

ORDINARY
PEOPLE
EXTRAORDINARY
GOD



Parramatta

1884 - 2024



Dear Friends,

We are excited to be able to celebrate 140 years of The Salvation Army in Parramatta. It is a privilege for us to be able to serve here and help continue the amazing work of the Salvos that has been happening in the City of Parramatta all these years.

We acknowledge those who have gone before us - officers, soldiers, and friends of the corps - who have given so much in loving and serving God and others through Parramatta Corps.

As we have looked through the corps' history and heard your stories over the last four years, we have great admiration for all that has been achieved for the Kingdom of God. The new ministries commenced because of arising needs in the community, the many outposts, particularly Sunday Schools, that started in surrounding suburbs, and the amazing generosity of the corps as you have raised money for appeals and programs near and far. These are just a glimpse of the innovation and inspiration that has come from Parramatta Salvos.

Re-locating to Church Street in 2020 has given us new opportunities once again, and we are grateful to God for the doors He has and is still opening for us. We continue to partner with God, and with you each, as we work to transform the lives of others with the love of Jesus.

In Romans 12:1-2 (The Message) the Apostle Paul encourages us to:
Take your ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.

We thank God for each one of you and for the way you have placed your ordinary lives before Him as an offering. Our extraordinary God has taken this offering, blessed it and used it for the extension of His Kingdom here in the City of Parramatta.



Kylie Collinson (Major) and Sarah Walker (Lieutenant)
Corps Officer Team



The Salvation Army Australia Territory

Territorial Headquarters

95 - 99 Railway Road, Blackburn VIC 3130

3rd September 2024

Friends,

What an amazing day for you! There is so much to be celebrated.

You have been part of the Parramatta community since 1884. You understand what it is to be Jesus centred, Spirit led, and to see hope revealed.

You have served the community beautifully, and also into the wider areas.

You have raised up leaders, you have people who have been disciple makers, you have mentored young people, you have led initiatives throughout the Army world. Legacy is people, and so much of that is part of Parramatta.

There have been challenging times. We won't mention buildings today!!

However, you now sit in a beautiful space, looking at fresh ways to serve the community and continue to worship, disciple and serve. You are on mission, to a world that desperately needs Jesus. And what a mission field God has given you.

There are people in the past, from Parramatta, and we include Granville and The Hills, that I admire incredibly. There are people there today, who I still admire and thank God for.

Thank you for your beautiful contribution to the Kingdom. May this be so for centuries to come. I wish I could be with you today, but I will be in London. Celebrate well!!

Bless you friends.

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Gluyas, Commissioner
Territorial Commander, Chair of the Board

1884

The Salvation Army Parramatta was founded on 13 September 1884, when Captain John Dean and Cadet George Walker were sent from Sydney 1 Corps to begin ministry for the Army in Parramatta. The first meeting was held beneath the old wooden train bridge at Church and Argyle Streets. The gathering attracted a large crowd of curious onlookers, and about thirty Salvationists. Amongst the attendees was Colonel Ballington Booth, son of founders William and Catherine Booth.

Some days later, the powerful preaching of John Dean so incensed the crowd that an attempt was made to throw him over the bridge into the river! Weeks later, twenty-one year old Cadet Matthew Thompson joined in the mission. One Sunday night after a meeting, he was assaulted. A short time later, he passed away. The assailants apologised, and no charges were made against them.

Parramatta became Corps #75.

Meetings were regularly held outdoors, in homes, and in hired buildings, including a Masonic Hall. In the 1890's it is believed meetings were held in Church Street north of Lennox bridge, and then later moved into a small stone building in George Street.

Open air meetings continued; in 1891 some soldiers from Parramatta were summonsed for holding open air meetings. When the case came before the magistrate, it was dropped.



Captain and Mrs John Dean

In January 1892 an outpost opened in Merrylands, the meetings being held in a building made available by Mrs Stoker who was a soldier at Parramatta. The number of attendees was so great that many had to stand outside as there was not sufficient room inside.

In the early beginnings of Parramatta Corps, officers were moved around after short terms and it was not uncommon to be posted at a corps for only three or four weeks. If officers stayed for six months it was considered a long appointment.

1890's

PARRAMATTA

GRAND OPENING.

IT IS A FACT AT LAST!

For many months we have been trying to plant our standard here, but have been unable to do so until now. On Saturday, with cheerful song, and confident of victory, we steamed into the historic town of Parramatta, the oldest town in Australia. It is a proper place for the Salvation Army, we thought; for, unlike other armies, we know no defeat, and shall stay until the Judgment Day. The natives looked surprised to see us (over thirty officers and soldiers) on our knees just outside the railway station, on Saturday afternoon. Off we went, band playing, soldiers shouting and singing,

We're coming thro' the streets with the Fire and Blood,
Coming with the Gospel call;
Oh! come with us, and we will do you good,
For Jesus invites you all.

Crowds soon appeared, and carrying them with us we paraded the town. After some refreshments, and more reinforcements, at 7 p.m., as we came swinging round the town, the excitement was intense. The streets were crowded. Business seemed at a standstill. Streets, doors, and windows were crowded. "That's the Devil Driver," a lad was heard to exclaim. He certainly was right, for that is our mission from first to last—to drive him and all the sin, wretchedness, and misery out of the universe. Well, we had a grand opening. The fine Masonic Hall was crowded, and during the opening prayers Colonel Booth and Major Lindsay put in an appearance. Everybody seemed

Pleased to See Them.

Major LINDSAY gave out the 58th hymn, with the chorus,

I've left the devil, and all his ways,
I've had enough of him.

He then read the 34th Psalm, commenting upon it, and telling the people that this old-fashioned salvation, which made us, like David, praise the Lord at all times, could be theirs.

Colonel BOOTH now came forward, and said: "We mean that you, dear people of Parramatta, shall have the most important subject to man—SALVATION—brought continually before you. All need it; but the devil will use thousands of ways and things to keep your attention from it. I am glad this colony is so enlightened on religion, and that it has had such good men in it, and possesses many yet; but all must know that many more needed to get everybody to come to a saving knowledge of the truth. Oh! how I praised God Thursday last, when in the Exhibition Building I saw the large platform filled with "Blood and Fire" salvation soldiers, who have a real heart religion, not simply head religion." As the Colonel told of the success of the Army at home and abroad, the people were held completely, and they must see

that the hope and the one thing needful for Parramatta is the Salvation Army. Several gave their testimonies, and the meeting was kept on until 10 p.m.

One said he was brought up to High Church, but was led astray, becoming a gambler, drunkard, and a vile sinner; but now, through the Salvation Army, he was saved.

Another said he drifted into sin, until, through it, he became a poor drunken, diseased

Wreck of Humanity.

At last he was compelled to yield to the Spirit of God, and so got blessedly saved.

Another said: I was a black sinner. It seems to me that I was a real little devil; but God saved me. And I am sure he can save you.

At the close a young man came to Jesus. Oh! may the Army here pick up many jewels for the Saviour's diadem. God bless and prosper them! Everybody pray for Captain Dean and his Hallelujah Band.
Special Captain O. PURSELL.

We were at it all day on Sunday, following up the attack of the day previous. At the morning meeting several young men were powerfully wrought upon by the Holy Ghost. At 2.30 we had a few shots in the domain, and the lads gave us an attentive hearing. The 3 o'clock meeting was a good time. At night two of us took our stand at a corner, and a great crowd gathered round, when we were told to "move on," which we did at once—to the hall. There we had the best time of all. The place was full. Many were convinced, and

Five came Forward

to seek Jesus. Hallelujah! On Monday night we had to take the open air, owing to pre-arrangements about our hall. The devil is truly alive. He represents our aggression on his territory, and shows it in queer ways; but we shall march on and win the day. We want the help and prayers of all God's people. Any one desiring to help the Lord's work in Parramatta, can do so by sending donations in money or furniture, to Major Lindsay, 260 Castle-reagh-street, or to Capt. Dean, Wentworth-street, Parramatta.
Capt. J. DEAN.

1900's

In January 1900 Captain Charles Faulds was appointed to Parramatta. By the turn of the century Parramatta Corps was renting the Manchester Unity Hall on a permanent basis. This was located in Macquarie Street and while it did not belong to the corps, it was a place they could call their own. During some of these years the corps was very focussed on Self Denial Appeals, driven by Brother Lamond. Brother Lamond would travel over a hundred miles on his pony, Dandy, visiting and collecting for the appeal. We are told that several times between 1903 and 1910 they exceeded their target by sixteen to thirty pounds.

Self-Denial Veterans of Parramatta.

Self-Denial collecting is the order of the day. Brother Lamond, with his little pony Dandy, is again on the path for Self-Denial with the Officers. Our comrade has for several years taken the Officers out in the country to collect. Already little Dandy has travelled nearly a hundred miles on Self-Denial service, but, unfortunately, Brother Lamond met with an accident and is unable to collect, which of course has put an end to our country collecting.

We are praying that God will restore him speedily, so that country collecting may be resumed.

Sister Lamond, who, for some considerable time, has been very ill, is just about again, although unable to do very much. These two comrades collected a half of what was realised last year.

J. PERREM, C.O.
1905

1910's

From the early years of Parramatta, the corps would often hold open air meetings. This was partly out of necessity as they did not have a building and could not always obtain buildings to hire. It was recorded in 1916 that one Saturday night meeting drew a crowd of more than 200 people.

In 1915 soon after taking command of Parramatta Corps, Adjutant Frank Seaton is quoted as saying, "We are at a disadvantage not having a hall of our own, but we are believing that, before long, we shall be able to get a place". The Seatons were farewelled from Parramatta and the new officer Adjutant Beavis and Bandmaster Fred Niemann were instrumental in choosing the block of land on which to build their citadel in George Street, Parramatta.

This complex was opened by Commissioner Hay in January 1919 and cost £2,409 (equivalent to \$226,000 today).



1920's

In 1920 a horse and sulky were purchased for the corps officers, Adjutant and Mrs Hayman before they eventually progressed to bicycles. In 1922 it is reported that Parramatta Corps were holding meetings in Northmead once a month and that additional meetings had also begun in Carlingford. Other locations looked upon as being 'outposts' of Parramatta include Auburn, Granville and Toongabbie, all of which became independent corps quite early. In 1924 the Home League commenced at Parramatta during the term of Commandant and Mrs Lewis. In one form or another, this ministry to women continued until December 2023.

In the early 1920's regular visits were made by the officers and band to two old men's homes in Parramatta. The men looked forward to these meetings and many of the residents made decisions to follow Christ.



Parramatta Corps had a long association with Parramatta Gaol, both with visitation and holding services for the prisoners. In 1934 the commanding officer, Major Walter Ward, became a regular chaplain at the prison, taking his daughter Mabel with him to play the piano for the first service he conducted there.

Also in 1934, on the weekend of 4-5 August, the Parramatta Corps celebrated their Jubilee. Speaking of the Corps activities at this time the Divisional Commander, Major Smith said that the band was one of the most spiritual in the Division and there was a good expression of young people's work, including a Corps Cadet Brigade and Life-Saving Scout Troop.

In connection with Health Week, a rally was held in Parramatta Park on 20 October 1934. The rally was attended by 500 children who were given milk and oranges, as well as the Chief Secretary.

In 1939 the town of Parramatta celebrated their 150th Anniversary and the corps officers were invited to the official luncheon with the Governor and the Thanksgiving Service held in Parramatta Park. During these celebrations Parramatta became a city by Act of Parliament.



1940's

During the 1940's needs were identified in Westmead and Rydalmere areas and in both of these locations Sunday Schools were commenced. In Westmead in 1946 a Sunday School commenced in an old Scout shed; this continued for almost ten years. In Rydalmere in 1949 Sunday School meetings commenced in the home of Mrs Searle. After a while the children outnumbered the room available!

In December 1941 Christmas Carolling was made possible by the free use of Mr Whatmuff's public speaking truck and with the mayor, Alderman P.H. Jeffrey arranging the petrol required. The 'scheme' was deemed a success with extra people released for collecting and the public showing interest and 'practical sympathy' towards the Army.



By 1952 there were 150 soldiers on the Parramatta Corps Roll; some twenty-seven years later this had expanded to 350 due to the fact that people were moving west from inner city corps.

In early 1955 Territorial Headquarters purchased three cottages in Smith Street for £6,500 (\$264,700); Parramatta paid a deposit of £2,750 (\$112,000) and these cottages were initially rented out to help with the repayments. Eventually this became the site for Parramatta Corps' second complex of buildings.

Another outreach to children commenced in this decade, this time in Dundas and was a 'gutter Sunday School'. For some months a hundred children learned about Jesus in this way. If the weather was bad the classes were held in the corps bus!

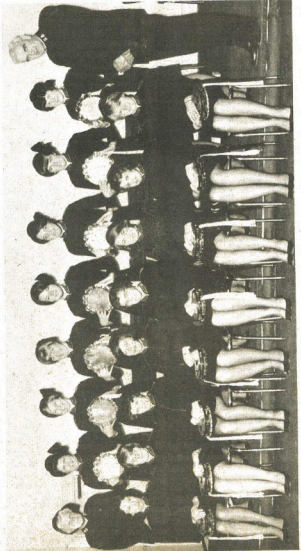
1950's

PARRAMATTA

The corps at Parramatta, N.S.W., and the Sydney West divisional headquarters are to have a fine new set of buildings to be opened by Commissioner Scotney at a date yet to be announced. Celebrations attending will mark the corps' 83rd anniversary.



Above: The band (William Bowie). Centre, left: The timbral Brigadier and below, the life-saving guards and sunbeams (Mrs. Betty Hazell).



The corps officers, Brigadier and Mrs. Lennox Bringans.



From top: The corps council. Songster brig-ade (Fred Stringer). Left: Young people of the corps. Centre: The corps council. Right: The corps cadet (Mrs. Cath Mackay). Left: The home leaguers (Mrs. Brigadier S. Houghton).



ALL ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND CORPS MEETINGS



1960's

In 1964 an additional cottage was purchased at the site of Smith and Phillip Streets and when the corps were not able to purchase the corner site, due to the owner not wanting to sell to the Army, the decision was made to build around him.

On 3 May 1969, in front of 350 people, the international leader of The Salvation Army, General Frederick Coutts unveiled the foundation stone of the new Parramatta Citadel. During the unveiling the General said that the citadel, administrative building and auditorium would fill a big need in Parramatta.

At the suggestion of Envoy Norman Hazell, it was decided by the Corps Council to employ John Ryder as the architect for the new building. Parramatta Corps were told by the Territorial Property Department that they were 'creating a precedence by employing an outside architect!'. Due to the cost of the project, approval was need by International Headquarters in London. Construction commenced in November 1968 and the new citadel was opened on 1 November 1969.



On 29 January 1973 vandals set fire to the Citadel in Smith Street causing some \$30,000 worth of damage (today, this is equivalent to \$336,000). Sadly arsonists struck again in November of the same year causing damage of another \$16,000. Both times the piano and organ were destroyed and replaced.

In 1974 the Parramatta Corps production of the musical 'Jesus Folk' was presented to capacity crowds in Parramatta. Just a few weeks later the cast travelled by bus to Orange to present the musical again, this time to an audience of 500. It was presented at a third location, Rockdale Town Hall, to a crowd of 800 people, helping Rockdale Corps raise \$880 for their building fund.

Also in 1974, following Cyclone Tracey in Darwin, the auditorium in Parramatta Citadel became a hive of activity receiving and sorting donations which resulted in 200 tons of clothing, several tons of food and in excess of \$8,000 being transported to Darwin on twenty trucks.

Arsonist strikes once again

Police are investigating the second major fire this year at Parramatta's Salvation Army Citadel in Smith Street.

The fire, destroyed a new organ and piano, gutted half the stage and ruined the alter-piece.

Last January, arsonists caused \$30,000 worth of damage when fire severely damaged the citadel.

The commanding officer, Mr. E. C. Sandercock, estimated damage in this latest fire at about \$16,000.

He said: "This is really malicious. We have only been back in here since May after the place was set fire to in January."

"A new piano and a new organ we bought to replace those burnt in the previous fire have been totally destroyed."

Mr. Sandercock said that they were in the process of installing an electronic burglar system, but at the time of the fire it was not fully completed.

Earlier in the morning, the citadel caretaker, Mr. D. Humbleby, who lives in a flat next to the building found his car had been set on fire.

Several hundred dollars worth of damage had been caused to paintwork, lights and engine fittings.

Police are also investigating this fire.

The wife of the commanding officer, Mrs. J. Sandercock, said she had been receiving several abusive telephone calls.

"This has been going on for some time," she said.

"The person always leaves his name, but of course it is fictitious."

Mrs. Sandercock said it was not unusual for members of the Salvation Army to receive abusive calls.

CHURCH SITE TO BE USED AS CAR PARK

Parramatta's historic Salvation Army Citadel, centre of a bitter Council-Salvation Army struggle several years ago, will be demolished in the near future.

The Citadel, one of the 10 in George Street, Parramatta, oldest Salvation Army opposite the Rexy Theatre headquarters in Australia, is...

Purchased by council two years ago for more than \$100,000, the Citadel will be razed to make way for a temporary car park.

Council's final aim is to use the site of the present old Citadel as a roadway to link George Street with Phillip Street.

"However, at the moment council does not have sufficient property nearby to complete the road-making programme.

"We will use the site as a car park until further notice," Ald. Wilde said.



1980's

By the 1980's Parramatta was the biggest corps in the Territory. For some time, it was felt that Parramatta Corps should try to reach out and cater for the seniors in the area. In 1982 the first meeting of the 'Golden Years Club' was held and was attended by around 350 people. The group operated until 2020.

In 1981 the first mission trip to Indonesia took place when 17 people from the corps headed over to help renovate a boys' home. A second trip took place in 1982 when 11 people went to complete the Jakarta Citadel and Training College. While the participants each paid their own travel and accommodation, the corps and other individuals financially supported the work being carried out.

In the late 80's the first major attempt to relocate the corps was explored. Plans were drawn up for a move to Northmead, but these were eventually shelved.

Children and youth ministries went from strength to strength and were often at the forefront across the territory. In 1984 the ABC recorded one of our meetings and broadcast it on ABC TV nationally. We also celebrated our centenary, with the theme, 'We've only just begun'.



The ministries of previous decades continued unabated in the 1990's. Our young people, who'd only known these buildings, became young adults and took their place in ministry. Musical sections continued to serve and witness in Parramatta.

However, a significant shift for the corps was the implementation of extended ministries under the leadership of Margaret Poore. Programs like Fresh Start were amazingly innovative, English Conversation Classes were started, and family ministries to the wider community began. The rear hall was remodelled to assist the changing needs of the corps. A 'Community Welfare Basket' was placed in the foyer to be filled with food items for those in need who visited the centre. The corps people were extremely generous in their donations.

In 1993, Envoy George Hazell, a soldier of Parramatta Corps, received The Salvation Army's highest international award, when General Eva Burrows presented him with the Order of the Founder.

"Parramatta Corps has a very special place within our family. The corps was foundational in shaping the faith of our children. For Deslea and I, it was one of those special seasons of ministry for which we will forever be grateful to God."
Colonels Philip & Deslea Maxwell - Corps Officers 1998-2002



2000's

During the 2000's Parramatta Corps continued to seek new ways to share the love of Jesus. It was early in this decade that the 'Easy English Congregation' commenced under the leadership of Captain Kim Gilles, and while in a different format, this group still meets each Sunday at 9.30am. Parramatta ran the Alpha Course multiple times giving people the opportunity to explore Christian faith. The corps was also involved in time of 24/7 prayer and half days of prayer.

In 2002 a group of men started playing golf on Saturday mornings which was an opportunity of fellowship for them.

The musical groups of the corps, including the band and songsters, were very active in supporting worship both at Parramatta and weekend visits to other corps around Australia.

Monthly mall outreach continued, and people were being invited to attend the activities at the corps. In addition to this, the corps was extremely active each Christmas time with distribution of hampers and gifts to families in the community, as well as carolling and collecting in the shopping centres and community by the band and songsters.

"We have many fond memories of our 6 years at Parramatta as Corps Officers. Parramatta Corps was our longest appointment. Therefore, its people left their imprint on our hearts and ministry. We hope the celebrations are a great time of remembering God's provision and all He has done through his faithful servants. May the future be even brighter than the past for Parramatta Corps."

Colonels Kelvin & Cheralynne Pethybridge - Corps Officers 2002-2008



The 2010's saw changes for Parramatta Corps. Generation Salvation began in the early years, bringing youth and young adults together from across Sydney. These continue today in the form of Worship Nights which re-commenced in 2019 when Parramatta Corps was located at Granville. As it had done for more than 100 years, Parramatta continued their street outreach in the community and for much of this decade this took place in the Parramatta Mall and on the Parramatta Riverbank.

In late 2016 our building located at 32 Smith Street was put up for sale and in March 2018, we farewelled our church home, and merged with the Granville Corps. We relocated our ministries temporarily to 60 Good Street, Granville while we waited for the construction at 426 Church Street to commence.



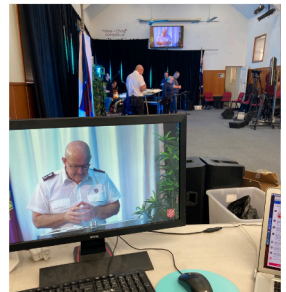
2020's

2020 commenced with a building project still in progress and quickly shifted gears as a global pandemic began to impact life in Australia. In-person church services were cancelled, and Parramatta began solely live streaming our Sunday services on 22 March 2020. While this ministry has continued, we commenced in person services in our new home on 14-15 November 2020, with the new building being officially opened by Commissioner Janine Donaldson on 12 December.

Since moving in many of our programs and services have continued to operate, such as English Conversation Classes, our Connect Site and Sunday worship.

In 2022 we commenced a weekly Market Day where up to 90 families access free groceries each week, donated by Foodbank and Coles Second Bite. We also commenced a craft group that meet weekly, giving opportunity for us to connect with people in our community.

We work alongside other Salvation Army Programs and are pleased to work collaboratively with Doorways, Moneycare Financial Counselling and Employment Plus, all of whom are located in our premises.



To our Parramatta Salvos Community,

As we look to the future, grounded in the rich history of the past, we give thanks to God and to all those who have contributed to bringing the Kingdom of God here in Parramatta.

While there is much to reflect upon, there is also great hope for future. We believe that there will be infinite opportunities available to us as the City of Parramatta continues to grow. We are beautifully placed to continue the mission of The Salvation Army as we strive to create faith pathways, build healthy communities, care for people and work for justice together.

It is our hope that the innovative and pioneering spirit that is part of our DNA here would continue to be re-invigorated as we see the lives of people being transformed by Jesus. Our desire would be that each of us would continue to seek God in all that we do, both individually and as a community of faith.

We leave you with this charge and encouragement from the Apostle Paul, beautifully translated by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*:

Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fuelled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

Romans 12:9-12

We look to seeing what God has in store for Parramatta Corps in the coming years!



Kylie Collinson (Major) and Sarah Walker (Lieutenant)
Corps Officer Team



Parramatta

The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work, and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and future. The Darug people are the traditional owners of the land in Parramatta.

We value people of all cultures, languages, capacities, sexual orientations, gender identities and/or expressions. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.

The Bible says, "God so loves the world" (John 3:16). As both a church and social service, we believe all people are loved by God and are worthy of having their needs met. Everyone is welcome to find love, hope and acceptance at The Salvation Army.



For more information, visit our website
salvationarmy.org.au/parramatta

