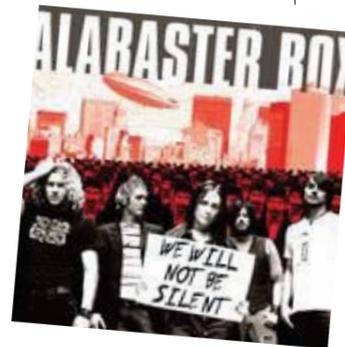
After six years of touring Australia, the band felt it was appropriate to relocate to the US. "We really wanted to grow as a band musically ... There is a larger Christian music industry in America and you're really surrounded by a lot of people who can help you grow," shares Naarah.

Today, Alabaster Box are churning out hit songs alongside the likes of leading Christian artists Michael W Smith, Switchfoot and Casting Crowns, but it's been a long road and taken a lot of hard work to get there.

"When I look back now I realise how those [early] days made us into who we are today," says Josh. "Now when we have 'wins' we know the price we had to pay to get here and we value it so much more."

Tour dates and locations mentioned in the story were accurate when Creative Ministry went to print.

For more information on Alabaster Box including tour dates and how to book tickets, visit alabasterbox.com or myspace.com/alabasterbox



Alabaster Box are (from left) Brett Seagrott, Naarah Seagrott, Tim Braisted, and Joshua Brown.

Camps focus on developing creative skills

Queensland Performing Arts School (QPAS) was held from 4-11 July.

Almost 200 young people, along with 30 leaders, met in Brisbane to develop their abilities in the area of creative ministry. A concert was held on Saturday 11 July at Brisbane City Temple Corps, which showcased the skills learnt and fun had during the week. The purpose of the annual camp is to train and equip young people for ministry in their areas of skill or interest.

On a territorial level, Gospel Arts Camp is held this month, from 5-11 October, with a similar focus to QPAS. There are 250 young people aged 13-30, as well as 50 leaders, set to attend the camp at The Collaroy Centre on Sydney's northern beaches.

The theme for this year's camp is "u r", with the purpose of

encouraging the young people to be all they are meant to be in Christ. Developing their creative skills and gifts that are given by God aids this process.

New electives this year include cartooning, "Sunset News" (Collaroy news team) and "The Great Elective Taste Test", which allows campers to experience a different elective every day.

An Open Day will be held on Saturday 10 October at Collaroy. It will commence in the afternoon and will showcase artwork, videos, photography, writing and other creative work that has been produced. It will also feature dances, dramas and band performances.

An evening concert will follow the Open Day displays and will include performances not seen during the day.

Tweed Heads youth gets Supercharged

Young people at Tweed Heads Corps are not only "charged on Jesus", as their Friday night group claims, but they are supercharged!

Sunday night youth church at Tweed Heads is called supercharged and it includes sport, activities, testimony, discussion groups and worship led by "Supercharged Band".

Angela Cairns, youth pastor at Tweed Heads and vocalist for the band, explained the purpose of Supercharged Band.

"It's all about having an awesome band for Sunday night and seeing kids [develop] and [grow] in their musical ability as we give it all back to God," she says.

Angela's husband, Lucas, is Tweed Heads' Ministry Assistant and plays acoustic guitar for the group. He also mentors the band members, a combination of teenagers from the church and the local Banora High School.

"Lucas and I really believe in the kids in the band and can see God has given them each a musical gift," Angela says.

"It's our desire to see them use it, develop it and live out their full potential in God.

"We feel so blessed to have each of those guys in the band and think they're all amazing!"

On Friday 10 July, a band night was held at the corps for more than 100 people. Supercharged Band performed, as did Kory Masters and Crew, and Jenova Birth.

The concert was held to raise funds for the forthcoming recording of an original Supercharged Band album at The Oasis Studios.

It has been a long-held dream for both Angela and Lucas to create a CD in a professional studio.

Due to the success of Supercharged Band to date, they decided to pursue the dream.

Over three long days during the July school holidays, thanks to fundraising and donations the band was able to record a six-song debut album.

"It was a dream come true for most of them and certainly a great experience which should help them musically in the future," Angela says of the recording experience.

"We just want to give it all back to God, for him to use however he chooses, [as there's] no point keeping it all to ourselves."

The Supercharged Band album and a music book will be released later this month for \$10 each.

They will be available from the Tweed Heads Corps website: <http://salvos.org.au/tweed/>



Brengle Create

From 21-25 September, more than 60 people gathered at The Collaroy Centre, on Sydney's northern beaches, for Brengle Create, an initiative of The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory.

Keynote speakers included Territorial Commander Commissioner Linda Bond, Dr Roger Green, Lieutenant-Colonel Janet Munn, Major Dr Alan Harley and Darlene Zschech.

The week was an opportunity for delegates to enjoy fellowship and worship, as well as to receive spiritual growth, teaching and inspiration from God. The camp focused on the topic of holiness, encouraging delegates to apply the teaching to their individual creative gifts and skills for the glory of God.

The conference drew delegates from around the world with people travelling from countries such as New Zealand, England, Finland, the Philippines, Indonesia and the United States.

Pipeline will carry a detailed report on Brengle Create in a future issue.

Christmas comes early for Agents

The Agents of T.R.U.T.H. have produced a range of Christmas stocking fillers, with something for all age groups!

For the toddlers, a 20-page book, *Agents of C.U.T.E: Together* has been created. The book is a whimsical tale of Eve, Logan and Bally as toddlers, learning to work together as a team.

For children over eight, a 20-page adventure comic, *Crossbones*, has been released. In the comic, the Agents encounter a newly formed version of The Skeleton Army (a group from early Salvation Army history), and they must rescue a friend from involvement with the wrong crowd.

Also, the Agents have released a Christmas DVD, *Christmas is a Time for Giving*. Rod Allen, Production Designer for the Agents of T.R.U.T.H., says the DVD is "loaded with extra Christmas songs and a bonus show, featuring Logan's cat Mr Peppers".

The books are now available for \$5 from the Territorial Music and Creative Arts Department (contact AgentsofTruth@aue.salvationarmy.org or 02 9266 9840).

Christmas is a Time for Giving, which comes with bonus features, will be out next month.



Hurstville songsters celebrate 70 years

By **KATHRYN LUCAS**

Over the weekend of Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 August, the Hurstville Corps Songster Brigade celebrated its 70th anniversary.

Old friendships were renewed as people travelled from all over NSW, interstate, and even overseas to attend the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, past and present members of Hurstville songsters joined for a workshop/ rehearsal led by former leaders and current Songster Leader, Julie Townsend.

Following the workshop, 160 people gathered for a celebration dinner. Former members of Hurstville songsters provided the entertainment for the evening. Brooke Sheppard, Ash Sellars, Amanda Williams and Nathan Hickey presented vocal items, while Marian Wallace and Julie Townsend (mother/ daughter) provided a piano duet.

On Sunday morning, the current members of Hurstville songsters participated in the worship which was led by former Hurstville corps officer Major John Rees. The songsters sang

I Am His and He is Mine, conducted by Dr Ron Smart, which featured Julie Morelock (nee Smart) who had travelled from the United States. The meeting concluded with the songsters singing a benediction to the congregation, *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*.

A "Celebration of Faith" was held on Sunday afternoon. Past and present Hurstville songster members were featured and tributes were shared about each former songster leader: Violet Morgan (1939-1962), Owen Harris (1962-1964), Alex Scott (1964-1969), Doug Clarke (1969-1972), Merle Wemyss (1972-1979), Dr Ron Smart (1979-1986), Marian Wallace (1986-1998), Gaylene Millar (1998-2008) and Julie Townsend (2008-present).

Several former songster leaders also conducted the massed songster brigade: Owen Harris, *In the Secret of Thy Presence*; Graeme Packer (brother of Merle Wemyss), *I Can Think of Him*; Dr Ron Smart, *God Loved the World So Much*; and Marian Wallace, *With Wings as Eagles*.

Acknowledgement was also made that two foundation members of Hurstville songsters, Joyce Smyth and Nel Gallagher, were present over the weekend.

Staff Songsters sing up a storm at Tuggeranong

On Saturday 25 July and Sunday 26 July, more than 600 people experienced the ministry of the Sydney Staff Songsters at Tuggeranong, ACT.

The Saturday involved the songsters singing at Mountain View Nursing Home and a Cabaret-style evening concert. The songsters not only shared their vocal abilities, but also their experiences of the living and loving God.

Earlier, on Saturday afternoon, the Sydney Staff Songsters leader Graeme Press, led a combined songster workshop for the staff songsters and Tuggeranong songsters under the leadership of Rendry Del Rosario.

The staff songsters led the morning and afternoon Sunday worship services with song, and many shared powerful testimonies.



The Sydney Staff Songsters perform at Tuggeranong.

Teddy bears picnic at Belconnen

On 2 July, Belconnen Corps Mini Muzos held a "teddy bears picnic" end-of-term party.

Held at the Belconnen Corps hall, more than 90 children under the age of five, mums, dads, grandparents and carers attended.

Cousin Koala came up from Melbourne to visit the group, tiny teddies were fed to teddy bears, and at morning tea everyone ate big teddy bear biscuits. Mini Muzos hold similar picnics a couple of times each year.



Cousin Koala proved a big hit at the teddy bears picnic.

Mini Muzos meets every Thursday throughout the school term. It averages 70-100 people each week and is one of the most popular activities at the corps.

Variety showcase at Carina/Mt Gravatt

Carina/ Mt Gravatt Cluster Corps in Queensland held a variety show, "Youth on Stage III", on Saturday 27 June. The two-hour show featured the debut of the Carina Youth Big Band as well as various dramatic performances.

Previous Youth on Stage nights have mainly showcased vocal and instrumental solos, but this year there were also science experiments, dance routines, comedy acts, poetry recitals, videos and a boys timbrel brigade.

The response to the evening was incredibly positive, and money raised through an entry fee and cake stalls helped to send the corps' young people to the Queensland Performing Arts School (QPAS), which was held from 4-11 July.

More than 40 young people were involved in various acts throughout the night, entertaining an audience of more than 200.

Youth on Stage III was held to give the congregation a chance to see the talents of the corps' young people.

"Every year they go away to QPAS and those that don't get to go to the QPAS concert often don't see some of the amazing God-given talents the young people have," explained Jared Proellocks, youth band leader and coordinator of Youth on Stage.

The Carina Youth Big Band was created as a one-off version of the Carina Youth Band. However, because the new style was so well-received, Jared plans to investigate the possibility of a permanent big band.

The band members enjoyed themselves playing contemporary rock and jazz music, mixed in with some choreography. But their purpose remained the same, said Proellocks: "The Carina Youth Band [exists] in order to honour God through our talents and to impact and positively touch people's lives through the music we play and how we conduct ourselves wherever we go."

A devotional message was also given on the night that encouraged people to think about their "legacy" and how they might be remembered.



Carina Youth Big Band performs at Youth on Stage III.

Melbourne Staff Band visits Brisbane

The weekend of 20-21 June was a busy one for Brisbane City Temple Corps and the Melbourne Staff Band.

On Saturday 20 June, the Melbourne Staff Band performed a concert in Brisbane's Queen Street Mall. Passing shoppers were captivated by various songs such as *Deep River* and *Joyful, Joyful*.

Later that afternoon, the staff band joined Brisbane City Temple band for a combined rehearsal in preparation for the following day's afternoon concert.

On the Saturday evening, Melbourne Staff Band presented a concert to more than 500 people, the time spent together both challenging and inspirational. The second half of the concert included dancing and choreography to showcase the innovative possibilities of brass banding. A standing ovation ended the night.

The Sunday morning worship meeting was led by the staff band and included a Bible message from the band's Executive Officer, Major Robert Paterson.

In the afternoon, another concert was held which featured both the Melbourne Staff Band and Brisbane City Temple band. The Melbourne Staff Band hadn't visited Brisbane City

Temple for 11 years and it was a very rewarding time for all, especially the younger Brisbane City Temple band members.

A fortnight later, on 5 July, the Brisbane City Temple songsters created another interesting evening for the corps. The songsters, under the leadership of Chris Brindley, and accompanied by Elizabeth Brown, presented a "Gems for Songsters" Sunday evening meeting for more than 60 people.

The songsters performed a variety of classic Salvation Army songs such as *Soldier, Rouse Thee* and *I Hate the Devil*.

Songster members introduced the songs and explained what the song meant to them and how they believe it is still relevant today.

The evening was described as emotional, spiritual and fun, full of laughter and memories.

Another exciting musical event that took place recently at Brisbane City Temple Corps was on 12 July. A trio consisting of strings and piano, *Saved by Grace*, performed an evening concert.

A powerpoint presentation was used in accompaniment to the music because the family trio, originally from Uzbekistan, wanted to ensure the content was emphasised above the playing of their music.

Earlwood hosts Iron and Clay

On Sunday 5 July, contemporary Christian acappella band Iron and Clay were special guests at Earlwood Corps.

Earlwood's Sunday Night Live (evening meeting) has enjoyed recent growth in numbers, and as a ministry and outreach opportunity, Iron and Clay were invited to perform.

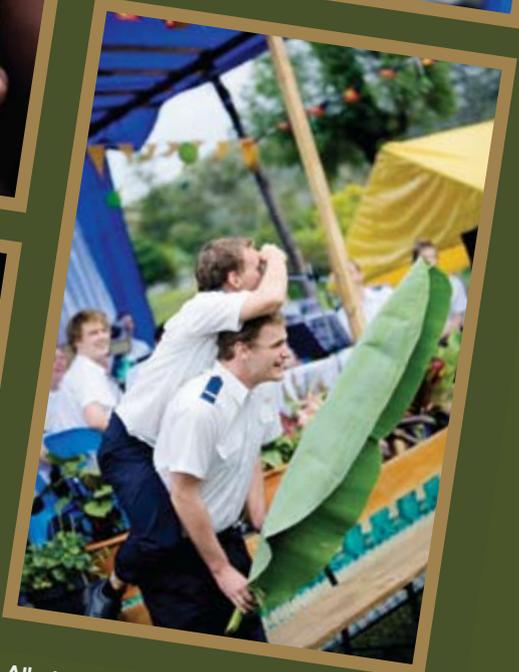
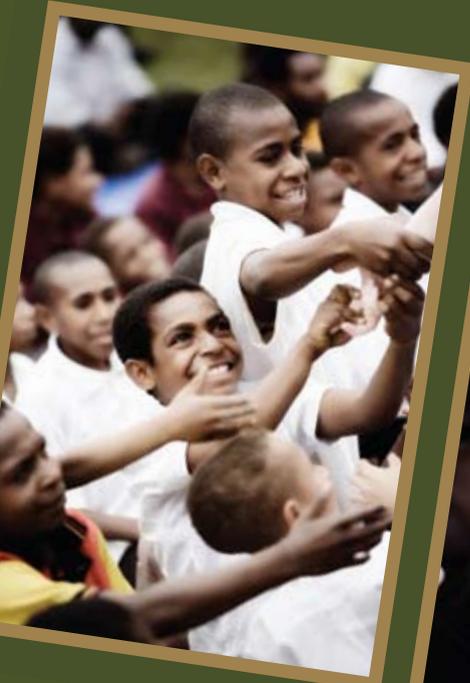
More than 60 people attended the performance with the event reported as being exciting and energising, with some humorous audience participation.

All who attended had a great night and many hearts were touched by listening to the young singers' testimonies.



Pictorial

Sydney Youth Band in Papua New Guinea



All photos: Shairon Paterson