

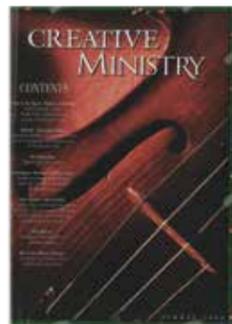
# CREATIVE

THE SALVATION ARMY • AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY • OCTOBER 2015 • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 4

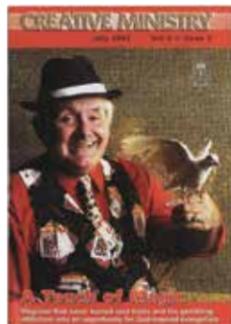


## Fullness of Joy.

SUSAN CROMBIE'S  
DANCE PASSION



2000



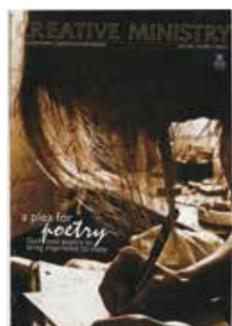
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2003



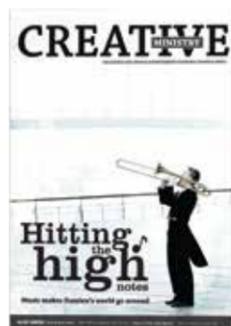
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2005



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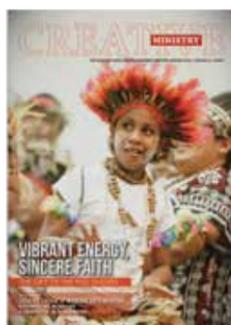
2011



2012



2013



2014



2014

# This will be the last edition of Creative.

Beginning in 2000 under the leadership of Major David Woodbury as Editor, as a supplement of *Pipeline* magazine, *Creative* has been showcasing innovative events, initiatives and people who are committed to bringing the gospel to our world in ways that inspire, challenge and excite us.

Many have shaped the stories it has told over the past 15 years – from editors Chris Witts (2001-2007) and Scott Simpson (2007-2012) and Anne Halliday (2012-2015), photographer Shairon Paterson (2007-2015) and numerous contributors, who, in words and pictures, have told stories of the vibrant, energetic expression of the gospel of the Australia Eastern Territory during these years.

While *Creative* magazine in its current form will end, our commitment to covering these stories remains undiminished, and they will continue to find expression with *Pipeline* magazine and online through MySalvos. But to mark the end of this chapter, here are some of the memorable covers as a tribute to *Creative's* history. Enjoy!

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Kirsty Georgas, Sarah Henderson, and Alyce Piper find joy through the Luv2Danz program. Cover shot: Susan Crombie and Alyce Piper.

CREATIVE The Salvation Army

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# New musical a story of inspiration.

WORDS • JOY YI

Eight extraordinary real-life stories of 20th-century Salvationists featured in the premiere of the new musical *Covenant* which was unveiled at Boundless Congress in July. A cast of 53 from the USA Western Territory performed the musical seven times throughout the congress week. The show is a vignette of eight real-life stories about Salvationists across the world. It is a visual treat for the eyes and a rousing experience for the ears.

Snippets of The Salvation Army's work throughout the 20th century are threaded together with scenes of Founder William Booth, played by Jim Trebilcox (right), sharing his vision for the Army in his final days. "It's about what is going on now but also for the past 150 years – how people stepped up to do what needs to be done," said Kevin Larsson, musical composer and director, who wrote *Covenant* with playwright Karl Larsson and lyricist Commissioner Keith Banks. The power of the production was in the real-life stories of Salvationists.

In between each scene, videos of the real-life character – or someone who knew the character – briefly shared a personal story. "To think these stories were actually true!" said co-director Barbara Allen, who staged and choreographed the musical. "The musical is a wonderful vehicle

to tell the stories." The Larssons are hoping the vignette format will allow the musical to be broken into manageable chunks that could be performed individually elsewhere, hopefully extending the musical's life beyond Boundless. All orchestrations, books and background images will be made available for purchase.

The stories portrayed reveal that the Army has faithfully served with the same blood of Christ and fire of the Holy Spirit throughout the 20th century.

They may not have been told as often or revered as much as the stories of the early days, but these stories are a testament to how Booth's vision and Christ's command have been manifested in our time. How many extraordinary, yet unnoticed, heroic works of love and sacrifice are taking place all over the world? Beyond these eight stories, there are so many more that will never get recognition.

To end the show, audience members were invited to stand and read William Booth's covenant together – a covenant penned in his final days. It's a challenge. It is an invitation to move the Army – the love for God and people – forward from the visions of the early days into the future.





Susan Crombie (right) found a kindred spirit in local dance teacher Abby Hodgkinson (left) who shares the joy of teaching students such as Sarah Henderson (centre).

# Dancing for Joy.

TEACHING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HOW TO DANCE IS THE MOST FULFILLING VENTURE THAT PORT MACQUARIE SALVATIONIST SUSAN CROMBIE HAS EVER TAKEN ON

WORDS • ESTHER PINN / PHOTOS • ALICIA FOX

When Susan Crombie was younger she used to say: "One day, before I die, I'm going teach people with Down syndrome how to dance." "People used to giggle when I would say this," she says. "Some would say, 'Do you think you're going to die soon?'. But what I meant was, one day, when I didn't have to work to earn money, I would like to do something like this."

Now 65 and retired, Susan is fulfilling her dream in the north NSW coastal town of Port Macquarie. Eleven years ago she started a dance school. She called it Luv2Danz. Starting out as a dance school for the general public, it quickly evolved into a program that catered for students with varying disabilities, from high school leavers to over 60-year-olds.

Among her current group of 14 students, some have Down syndrome, while others have cerebral palsy. In the past, Susan has also taught a blind student. Even apart from her sense of God's calling, Susan says she was always drawn towards people with Down syndrome, often finding herself overwhelmed by their joy. "I was sitting on the sofa at home and I heard a voice

say clearly to me, 'What are you waiting for? To die first?' And I knew what the message meant. So about a week later I was teaching one man with Down syndrome to tap dance," Susan says.

"When I would see someone with Down syndrome ... I thought they were beautiful. They've got something special. And the thing that makes them special is that they'll love you unconditionally. Most of us would have trouble with that [and] hold a little bit of a grudge. They don't. They just love everybody."

#### TEACHING METHODS

Along with the program's other dance teacher, Abby Hodgkinson, Susan teaches the students a variety of dance styles including modern ballet, jazz, and tap. While the students often forget the choreography, they enjoy expressing themselves and will often come up with their own dance moves. No matter what style, Susan says they just love to dance.

"They do actions to suit the words of the song. So often I'll put out a tune and they'll do their own thing. I think it gives them confidence and



◀ Top: Students find joy in their week to week classes. Jenna Williams (bottom left) enjoys her routine while Kerri Cains (bottom right) takes a break during class, before joining others on the dance floor (right).



“THEY DO ACTIONS TO SUIT THE WORDS OF THE SONG. SO OFTEN I’LL PUT OUT A TUNE AND THEY’LL DO THEIR OWN THING. I THINK IT GIVES THEM CONFIDENCE AND MAKES THEM FEEL SPECIAL. SEEING THE JOY ON THEIR FACES IS JUST SATISFYING.”



► makes them feel special. Seeing the joy on their faces is just satisfying.” Susan has been teaching dance for most of her life. While she doesn’t consider herself to be a world-class dance teacher, her student’s enjoyment of the Luv2Danz program certainly speaks loudly about her success. She often receives comments from the students’ family members of how the dance program has improved their behavioural skills. “Their parents are always proud as proud can be,” she says.

Over the years of teaching disabled people, Susan has developed different teaching techniques through trial and error, and a persistent patience, one of her admirable traits. While Susan’s teaching methods might seem unconventional at first, they do work. Many of her students are often confused between their left and right arms. So Susan came up with a creative solution to teach choreography: each student wears a white armband on their right arm and a black armband on their left, enabling them to have a visual prompt as they learnt the dance moves.

The Luv2Danz students occasionally perform at The Salvation Army corps in Port Macquarie, where Susan and her husband Jim (both senior soldiers) have been attending church since 2006. The corps has been supportive over the years with donations for the students’ family members to purchase ballet shoes and other dance items. One of the program’s highlights have been two performances, each to a 600-strong audience, at Port Macquarie’s main cultural and entertainment centre, the Glasshouse.

**WON OVER**

Until two years ago, Susan ran Luv2Danz by herself.

When Susan was looking for a volunteer to fill in for her classes while she was away having surgery, Abby, a 19-year-old New Zealander, stepped in. Abby, who was already teaching dance classes at the La Vive Classique Academy of Dance in Port Macquarie, where Luv2Danz is also held, intended to simply relieve Susan for a short period. However, Abby was won over by the students’ joy.

“The first class – it just absolutely blew me away. As soon as you turn the music on, their faces light up. It’s one of my favourite things to see every week.” In particular, Abby enjoys watching her students express themselves when they combine motion and music.

“I love that I can put any piece of music on the stereo and they can just pick it up and work with it and they really get involved with the music.” While a difficult task at times, for Abby, Luv2Danz has been one of the most rewarding opportunities she has ever taken on. “One of the challenges was actually being able to see past their disability and see what’s inside of them as a person. You have to learn a little bit about each of them so you know what to do – what makes them comfortable and what doesn’t.

“I can go into that class in a bad mood and at the end of it, no matter what, I always have a big grin on my face.” While most students were keen to let their feet do the talking, four of them expressed their feelings about Luv2Danz – Sarah: “It’s fun ... I enjoy it ... and I love it here!”; Jessica: “It’s exciting, and keeps me active.”; Kerri: “I love coming to dance with my friends.”; Lisa: “It’s exciting and I love learning new things.”

# Artist's brush with Jayne.

JOHN KENNEDY SAYS HE OWES HIS LIFE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO THE LATE JAYNE WILSON, THE FOUNDER OF WOLLONGONG CORPS' FIRST FLOOR RECOVERY PROGRAM, WHO INSPIRED AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO PURSUE A CAREER AS AN ARTIST

WORDS • MARIS DEPERS



*“STRAIGHT AWAY, THERE WAS A SENSE OF INCLUSIVENESS; OF BEING ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. SHE HELPED ME SEE THAT, YES, I CAN DO THIS.”*

Artist John Kennedy can't recall when he first walked into The Salvation Army Wollongong Corps bistro, but he has never forgotten meeting the manager, Jayne Wilson (pictured right). She changed his life. He owes much of the success of his art career to her, he says.

“I think I was a little bit lost as to where I wanted to be,” John (pictured left) reflects about that time back in 1997. Jayne was managing the Banjos bistro and coordinating a hospitality training course for the unemployed. I was just trying to find my stage (in life). The moment that I met Jayne, she just picked up a creative baton and went off into all of these possibilities.”

Over the following months, Jayne and John collaborated to create advertising material for a newly established function centre above the bistro. It was Jayne's ability to see the possibility and potential in every human life, usually directed towards assisting people to overcome addictions or find recovery from mental illness, that helped John glimpse his own potential as an artist, he says.

“Straight away, there was a sense of inclusiveness; of being able to contribute. She helped me see that, yes, I can do this. When someone else recognises what you do, there's something very powerful about that; it takes you out of that lonely bubble. Jayne wanted you to be the best version of who you are. I was committed from day one. She helped me feel like I could go into this creative world. To see one of



*Photo courtesy of The Illawarra Mercury*

my artworks printed on the (building) door, it was just awesome. It gave me a taste of what could happen from not just introverting your ideas but actually taking action on them.”

With Jayne's encouragement and inspiration, John pursued a career in art, and has since been part of national and international art exhibitions, as well as becoming an art teacher and inspiring others. Jayne provided the bistro and function centre to allow John to host his first classes. Not surprisingly, the themes of transformation and exploration of new vistas have come to underpin both John's own artistic practice works as well as his key message to students. He is now a well-recognised artist.

Jayne died on Christmas Day 2013 after expanding the horizons of The Salvation Army Wollongong program to provide

counselling and support services for people in addiction and their families, and also for police officers with stress-related issues, recently-released prisoners and a host of others needing help. It is now known as the First Floor Program and has been used as a model for similar programs in Sydney, Canberra and Canada.

Jayne's enormous contribution to the well-being of others was remembered by the first Jayne Wilson Memorial Art Exhibition at the Wollongong Corps building in January this year. The second annual Jayne Wilson Memorial Art Exhibition, themed "Dreams and Visions", will be held from 21 January to 1 February next year.

John Kennedy was an obvious choice as the featured artist for next year's event. “It feels like I'm coming full circle,” John says. “Everything that has happened is the result of coming here (Wollongong centre). None of the works that will be displayed was even in existence when I walked in here the first time and I don't think it ever would have been if I hadn't stepped through those front doors. It's as simple as that!”

Submissions are also invited from other artists and those who would like to have their work considered for exhibition. For more information, visit [salvos.org.au/wollongong/assistance/counselling-and-support-the-first-floor-program/](http://salvos.org.au/wollongong/assistance/counselling-and-support-the-first-floor-program/)

*\* Maris Depers is a counsellor at the Wollongong First Floor Program.*



# Carols event takes Canberra by storm.

NOT EVEN THE THREAT OF A VIOLENT STORM CAN SWAY SCOTT LINGARD FROM HIS COMMITMENT TO CANBERRA'S LARGEST CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENT

WORDS • ESTHER PINN

► Scott Lingard decided to ignore the green and black clouds forming in the sky above Canberra. He had already been told that the 3000 people in the crowd should start leaving the park. In defiance of the approaching storm, Scott (pictured left) continued to stand on stage and conduct the Tuggeranong Salvation Army band. While most of the Canberra region was lashed by a vicious storm that night in 2013, the Tuggeranong Corps' annual "Carols in Town Park" event, amazingly, remained untouched. "We got a few drops of rain but the storm went right around us," Scott recalls. "We were able to get through the whole carols event without it hitting us. A kilometre or two away, they were getting bucketed with hail."

Later, Scott discovered one of the Tuggeranong Corps prayer warriors drove to the church and prayed for the entire duration of the carols event. This corps member is just one of many prayer warriors who devote their time to praying for Carols in Town Park. "Because we've placed that priority on praying for those people who come, we've seen God really bless the event," Scott says.

Carols in Town Park had humble beginnings in the early 2000s, initially being held in the car park behind Tuggeranong Corps. The popularity of the event forced organisers to find a larger venue, and the nearby Town Park was the perfect location. Local businesses began to financially support the event and over the past four years up to 5000 people have attended each year. Scott says Carols in Town Park has unofficially become known as the largest carols event in the Canberra region.

Scott has been running the event since 2011. He says Canberra is one of the largest secular communities in Australia, so he sees the carols as primarily an opportunity to outreach to this community and show them Christ. "My desire is for it to continue to grow and for us to really harvest the opportunities of people wanting to come and hear the Christmas message and the gospel story." Many who attend Carols in Town Park have told Scott and his team that it has become part of their family Christmas tradition.

Scott says his Tuggeranong team celebrates the message of Christmas in all aspects of the program. This includes singing many of the traditional Christian carols and featuring artists such as local Christian contemporary singer Katie de Veau (pictured right). Tuggeranong Corps

member and kids entertainer Dallas Live also runs a segment for children. "We sort of try and step away from the commercialisation of Christmas and really focus on Christ and that he is the reason for Christmas," Scott says. Scott's passion for the carols event stems from his musical background in The Salvation Army. He started with the cornet at the age of eight before moving on to other instruments. He now plays the euphonium. As well as being the worship coordinator for Tuggeranong Corps, he is the corps deputy bandmaster, but he admits his deep passion is for worship music. "It's always been part of my life and it's a way for me to express my love of God. Also, it's the way I connect with God and I get a lot of satisfaction from that."

Taking on Carols in Town Park comes out of Scott's desire to use his skills in ministry. While organising Carols in Town Park often feels like a full-time job, Scott coordinates this event voluntarily on top of his normal day job of working in business management for APIR (Asia Pacific Investment Register). Despite the challenges it brings, Scott says he desires to use both his musical and business skills for ministry. "I'm not theological, but I can do these things and I can organise an event like this ... and it just gives me the opportunity to use these skills for the kingdom."

Carols in Town Park is not a one-man show. Scott has a large team of volunteers who assist prior to the carols event as well as on the day. Along with their prayer warriors, a group of seniors from the corps pack 2500 candle bags the week before the event. A group of volunteers also hand out the carol bags and spend time connecting with community, while The Salvation Army's Emergency Services team runs a barbeque. For further information about Carols in Town Park, go to [carolsintownpark.com](http://carolsintownpark.com)

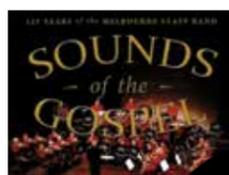




## Sounds of the Gospel.

MERV COLLINS REFLECTS ON THE INSPIRATION AND INSIGHTS HE GAINED FROM WRITING *SOUNDS OF THE GOSPEL*, A HISTORY OF THE MELBOURNE STAFF BAND

WORDS • MERV COLLINS



Sounds of the Gospel is available from [thetrade.salvos.org.au](http://thetrade.salvos.org.au)

The MSB (top left) and Merv Collins (right) who recently wrote a history of the Melbourne band.

When I jokingly asked long-serving, now-retired bandsman Brian Lynn if he'd played in the Melbourne Staff Band under Bandmaster George Dickens in the 1930s, he replied, "Mate, I was in the band so long, I served under Charles Dickens!"

My band service is similarly lengthy. I fell in love with brass bands and Army music as a boy, many years ago, and the divine joy of it has never left me. When my fading "chops" determined I should no longer play, I started to write about it. As a result, when the current Melbourne Staff Band musical leadership asked me to assist in creating promotional material for its 125th anniversary year, I volunteered to research its history in full and produce a book, *Sounds of the Gospel*, to mark the occasion. I researched old Army periodicals at the Heritage Centre in Melbourne, testing the knowledge and trying the patience of archivist Lindsay Cox and his assistant, Yasmin Van Gaalen-Prentice (now herself a Staff Band member).

It was illuminating to put flesh to the names of Staff Band pioneers like Jeremiah Eunson, (the group's first bandmaster back in 1890), William Gore, William Rook and Robert McAnally. I discovered how an open-air meeting in the 1900s would attract hundreds back to the hall; how a band program in the 1920s would draw an overflowing crowd; how in the 1930s, the band participated in just about every civic and royal occasion in the state of Victoria and how Bandmaster Norm McLeod's band in the 1940s pioneered band broadcasts and heard of souls being won over the air.

I relived, in hugely entertaining interviews with more recent band characters – like the incorrigible euphonium soloist John Butler and the waggish Brian Lynn – the musical triumphs of the first overseas tour to New

Zealand in 1959 and the International Congress of 1978, and I talked to the current leaders about the challenges facing the band today.

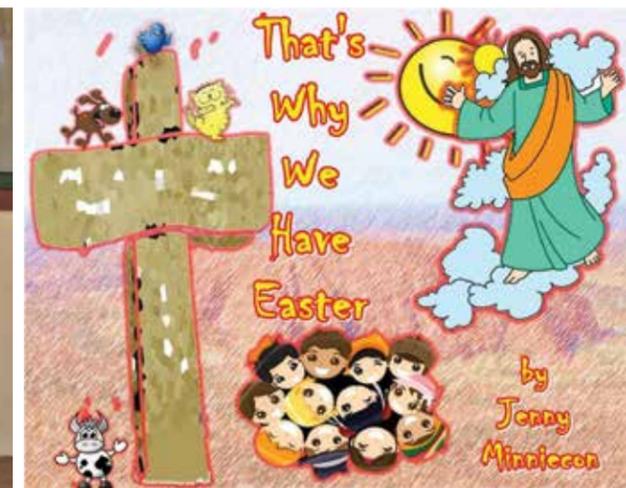
The problem is, though the band is still very good, the genre no longer has the currency of old. Philip Harper, the bandmaster of the Cory Band in Wales, one of the world's finest, wrote recently: "It remains an absolute priority for bands to reinvent themselves for the newer internet-connected, X-Factor-consuming generations."

The Melbourne Staff Band knows this only too well and their festivals now are an attractive combination of old and new music played while seated or in choreographed movement, backed by informative multi-media technologies. The band still, endeavours, as the Founder instructed, "to beat and blow to get people into the hall, then to the penitent form."

Writing the Melbourne Staff Band history gave me a chance to celebrate, not merely this band, but Salvation Army bands generally. *Sounds of the Gospel* is a story all band members are familiar with – the fun and fellowship; the music and the message. Army music has been a major part of my life and, in writing the book, I'm thanking God for it.

As part of the Melbourne Staff Band's 125th celebrations, they will be hosting a concert featuring the International Staff Band, who are touring Australia in October. The band will be touring throughout both the Eastern and Southern Territories.

For details of the tour and tickets go to: [www.salvationarmy.org.au/ISBtour](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/ISBtour)



## Write time for Jenny.

WORDS • ESTHER PINN

Jenny Minniecon had always dreamed of writing a book. But putting food on the table for her family always took priority. Becoming a single mum at just 18, Jenny says she didn't have the luxury of time to devote to her dreams. "I find with writing, I've got to get away in a cave and find that time. I find the busyness of life gets in the way of my writing."

Jenny says her love for writing stems back to her primary-school days. Over the years she has written poetry, greeting cards, stories with rhyme and other creative pieces – some for occasions such as her grandmother's funeral and son's wedding. It wasn't until recently that Jenny began to give her writing the time it deserved.

The daughter and step-daughter of retired Salvation Army officers, Captains Fay and Errol Hart, Jenny has spent 30 years of her working life in ministry for The Salvation Army and other non-Salvation Army organisations. Late last year, after facing burnout, Jenny took a step back from frontline ministry with The Salvation Army. Her husband Allen Minniecon, The Salvation Army's Indigenous Community Development Worker in Cairns, whom she married in 2007, encouraged her to take a more serious approach to writing. Throughout this period, Jenny went through a journey of self-discovery and was challenged by God to use her gift of writing for his kingdom.

Suddenly, when time was no longer an obstacle, Jenny found that the words began to flow. In the space of an hour Jenny wrote the story for her first children's hard-copy and e-book, *That's Why We Have Easter*, which is dedicated to her 14 grandchildren. Published on 31 March this year, Jenny says she chose to focus on Easter because she's passionate

about sharing the gospel message with children. She is also writing another children's book called *That's Why We Have Christmas* and plans for this book to be coupled with *That's Why We Have Easter* when published.

Along with children's books, Jenny is nearly finished another book called *Advice for Christian Single Mums*. Jenny says she always knew she would write this book due to her own experiences as a single mum. After first becoming a single parent at 18, Jenny entered a second period of having to parent on her own when she again found herself alone and pregnant with son number four. She went on to raise her four sons on her own over the next 14 years. While the task of raising her children alone was at first daunting, she received support from a local Pentecostal church in Mackay.

From here Jenny was empowered to help other single mums and ran a small-group ministry for single mums through that church for five years. "Advice For Christian Single Mums is based on my own experiences and what I've learnt through other women," she says. "It offers advice and tips on everything from budgeting to counselling, including a resource section for self help."

To purchase an e-book copy of *Why We Have Easter*, go to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and look out for Jenny's other books which will be published later in the year.

"ADVICE FOR CHRISTIAN SINGLE MUMS IS BASED ON MY OWN EXPERIENCES AND WHAT I'VE LEARNT THROUGH OTHER WOMEN."

Left: Jenny with husband Allen, who encouraged her to pursue her love for writing. Right: Jenny's first children's book was published this year.



SSS SET TO RELEASE NEW ALBUM.



Top: The Sydney Staff Songsters alto section during the recording session (from left) Kimberley Douglass, Christine Plumridge, Sandy Hogg, Rhonda Smartt, Hayley Grigg and Karenne Sheppard. Above: Deputy leader Ash Sellers gives the songsters direction during the session.

The Sydney Staff Songsters hit the studio at the end of August to record their new album, set to be released before Christmas. The band recorded all the accompaniment tracks earlier in the month and over the weekend the Songsters added their voices to the 11 worship songs selected for this album.

Included are songs from the current touring repertoire. An arrangement from Deputy Staff Songster Leader Ash Sellers is included on the album. "This is the first time any of my arrangements has been recorded, I'm excited to hear it come to life on CD," he said.

Sydney Staff Songster leader Graham Ainsworth once again assumes the responsibility of Executive Producer, assisted by Ash. While Ash finds producing the album to be a huge task, he says it is something that he thoroughly enjoys. "To be part of the team responsible for picking the final takes of what we use, I feel the burden of responsibility to be a good steward of the opportunity afforded us and to make the best product, for God to take and use in ways we couldn't even dream of. However, personally, I love the recording process. I love working with a bunch of songs and shaping them, moulding them into something that captures a moment in time for this group."

While Ash has previously sung on many Sydney Staff Songster albums, he says this recording experience was particularly memorable as he was personally moved by the spiritual atmosphere that was present on the recording days. "This was one of the most relaxed, warm and beautiful environments we've ever worked in," he said.

Many of the albums produced by the Sydney Staff Songsters have been sold all over the world. "It's a real privilege to hear stories from people in places we've never even heard of, who have been impacted by the group's recordings at just the right time for them" Ash said. "This album will be available at many Salvationist Supplies stores across the world, including the Australia Eastern Territory. Go to [thetrade.salvos.org.au](http://thetrade.salvos.org.au). It will also be available for digital download on iTunes, Google Play Music as well as all popular streaming services.

You can also pick up a copy of the album from any Sydney Staff Songster or purchase an album from the group when they visit a nearby corps. A tithe from the sales of all their albums go towards a project run by The Salvation Army International Development (SAID). – Esther Pinn



AUSSIE TROMBONIST ON UPWARD SLIDE.



Australian-born Salvationist and professional trombonist Damien Lingard (above) who now lives in Germany, recently completed his first international tour to Australia and Singapore with Slide Connection Stuttgart, a trombone quartet that was founded in 2008. Sponsored by the Goethe Institut, Damien performed alongside Slide Connection Stuttgart members Christoph Paus, Michael Hufnagel and Patrick Flassig throughout July and August in major Australian cities – Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane – and at The Salvation Army's corps in Port Macquarie.

Impressive crowds turned out to each performance to hear pieces from different musical periods and styles,

including baroque, romantic, jazz and pop. In addition, Slide Connection Stuttgart ran masterclasses in Singapore, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The masterclasses were an opportunity for Damien to offer advice to young Australians chasing a career in music overseas.

While he is living his dream, playing the trombone professionally in the Múnich Radio Orchestra, Damien knows too well the struggles of moving countries to pursue a career as a professional trombonist. When he first arrived in Múnich, he says there were many obstacles. Fortunately, he landed on his feet early.

"I didn't really know what I was getting myself into," he says. "I went in a bit blind and sort of figured it out when I got there. I wound up with an amazing teacher who was extremely helpful and someone I really got along with. But it could so easily have been a different matter. I went across and did an audition and was lucky enough to get a place in his [trombone teacher's] class and it just happened to be the best person who could have possibly been for me. If I had my time over again I would have informed myself beforehand a lot better, so I had that assurance of someone who could help me."

When Damien is not performing professionally, he plays with a local brass band, once a month, at the only Salvation Army corps in Múnich. Damien said he always makes God a value in his life. "It's important for me to make a contribution. I'm not necessarily someone who makes a huge contribution outside of music. Music is my thing.

"It's such a dominating part of my life, so it's important for me to make a contribution to services in the best way I can." – Esther Pinn



A UNIQUE SOUND FOR THE LORD.



More than two decades ago, Ernest Baginda's idea of a bamboo orchestra came to life when the government facilitated a group to perform at a festival at Lake Poso,

right in the centre of Sulawesi, Indonesia. Twenty-three years later and now officially known as Musik Bambu "Sangkurio" Berdikari, the group seeks to praise God using traditional musical instruments made of bamboo, which creates a distinctive sound!

Most are members of Berdikari Corps, where they play regularly at public and church events. Musik Bambu "Sangkurio" Berdikari made their unique contribution amid the breadth of musical variety at the recent Boundless Congress, praising God using bamboo instruments and expressing the joy that comes with their message of praise. "Being able to perform at congress is a remarkable opportunity, a great motivation and tremendous encouragement to further develop our ministry and service in our church and society," said leader Max William Baginda. Article courtesy Boundless Today.



ONESONG PRODUCES UNITY IN WORSHIP STYLES.



Above left: Territorial Worship Arts facilitators Louise and Shelden Mathieson. Above right: Chris Brindley.

United worship was the focus of The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territorial's Creative Team event, OneSong, on 16 August. Band musicians, instrumentalists, vocalists, choral group members and tech team members were invited to participate in the OneSong workshop at Dulwich Hill. It was the first time the event was held in NSW, having previously been held in Queensland.

OneSong ran as a series of masterclasses where the 45 participants from contemporary and brass band worship groups were able to practically engage with the changing landscape of worship music. A majority of the workshop delegates were from Dulwich Hill Corps, with some from Sydney Congress Hall.

Chris Brindley, the Territorial Worship Arts Coordinator, said his leadership team had a number of goals. "We were looking at what's available to your average Australian corps. You might have eight brass players, a piano player, a bass guitar player, a saxophone, a flute and a bassoon. What can we do with that? How can we mix it together? What can we use and what resources are available to do this? How can

we make it something we can all be a part of and feel valued in?"

Territorial Worship Arts Facilitators, Louise and Shelden Mathieson, played a key role in the event. Louise opened each day with a talk about the importance of working together. Sheldon led the practical component of the workshop where participants were able to play and sing together, regardless of their musical styles. Gareth Lewis, from Dulwich Hill, and Ash Sellers, from Sydney Staff Songsters, conducted the unified group pieces during this segment.

Chris also launched the territory's official Worship Arts Resource catalogue at OneSong. To access the catalogue, go to the WorshipArts AUE Salvos Facebook page, [facebook.com/salvos.worshiparts](https://facebook.com/salvos.worshiparts)

Chris is also eager to discover unknown Salvation Army composers and arrangers within the territory. If you would like to submit a composition or arrangement, email the Worship Arts team at [worshiparts@ae.salvationarmy.org](mailto:worshiparts@ae.salvationarmy.org)

and former Sydney Youth Band leader James Hill came out to support the event by conducting the two community bands. Each band played its own set of songs with the Sydney Youth Band performing a majority of Army songs. The Combined Schools Euro Band and the Sydney Youth Band then joined for a performance of *Goldcrest*, a Salvation Army march. Brad said the concert was a success and hoped to hold another fundraiser concert in the near future.



BANDS UNITE FOR PHILIPPINES KIDS.

The Sydney Youth Band combined with two community brass bands – Combined Schools Euro Band and Brass Baton Big Band – on 29 August for an inaugural fundraiser. Held at Chatswood Corps, about 200 Salvos and members from the local community raised \$950 on the night. All funds will go towards The Salvation Army children's music education programs in the Philippines.

The Sydney Youth Band was led by Bandmaster Brad Lucas,



SILVIE STARS AS BRISBANE CELEBRATES 130TH.



Silvie Paladino (left) and singing with the Brisbane City Temple band at the concert (above).

More than 800 people gathered at Brisbane City Temple across two concerts on 12-13 September to hear the vocal talents of well-known Australian theatrical singer Silvie Paladino. Silvie is touring Australia and performing songs from her new album *When You Believe*, released in November last year. She recorded the album with The Salvation Army's Melbourne Staff Band.

The concerts in Brisbane doubled as an outreach opportunity with many Salvationists inviting neighbours and friends. "We want to bring people into the church and expose them to the message of God through the medium of music," said Brisbane City Temple band sergeant, Russell Luhrs.

Silvie jumped on board with this evangelistic vision by pairing her performances with the message of Christ. Silvie performed renditions of classic Christian songs including *Your Grace Still Amazes Me*, accompanied by the Brisbane City Temple Band. Silvie also shared her faith story.

"Silvie gave her story of when she was young and learning to sing and adoring Barbra Streisand," explained Territorial

Worship Arts Coordinator, Chris Brindley. "She tells about her accidental venture into musical theatre and how an amazing opportunity opened up. She became a Christian and [shared about] the difficulties and opportunities she had to share her faith in such a hard environment with musical theatre. She's now able to use it [her musical success] as a platform to be able share her faith and is very excited about doing that."

The weekend was also an opportunity to celebrate Brisbane City Temple Band's 130th anniversary. Bandmaster Ken Waterworth from the Melbourne Staff Band was invited to conduct the Brisbane City Temple Band over the course of the weekend. On Sunday morning a spiritual meeting was held for all musicians at Brisbane City Temple as part of their anniversary celebrations led by Bandmaster Waterworth and Silvie. Then, both Silvie and Bandmaster led worship at Brisbane City Temple's Sunday morning meeting followed by a workshop on worship leading.

Silvie's latest album is available for purchase at The Trade for \$25. Go to [thetrade.salvos.org.au](https://thetrade.salvos.org.au)



GOING TO EXTREMES TO EQUIP KIDS FOR MINISTRY.

Kids from The Salvation Army's South Queensland Division recently learnt how to live an "extreme" life for God at their annual discipleship and creative arts camp, EQUIP Kids. Rhys Wilson, South Queensland Divisional Children's Worker, said the kids responded well to the "extreme" theme. "Our purpose for the camp is to train and equip kids to be in ministry. I think it's about time we released our kids into ministry in corps. Hopefully they go back feeling equipped and encouraged," he said.

More than 80 kids aged 9-12 gathered at Luther Heights Youth Camp at Coolum Beach, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The main sessions, known as "Overflow Sessions", were centred on the camp's theme. The campers learnt about a God of extreme action – how he was willing to do whatever it took for the world to have eternal life. The kids were also shown

how God is an extreme gift through the act of sending his son to earth as a sacrifice to free all mankind from sin. Lastly, they were taught about God's extreme love – how he waits patiently for us to return to him after we have walked away.

There were also a number of electives the kids could choose from to develop their skills for ministry, such as worship, drama, dance, visual arts, social justice, tech production, timbrels and brass band. This year, woodwork was introduced as a new elective and for the second time there was a hospitality elective.

At the end of EQUIP Kids, parents were invited for a combined worship concert where all electives performed on stage. Around 30 volunteers gave their time to help lead the EQUIP Kids camp. – Esther Pinn



## Fitting tribute to celebrated composer.

The late Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Steadman-Allen (widely referred to as RSA) was a towering figure in the world of Salvation Army music and beyond. While very widely known as a gifted composer, arranger and conductor, whose contribution to Army music is immense, he is also fondly remembered for his personal qualities. He was a gracious man whose many talents were used in service to his Lord.

And so it was that the RSA Tribute Concert, held in the Sydney Congress Hall on 5 September, drew a large and appreciative audience who were not disappointed by the night's exclusive RSA repertoire.

The first half of the program was provided by the Parramatta Citadel Band and the Sydney Staff Songsters. The section featured a cornet trio – John Wiseman, Barrie Gott and Preston Hardy – accompanied by the band, and a vocal item, *Glory to His Name*. This was sung by Staff Songster Deborah Robinson (accompanied by John Wiseman and Barrie Gott) and was a stand-out item among many RSA favourites from the band including *Go Down Moses*, *The Scarlet Jersey*, *His Guardian Care* and *Selection From Take-Over Bid*. The Staff Songster contributions were *The Christian Mission*, *O Lovely Name* and *Gone My Care*.

After the interval, The RSA Tribute Band, which had

been drawn together specifically for the occasion by conductor Ron Prussing, took the stage. From the opening number, *Crown of Conquest*, it was apparent that the anticipation of the audience would be rewarded as the band responded to the clear and precise direction of the conductor. This was followed by the melodic selection simply named, *Melodies of Dvorak* and the reflective and challenging favourite, *In Quiet Pastures*.

The next item was the euphonium solo, *The Conqueror* featuring soloist Nigel John, whose splendid rendition received an enthusiastic response from the audience. Ron Prussing then put the baton aside to take up the trombone, presenting the classic solo, *The Eternal Quest*, while the band was directed by Barrie Gott. This, too, was warmly received.

The Staff Songsters, having already presented a bracket of two songs, *Remember Me* and *Why I Love Jesus* now brought their final contribution for the evening, *The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*. The RSA Tribute Band then performed the major work of the evening, the tone poem *The Holy War*, a technically challenging and evocative composition which was presented against the background of a striking video display put together by John Cleary. This item received sustained applause.

Territorial Commander Commissioner James Condon led the congregation in the singing of *He Giveth More Grace* to the Steadman-Allen tune *Blacklands* prior to closing the evening with prayer and benediction. As the band played *The Silver Star*, the audience was left to reflect on a most enjoyable few hours spent together in the SCH.

To expect flawless perfection from the Tribute Band would be unrealistic; but for a band called together over a few short weeks, the result achieved was outstanding. I don't remember when I last heard a Salvation Army band representing the Australia Eastern Territory play as well.

– Alan Humbly, Maitland Corps

Above left: The RSA tribute band was brought together for the night. Right: Christine Plumridge, SSS member.