

On the Scene

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWS AND STORIES FROM THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY



A special thank-you



A big thank-you to all those who volunteered, collected, organised and donated to the 2016 Red Shield Appeal in Australia. Thanks to you, we were able to achieve our national fundraising goal of \$74 million, which included \$8 million collected during the Doorknock on Sunday 29 May. The funds raised will allow us to continue assisting Aussies doing it tough.

An extra-special thanks to volunteers and donors in Orange, NSW, who raised the most of any non-metropolitan centre in Australia – around \$60,000. And that was with just 230 people knocking on doors!

Thank you Australia for giving hope where it's needed most.

Thank you for our family 'miracle'

"I want to thank The Salvation Army for standing beside me in times where I lost hope in myself." – Anthony

For many years, Anthony ran a highly successful regional plumbing business, was a youth leader in his church and was heavily involved as a volunteer in his local community. Today, he works professionally for an organisation that runs workshops, art therapy and early drug intervention for young people.

However, there was a period in between where his life took a dark and terrible turn.

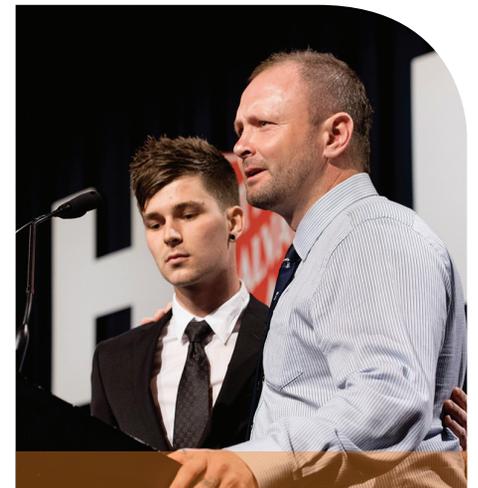
Earlier this year Anthony shared his story at a Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal launch in front of a hushed audience of 1000 people, which included

his parents and his five children.

"When I experienced a marriage breakdown, I had never experienced such deep pain and brokenness in my life," he shared. "Unfortunately I turned to alcohol, then, I am ashamed to say, drugs, as the answer to that – and from there things fell down pretty quickly."

Rock bottom and back

Anthony's life rapidly spiralled out of control as he became addicted to the drug "ice". "Within six months I'd lost my family, I'd lost my business, I'd lost my home. I ended up in prison and the devastation that caused my family, the distrust that I caused in people, and the breakdown in my life, was just terrible."



ANTHONY (RIGHT) WITH SON MATT, AT A RED SHIELD APPEAL LAUNCH. WATCH THE FULL PRESENTATION AT <https://salvos.org.au/ots>

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Working side by side with supporters just like you.

Freedom Partners are supporters of The Salvation Army who donate monthly. Their regular gift enables The Salvation Army to budget and plan long term and most effectively give people in need ongoing support to find stability and hope. *On the Scene* asked Tracey, who has been a Freedom Partner for the past eight years, why she supports the work of The Salvation Army.

A healthcare industry professional, wife and mother, Tracey says the values of serving her community have always part of her life. "As kids, we were always encouraged to give back to the community in whatever way we could, especially as part of the Scouts and Guides movement. It was something instilled in us, and modelled to us, by our parents from an early age."

Tracey says she has faced various life challenges over the years, but always

had a strong and loving support network around her.

"I've been incredibly grateful for that," she says. "That's one reason why I choose to support **The Salvation Army**, because I feel The Salvation Army can be that for people who don't have there in their lives."

Cultural values

Married with two children, Tracey says she and her husband decided to support The Salvation Army very early in their relationship. "When we became engaged, we wanted to pick a charity that was in Australia; that aligned with our cultural values and that had low administration costs – and that's how we picked The Salvation Army.

"We were, and are, very aware that we are surrounded in our country by people who are not as lucky as we are. Every day I see something that reminds me that I have had blessings that others have not had, and, that if

circumstances were different, I could have easily been in their situation.

"I want my children to see that for our family, giving back to the community is extremely important and is integrated into our lifestyle. It is important they understand the privilege they have and try and help others, who have not been so lucky, overcome adversity.

"We also want them to grow up in a community where people care about each other, where if someone needs a hand, there's a hand out, to help them back on their feet through hard times."

If you would like to become a Freedom Partner please contact Christina Swenson on (02) 9466 3187 or visit <https://salvos.org.au/sfp>



In a typical week, across Australia, The Salvation Army provides:



100,000 meals for the hungry

2,000 beds for the homeless

Refuge to **500** victims of abuse

FROM PAGE 1

Anthony eventually turned to The Salvation Army. He was admitted to the Brisbane Moonyah Recovery Services centre where he engaged with the award-winning Bridge Program.

He began to get his life back on track, however, he says, it was also the Moonyah managers, staff, plus leaders of a local Salvos church, who truly "loved him back to health".

The Bridge Program is part of The Salvation Army network of specialised

therapeutic services and has been in use in Australia for more than 50 years, providing for the recovery needs of people with gambling, alcohol or other drug addictions.

"Without The Salvation Army I would not be here today," Anthony says. "Thanks to Jesus and thanks to my recommitment to faith in him, I have found my identity and I have now given myself fully to helping other people. I am just so privileged, so thankful, that now I can give back to help others in the community."

Father and son

Anthony's son Matt also spoke at the launch about his own journey of drug rehabilitation. He, too, now works in preventative drug education.

"Because of The Salvation Army, my family, which was separated for many years, are together. We are a healthy family who love God and love others. It's an absolute miracle!"

To watch Anthony and Matt's full presentation go to: www.salvos.org.au/ots

Ten years of bringing hope to rural battlers

“The rural chaplaincy role is helping to bring some hope to those in the bush, which for the past 10 years has been feeling very hope-less.” – Jean Ridley

Thanks to your generous support **The Salvation Army** is able to give much needed help in rural communities through the work of our chaplains. Often people in remote parts of Australia have no access to community services when hard times hit.

Majors Peter and Jean Ridley are part of a network of dedicated Salvation Army rural chaplains who work in some of the most remote parts of Australia. They are now in the tenth year of their role. Peter says they have clocked up more than one million kilometres in that time, most of it with a caravan in tow.

Bringing hope

Over the past decade they have passionately worked “to bring hope to the bush”. As well as offering practical support, Jean says it is a role “very much letting people know that somebody cares”.

“There have been farmers on the edge of suicide. Giving them some time off the farm, some (donated) funds and vouchers to put food on the table and just being there for them, they have told us, has made such a difference,” she says.

“We often roll our sleeves up on the farm and get alongside people. Or if they just want to sit down and have a chat, we are there for their mental and emotional health. But we are chaplains, so we also care deeply about their spiritual health.”



JEAN AND PETER RIDLEY SAY THEY ARE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

The importance of the role became apparent in the early days of their chaplaincy, says Jean.

“We visited a very remote family and they were in a dreadful, dreadful state. They’d nursed a dying child for years. They’d been asking for help; for people to come out and support them, but they were so remote.

“They were just blown away that we were able to visit them and we were privileged to also be able to help get their younger daughter – who was manifesting the same symptoms – to the necessary treatment ... and she is alive and well today.”

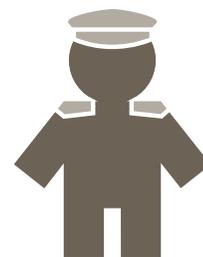
Loving support

The Ridleys admit that their chaplaincy role is sometimes overwhelming – especially in times of drought, floods, farm accidents, or in situations of suicide or attempted suicide of farmers.

“Through drought and other factors in many areas, the grief and pressures rural communities in general now face really is unimaginable,” Peter says.

“We are so appreciative of those who have donated to support our rural communities. Not only has it meant keeping desperately needed food on the table, or helping keep the power on; but just as importantly it has proven again and again to be an ice-breaker.

“Where you have stoic rural people who all too often hide their emotions, it helps so much when we turn up and can offer them some tangible help. Then, often the tears flow and relationships begin to be built and we know that lives have been saved in the process.”



Over **2,600** people are supported by Salvos Counselling each year

We would love to hear why you support The Salvation Army. Tell us what motivates you to give and you may feature in our next edition of *On the Scene* Email generosity@ae.salvationarmy.org

Homelessness – it could happen to anyone

“I never imagined I’d be in that situation of not having a home. Even today I cannot fathom it. The circumstances just happened around me and suddenly there I was. Initially I couldn’t see it coming. It was like a smack across the face when I did not get paid what I was owed.” – Russ, 70.

Russ had worked hard, paid his rent and was hoping to retire. At the age of 67, he had some savings but was anxiously awaiting payment for many months’ worth of work he did as a contract painter.

As the wait grew longer and longer, Russ’ savings dwindled and he started living out of his ute. Many more months passed and he slowly realised, to his horror, that the money would never come through.

At the age of 70, Russ was now in a desperate situation, still living out of his car, when he came into contact with **The Salvation Army** at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast.

A Salvos team, headed up by Community Engagement Worker Stephanie Savage, gave Russ temporary accommodation while assisting him with a housing application. Russ now has a place to live, and he volunteers with The Salvation Army to help others.

“Someone told me about The Salvation Army and I still get tears in my eyes thinking about it,” Russ says. “They were unbelievable in the way they looked after me. It was an eye opener for me – the lovely, lovely people that they were, and are.”

Essential Support

Your support of The Salvation Army has made hope possible for people like Russ.

The Salvos team at Caloundra, predominantly made up of volunteers, are supporting the needy in their local

community. They run a Street Outreach meal and café-style drop-in centre for low-income families and individuals who are struggling to make ends meet.

The Caloundra team realises the importance of not only addressing the immediate need but work towards a long-term solution. They work very closely with the Salvos Doorways program, which aims to break the cycle of poverty that can plague some families for generations.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these programs or are in need of help, please call Salvos Connect on **1300 371 288**.

Not taking home for granted

The Salvation Army carries out an annual survey called the Economic and Social Impact Survey (ESIS). This year it surveyed 1600 people who have benefited from the programs you help fund.

Just looking at housing and income shows the real stress families are facing while trying to pay for accommodation.

“What this tells us is that private rentals are not a secure form of housing for those living on the breadline,” says Colonel Mark Campbell of The Salvation Army. “One small change to an individual or family’s income, or an unexpected bill or expense can lead to a tenancy being lost and a family becoming homeless.”



- **68%** of participants are using two-thirds of their income to live in private rental or pay a mortgage.
- **One in five** are either homeless or living in temporary accommodation and, of these, almost one in three previously privately rented.
- **86%** of individuals and 58 per cent of families report severe deprivation and go without five or more basic items. Some participants (on Newstart) survive off just \$15.29 a day after housing/accommodation is paid for.

ESIS Report 2016

Plaudits continue for Salvos Legal

Salvos Legal and its sister firm Salvos Legal Humanitarian continue to make their mark in the legal profession, picking up a number of major awards again in 2016. Together, the firms won Corporate Citizen Firm of the Year and Australian Law Firm of the Year (under 100 lawyers) at the Australasian Law Awards. Managing Partner Luke Geary was named one of the 10 Most Innovative Lawyers in the Asia-Pacific Innovative Law Awards, and Salvos Legal Humanitarian's Queensland Partner, Michael Anglin was awarded Australia's Pro Bono Partner of the Year at the 2016 Lawyers Weekly Partner of the Year Awards.

For more information on Salvos Legal go to <http://www.salvoslegal.com.au/>

CWA joins Salvos in anti-drug battle

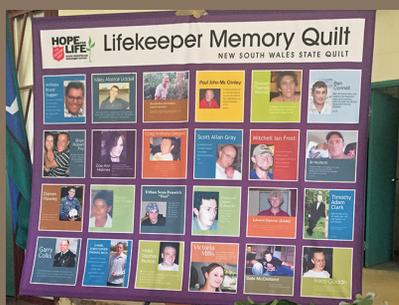
The Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW has donated \$277,000 to The Salvation Army to help in the fight against drugs in Western NSW. The money will be used by the Dubbo-based Rural Alcohol and Drug Support Service (RAODSS), which will provide a mobile and responsive weekly service directly into the Dubbo, Cobar, Bourke, Walgett and Narromine local communities. The Salvation Army's Recovery Services Operations Manager Gerard Byrne says: "Access to drug and alcohol support services in country NSW is

difficult and it's great the CWA has recognised that and is putting resources there to help people in rural communities."



Hope For Life on Palm Island

The Salvation Army's Hope for Life support service hosted a two-day "Living Hope" suicide postvention training program on Queensland's Palm Island as part of National Reconciliation Week. The program included a healing and remembrance ceremony, sharing of the Hope For Life Lifekeeper Memory Quilt and a presentation by Emeritus Professor Judy Atkinson. Professor Atkinson is a Jiman (Central West Queensland) and Bundjalung (Northern NSW) woman, who won the Carrick Neville Bonner Award in 2006. She shared holistic models of healing and recovery and spoke of studies that show peoples' lived experience of trauma may be inherited by future generations.



We're about people finding freedom.

My contact details

Title _____

Given name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____

State _____

Postcode _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

Supporter ID _____

Appeal Code _____

Gift options

I would like to make a single gift of

1 \$ _____

OR

2 I would like to become a Salvos Freedom Partner and make a monthly gift of

\$ _____ (minimum \$10)

Please debit my credit card on the _____ day of each month (e.g. 1st or 16th)

Payment options

Cheque/ money order payable to The Salvation Army

Credit card

Name on card _____

Expiry / _____

Signature _____

Please send me information about

- Worship and church programs
- Community services
- Wills and bequests

Please be assured your details remain confidential. Donations are tax deductible. For other ways to give, please phone 13 SALVOS (13 72 58) or log onto salvos.org.au/ots To mail your donation, please return it to The Salvation Army, PO Box A229, Sydney South, NSW 1235.

Our privacy statement can be accessed online at salvos.org.au/privacy/donation

Fighting for education while battling homelessness

"I cannot imagine what it would be like not knowing where you are going to stay that night; not having eaten properly, not having been able to shower, but still managing to make it to school. That goes to show a great strength of character and enormous courage and our role, with our supporters, is to work to help young people to stay connected to education wherever possible."

– Dina Shaw, Salvation Army Youth Worker Youth Outreach Service (YOS)

There is a beautiful inscribed glass plaque that takes pride of place in Nikki's new home – the first private rental home that she has been able to secure after many years of homelessness.

The plaque is **The Salvation Army Youth Outreach Services' treasured Community Spirit Award**. "It's quite beautiful. I love it," Nikki smiles softly.

For the Year 12 student at the YOS Lawnton Flexi-School, it is a symbol of what she has achieved – the completion of Year 11, plus a Certificate II in Hospitality and now half of Year 12. Throughout all of that, Nikki has seriously struggled with homelessness, plus she has had to deal with the complex range of factors that initially led to her homelessness.

Rock bottom

Nikki says her personal struggle began almost three years ago. "I was involved in something that had a major impact on my life," she explains. "It ruined me, I went completely downhill. I ended up with post-traumatic stress disorder."

Soon, she says, conflict steadily grew at home and school. "I couldn't go one day at school without breaking down, getting into trouble, going home, or even getting sent up to see mental health."

Her issues snowballed, and she was placed into a psychiatric ward twice with multiple hospital stays. Nikki says she eventually left home to try and live her

own life and sort out her issues. Sadly, she was soon expelled from school, but realised just how much she wanted and needed to keep learning.

A friend told her about YOS, and despite the fact that she and her partner were living rough – in a tent under a stage in a park, she says "I went and it was the best decision of my life."

Exciting education

"In the first two weeks I was already in love with it. I was smashing out the work and I was right into it. I was so keen."

Nikki says that when she received her first report card she "nearly cried" reading the comments and results. "I was so proud!"

While there were periods of time she felt she simply couldn't face school with no access to clean clothes; or showers, the flexibility of the program and her YOS youth worker Dina supporting her kept her coming back.

Nikki is incredibly grateful to the staff at YOS and supporters of the service. She says: "They've helped out with finance issues; they've helped out with food; secure accommodation, everything. And when I have bad days at school, Dina's always there to listen."

Nikki, who gave a speech at last year's YOS graduation and who now shares her story to help others, says:

A Snapshot



A staggering **44,000** young people under the age of 25 in Australia are homeless, accounting for 42 per cent of Australia's total homeless community. With your support, each week the Salvos offer 2500 beds; plus a range of youth services, addiction recovery services, counselling, financial counselling; employment, emergency relief and case management to help combat the factors that may be threatening or contributing to homelessness.

"They (YOS staff) really help the people that genuinely need the help. I tell all the kids at school – 'if you show them that you genuinely want to make your life the best you can make it; they'll do anything possible to do that for you'.

"If you do want the help, (with YOS) there's always someone in your corner!"

For more information on YOS go to <http://www.youthoutreachservice.org/>



NIKKI (RIGHT) WITH YOS YOUTH WORKER DINA.