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# salvos

online *e-news*

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## Former General of The Salvation Army promoted to glory

General Paul Rader (Rtd), The Salvation Army's 15th beloved international leader, was promoted to glory on 18 January 2025, aged 90.

General Rader was the international leader of The Salvation Army from 1994 to 1999.

He also served as Chief Secretary in Korea Territory (1977-84) and USA Eastern Territory (1989), as Territorial Commander in USA Western Territory (1989-94) and as President of Asbury University in Kentucky, USA (2000-06).

"On behalf of the Australia Territory, we express our deepest condolences to the Rader family during this time and offer our prayers," said Territorial Commander Commissioner Miriam Gluyas.

"General Paul Rader had a tremendous influence around the world through his dynamic ministry and visionary leadership. His preaching, his teaching and his dedication to outstanding Salvationism will be remembered."

General Lyndon Buckingham, the current international leader of The Salvation Army, also paid tribute.

"General Paul Rader was a devoted servant and leader. I salute his unwavering commitment to his calling, his unrelenting vision for the growth of The Salvation Army and the sharing of the gospel to the furthest reaches of the globe."

The Chief of the Staff Commissioner Edward Hill added: "General Paul Rader was a dynamic and engaging leader who inspired me and countless other officers

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



### General Paul Rader (Rtd)

14 March 1934 – 18 January 2025



General Paul Rader (Rtd) was world leader from 1994 to 1999.

of my generation. I thank God for the power of his preaching and teaching."

General Rader was a godly man who lived in service to others and, most of all, to Christ. He was a lifelong learner with a deep commitment to education, the power of prayer, and holiness. He was the most devoted of husbands to his wife of 68 years, Kay, and her strongest supporter as they shared in ministry side-by-side.

He was also the most devoted of fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers, leaving a legacy of love, integrity, humility, and conviction. Through all his years, he maintained a sense of humour and a stalwart belief that we all hold the capacity to overcome.

He is survived by his wife, Commissioner Kay, three children: Edie (Jack) Moon, JP (Helen) Rader, Jennie (Ray) Purvis, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, along with countless extended family members, friends and colleagues.

A celebration of life was held on 1 February 2025 at Asbury University.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## New SAES truck named after dedicated volunteer

By Lerrisse Smith

It is not every day a shiny new emergency services truck is named after a lovely lady.

But when the Victorian Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) were looking for a name for their newest truck, they couldn't go past bestowing the honour of the name 'Pearl' in recognition of their volunteer, Pearl Dunn, who has given more than 30 years of unwavering dedication and service to the team.

The new truck, funded through the SAES's partnership with Woolworths, was recently unveiled and commissioned at Pearl's Melbourne retirement village where she lives – much to her surprise.

"You know what? I still can't believe it," Pearl says. "I have just loved working with the team. I started when my husband died. I heard about it, and I thought it sounded good. It has been amazing. We have done all sorts of funny and strange and sad and happy things and helped so many people.

"I just do it because I love it. Carolyn (Response Coordinator of the Victorian SAES), Robin (Maintenance Officer) and the whole team are great to work with. They make it so easy."

During Pearl's many years of service, impacted communities and first responders have benefitted from her care, including Black Saturday (2009), the bushfires of 2019 and 2020, the Victorian floods of 2022, the Lancefield and Flowerdale fires, chemical industry fires, and many Salvation Army events throughout the state.

"Pearl has been a devoted member who has served Victorians in need," said Carolyn Spratling, Response Coordinator of the Victorian SAES. "And she is always ready to don the Hi-Viz and do it again."

The SAES team had the opportunity, with the support of Pearl's children and the management of the village she lives in, to spring a surprise commissioning of the truck on Pearl. Carolyn remarked it was a wonderful occasion and celebration of Pearl's commitment to others – and the more than 1500 volunteers that serve alongside SAES across Australia.

Pearl said she loved the SAES team and the people they served. Over the years, her role included serving food to many people, from emergency services personnel such as firefighters to the public.

"What really hits you every time you go out with the team to serve and help people are the firefighters, police and SES who always say, 'Oh, we are so glad to see The Salvation Army here'," Pearl reflected. "They are really pleased that we are there."

Another key role for Pearl has been to provide a listening ear. Looking back over 30 years, the volunteer said a key learning had been to see the love of people in communities and unite to help one another.

"The love of people in communities has made me feel really good," Pearl said. "Both the ones you work with and the ones that you are helping."

She plans to continue volunteering with the SAES as long as she can and hopes that others will be interested in joining as a volunteer.



Victorian SAES volunteer Pearl Dunn with SAES General Manager Daryl Crowden and the new truck.



Secretary for Mission Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory Morgan (left) visited SAES teams working on the Grampians fires to offer encouragement and support.

## SAES crews rise to the occasion during Grampians bushfire response

By Lerrisse Smith

Victorian Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) volunteers from across the state joined forces to feed the many community members displaced by the recent Grampians National Park bushfire crisis.

The team provided more than 1400 meals to residents affected by the major bushfire that began on 17 December 2024 in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Dry lightning started multiple fires in the southern part of the national park. Additionally, the Salvos distributed a large amount of material aid to hundreds of people residing at council-run relief centres during the crisis.

More than 76,000 hectares of national park and agricultural land burned during a three-week period before the fire was contained, and four homes were lost.

“Boxing Day was very scary,” said Adam Clark, Assistant Coordinator of the Victorian SAES.

“It was scary because all the intel (intelligence information supplied by local authorities) that was coming in from the government was that it was going to be like Black Saturday. That is what they were expecting in terms of the impact and certainly the weather. But they were very lucky that they could contain it pretty much within the national park, and when it came out onto private land, they could really tackle it.”

The SAES team consisted of more than 30 volunteers plus staff who were mainly based out of Ararat during the Grampians emergency from 16-28 December but

were also called to Stawell for a few days during that time. The team used three catering trucks, one material-needs truck and coolrooms at the Grampians fire.

The SAES was also called on to serve community members’ needs and provide both catering and material aid at other council-run relief centres. The material aid included bedding, clothing and a huge amount of toiletry packs. Local community relief centres were set up in townships, including Ararat, Stawell, Hamilton, Dunkeld and Skipton.

“We had people coming through our relief centres who didn’t know the impact of the bushfire on their house,” Adam said. “Some were thinking their house would be ok, some thinking the worse.”

Carolyn Spratling, Response Coordinator of the Victorian SAES, added that locally affected residents packed their bags in a hurry, thinking they would only be gone for a few hours. They then realised they would be stuck for a few days and needed everyday essentials such as toiletries and towels.

The community members received new clothing and numerous toiletry bags, which volunteers packed. Some residents stayed at the evacuation centres, while others resided in caravans, hotels and motels.

Some SAES team members were also called from the Grampians fire to two other major bushfires. First, they were called to The Gurdies (Grantville) in South Gippsland to support the emergency services personnel fighting the fires, where they remained for a few days in late December. Over 5000 meals were prepared and supplied to firefighters at that fire.

Team members were also called to the Bullengarook fire, where 500 meals were prepared for firefighters. Once both fires were contained, teams returned to assist with the Grampian emergency.

The recovery effort is now underway in the Grampians.



# MISSION

## New leader installed at Port Kembla Community of Hope

The Salvation Army's presence in the steelworks region of Port Kembla (NSW) has been boosted by the installation of Auxiliary-Lieutenant Stephen Dunn as Mission Leader.

NSW/ACT Divisional Commander Major Robyn Black recently installed Stephen to lead the newly established Port Kembla Community of Hope. Stephen's installation was held at The Foundry, a complex at the top of Wentworth Street in the heart of Wollongong's industrial suburb.

The complex also houses The Salvation Army First Floor Program, a Jesus-centred holistic service supporting wellbeing and empowering individuals and families impacted by the challenging behaviours of a loved one.

"The Port Kembla Community of Hope and the First Floor Program are two separate entities, but there will obviously be collaboration between the two," Stephen said.

Stephen's appointment has been about 12 months in the making, and he is glad to again be working alongside his wife, Marilyn, who coordinates the First Floor Program. They met with divisional leaders several times in the past year to put forward their proposal for ministry at The Foundry.

"I led the Salvos' mission at Ulladulla (two hours south of Wollongong) for six years, and the travel and being away from home was quite demanding at times. So, it will be good to see my wife more often now," he quipped.

"We are grateful that the Salvos have backed our vision and will fund it for the next three years at this stage. So, we're getting the ball rolling," Stephen said. "I'm genuinely looking forward to re-establishing a ministry base at Port Kembla.

Stephen will oversee several ministries, including a Connect site (emergency financial assistance) that will run on Tuesdays and Fridays, pastoral care groups, an Art for Healing group and an op shop-style garage sale that will operate in conjunction with the Connect site.

"In the garages at the rear, that we call 'The Makery', we plan to run a He Shed She Shed style program where we fix and make things," Stephen said.



Divisional Commander Major Robyn Black prays for Aux-Lieut Stephen Dunn during his installation ceremony as Mission Leader at The Foundry in Port Kembla.

The Foundry was established in 2012 under the leadership of two young officers, Paul and Christy Kurth, who created a café-style ministry.

The café still exists and while it is independently operated, it enhances the services on site, providing a safe, hospitable environment. "James runs the café, and he's fantastic," said Stephen. "He not only makes a brilliant coffee, but he understands the ethos of The Salvation Army and what we're all about. It's not just a business for him."

Co-located is The Fathering Project, a program that seeks to engage, inspire and support fathers and father figures in the Illawarra region by providing a safe space – 'The Community Fathering Hub' – for fathers to come and connect.

"They [The Fathering Project] also cross over with a lot of what we do," Stephen said. "So, with them, the First Floor Program, the Foundry Café, a regular outreach gambling counselling service, and our Community of Hope, we aim to offer some great wraparound services for the community."

## Keeping Salvation Army heritage alive

By **Lerisse Smith**

A unique plaque that once proudly adorned The Salvation Army's old printing works factory in East Melbourne is back in the spotlight thanks to an exciting transformation within its historic walls.

The historical 'Publishing Office' plaque, belonging to the old printing press that published all Salvation Army publications, including the well-known *War Cry* magazine, was proudly on display at The Salvation Army Museum in Melbourne.

Now, the plaque takes pride of place as part of the Lanson Place Group's transformation of the old building at 502 Albert Street into its first boutique hotel in Australia, the 'Lanson Place Parliament Gardens'.

The company has ensured it has paid homage to the old building's history on its new hotel site, featuring the plaque plus historical black and white pictures of its colourful past provided by the museum. It has also kept the façade, which is a heritage-listed piece.

"It's special they are very keen to keep the heritage they have picked up and to recognise it. They wanted to pay homage to The Salvation Army, and one of the first things they did was to volunteer their staff to do something for the Salvos before the hotel was half finished. The staff took part in activities at The Well in St Kilda and undertook a tour of the Salvos museum," said Judi Agnew, Relationship Manager of Corporate Partnerships.



The 1901 facade of the old Salvation Army printing works factory that remains today and welcomes people to the new Lanson Place Parliament Gardens Hotel.

Victoria's Divisional Commander, Colonel Kelvin Merrett, attended the hotel's official opening on 2 December 2024 along with Judi, who took part in the plaque presentation to the hotel and its ribbon-cutting ceremony, plus an evening celebration event.

The Salvos' presence at the opening helped strengthen the relationship with the Lanson Place Group, which bought the site (circa 1901) 18 months ago. It wanted to incorporate a Salvation Army connection throughout the building and named the hotel's restaurant 'Chronicle' as a nod to the building's history as a printing press.

Installation artworks referencing print and typography reflecting the building's past history are throughout the hotel. Additionally, historical books on the life of General Eva Burrows, and a book by Museum Manager Lindsay Cox, titled *Cuppa tea, Digger?*, are displayed within the hotel.

Judi said the Lanson Place Group is committed to giving back to the community through The Salvation Army and inviting guests to consider making a donation.

Setting sights on the future, both the Salvos and the Lanson Place Group are eager to maintain their special connection and find new ways to support the Salvos while also connecting their staff to the mission.

"We look forward to progressing thoughts and ideas as we partner together into the future," Judi remarked. "We will forever be linked in history."



Colonel Kelvin Merrett (left) and Marcus Packham, General Manager of Lanson Place Parliament Gardens, with the 'Publishing Office' plaque.



# CORPS NEWS



Norwest Hornsby Gateway's Captain Lydia Hong (third from left) with three café community members who have become Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) volunteers.

## Café opens doors of opportunity in Hornsby

By Lauren Martin

A one-day-a-week missional café initiative at Hornsby Salvos in Sydney is providing opportunities to connect with people, service and faith.

Norwest Hornsby Gateway Corps is located just off the main street in one of the most northern suburbs of Sydney. It's a busy site, with a bustling Family Store and an Employment Plus office.

Corps Officers Captains Lydia Hong and Sean Li said they wanted to create a space where regular shoppers at the store could relax, chat and engage with The Salvation Army's mission of loving God and loving others.

"We were inspired by the Auburn Corps café that serves the community by offering low-cost coffee and meals," said Lydia. "After the [COVID-19] pandemic, we really felt the need for not a free meal, but a low-cost meal where people can feel safe to come together."

The corps also received inspiration and support from the Shire Salvos café ('The Village') in Panania, south of Sydney, which had just recently opened.

"Natalie, the manager, spent the whole morning with me and gave me many logistic ideas; she was great," said Lydia.

Nuria Gonsalves, a member of the Northwest Hornsby Gateway Corps who works for The Salvation Army's Intercultural and Disability Inclusion Team, was excited to participate in the initiative.

"There is a high population of Indians, Chinese, Iranian, Nepalese as well as English speakers in the

area," she said. "There was no one to cook Indian food, so I said I would volunteer a few days."

"It's just word of mouth," said Lydia. "Our Family Store is a very big destination shop in the local area. About 200 people visit us every day to shop or donate. So, we have a pretty sustainable customer base."

The café serves low-cost food from different cultures, including \$2 coffees and a variety of cakes. A local bakery donates bread, which is given away for free.

During its pilot stage, Lydia said 80 per cent of customers came from the social housing accommodation near the corps, and 90 per cent had a culturally or linguistically diverse (CALD) background.

One of them, volunteer barista Vitaliy Noskov, encountered the Salvos when he came to Australia after fleeing Ukraine when war broke out in his country in 2022. He says The Salvation Army has assisted him tremendously.

A few months after arriving in Sydney, Vitaliy found out he had serious medical issues and needed surgery. Lydia and Sean supported him while he was at Westmead Hospital, visiting and praying.

"The whole church prayed for me," said Vitaliy. "I was very nervous. They sent many, many letters to hospital. I had a lot of support."

After he recovered, Vitaliy wanted to "give back" to the organisation that had assisted him so much. He completed a skills course at TAFE, and then The Salvation Army funded him to do a barista course. When The Gateway Café opened, Vitaliy was ready to serve coffee on the machine.

"I feel good; I have a passion to help people," he said. "The Salvation Army for me gave me hope, belief and real support. I'm blessed!"