



# BLACKTOWN CITY CORPS NEWSLETTER

12th July 2015



Corps Officers—Captain William & Susanne Geracia

Visitors are always welcome at Blacktown. Please share in morning tea following the meeting.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will resume on July 19th.

**JUNIOR SOLDIERS** will also resume on July 19th

## COMING EVENTS: JULY

**TODAY: 12th July** Delve at the Quarters at 1pm. Please let Captain Susanne know before or after the meeting if you are planning to be there. Remember you Bible and meat for BBQ.

**19th July** Music Sunday

New Tithing envelopes are available at the back of the Hall, if you have not already received them. If you don't usually use the 'offering' envelopes and want to be included for this please speak to Doug.

**YOUTH GROUP!!** Look at the noticeboard—reminder of July 17th at the Corps. Then regular Youth Group on 24th at ENGAGE.

## COMING EVENTS: AUGUST

**2nd August** Prayer Meeting in Hall at 10 am

**9th August** DELVE (Prayer meeting at Quarters)

**23rd August** Koinonia (Fellowship Lunch—add your name to the list and what 'dish' you can bring to share.

Date for your Diary: 24th October there is an International Staff Band Concert at Sydney Congress Hall at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$25 each and are only available at the following website: [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)



## HOME LEAGUE SYLABUS

July 14th Captain Bill

July 21 Major Mavis Humphreys

July 28th **MYSTERY AUCTION**—Captain Bill—Auctioneer

Please support our fundraising day by bringing items for auction.

**FOR SALE:** 2003 Toyota Corolla for sale \$5,200. If you are interested please speak to Rod.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Les Crowder is having a Cochlear ear implant this Wednesday, 15th July at St. Vincent's Hospital. Please pray for Les for a successful operation and for better hearing.

### WEEKLY GIVING

Open Plate \$ 102.35

Planned giving \$ 385.00

If you would like to have your copy of the Newsletter sent to your computer, please email Gail Salmon at [gail\\_salmon@bigpond.com](mailto:gail_salmon@bigpond.com) to be included.

*All through this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for YOU—through the words I speak, the prayers I breathe, the letters I write, and the life I live.*

**WHEN THE SPIRIT PROMPTS, TAKE ACTION**



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please pray for our Officers, Captain Bill & Susanne & their family as they minister to us.**

**Pray for Rena.**

**Pray for Kath Paddison**

**Pray for Sandra Robinson**

**Pray for Estelle Ring—having more surgery this month. Prayer is very much appreciated.**

**Pray for Sandra Tillson**

**Please pray for Cadets Paul & Jess Farthing along with their son Patrick as they prepare for their commissioning.**

**Grahame Bellamy is still recovering from surgery. Pray for a speedy recovery.**

**Linda Robinson had knee surgery. Pray for a speedy recovery.**

**Pray for Ian Tomlins and his son at this time.**

**Pray for our Government that they will make wise choices in all they do.**

**Pray for our Country, for a Revival of the Holy Spirit and let the REVIVAL start with YOU!**

### **This week pray especially for:**

**Alice, Kaleb, Hilda & Priscilla Nkrumah, Kath Paddison, Bruce Parker, Leesa & Mitchell Parker, Warren & Denise Parkinson, Heather Pearce, Muriel Pethybridge, Cherylee Reeves.**

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD for the answers to prayers and for the many blessings he gives us daily. Thank Him for JESUS and for the change it has made to our lives.**

### **Blacktown Rehabilitation After Care Service** **(BRACS)**

In 2002, God placed a burden on Captain Gary Martin's heart. He could see the needs of those leaving the William Booth rehab were struggling with. The people at WBH work with many who come from desperate circumstances; in an effort to be set free from their addictions. And the success rate is very good. **BUT**; here was Gary's burden. People who had often lost all connection with loved ones, and friends, or perhaps burned all their bridges, were leaving that sanctuary only to come back to the places where their problems began. This transition from a warm safe, loving environment back into the cold, stark loneliness of having to fend for themselves, with few life skills, was often too much, and they would return to what they knew – oblivion.

So Gary, assisted by our bandmaster Doug, and Major Ken Sans got together and came up with a seed grant to start some sort of

support program for these people.

The service began in early 2003, when Bob Rogan was employed to get the service up and running. At that time BRACS supplied supported accommodation, and personalized case management to graduates. It wasn't long before desperate people from the community were also included.

It's funny how things work out. Two of the early participants (who were using amphetamines) began singing the "I only smoke dope" song so Bob decided to try and help them beat their so-called dependence on cannabis. In 2003, there was no support for sufferers of marijuana addiction anywhere in the western suburbs.

Undeterred Bob established a marijuana cessation program called "Beat the Bong", a five-week educational program to help participants deal with the detoxification process and life skills to help to live without it. That program became so successful that a twelve-step support group was setup that still continues, twice weekly. By the way, the denial of those two participants helped many others get well.

Along the way, BRACS became a provider of The Salvation Army's "Positive Lifestyle Program" for those leaving incarceration or awaiting trial, and still liaises with the courts across Sydney and the local Probation and Parole.

Bob has always envisioned an out-patients service for recovering alcoholics and addicts in this area, and is currently studying to achieve the credentials to establish this. There are so many in our area who have no opportunity to even go to a short term rehab let alone the ten months needed for William Booth House.

Currently BRACS also provides a Christian Counselling Service for anyone suffering from grief, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and couple and family therapy.

In conjunction, BRACS facilitates Careforce programs such as building Self-worth, Man to Man, Women to Woman, Intimacy, Marriage Enrichment, Sexual Abuse, Recovery from divorce, and facilitator training for those programs. The "Laugh your way to a better marriage" program is often used because it uses humor to deal with the difficult situations arising within dysfunctional relationships. In addition, there is help for porn and sexual addiction problems, codependency, and gambling dependency.

A recovery-based church service was held every Sunday night for over seven years, and BRACS still has the capacity to run this whenever the need arises.

BRACS is also an entry point for the renowned best-practice Salvation Army Recovery centers across NSW.

At this point, I would like to ask from you folk who worship God and soldier here at Blacktown is for your prayer support. Currently, I have seven or eight people who come for regular counselling. Some of these folk are experiencing situations in their life that are almost unimaginable to most of us. People suffering from complicated post traumatic stress disorder; severe child sexual abuse within their family of origin, and incest, to name a few. Because of the confidentiality laws I am hindered in saying too much but God knows who they are. Perhaps I might be able to explain and ask for prayer through our newsletter on a regular basis, because in every case, Satan is doing his best to destroy lives. It's not that he wants them; he just doesn't want God to have them.

God bless you all.