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# salvos

online *e-news*

## CONNECTING SALVOS IN MISSION

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## New institute gives students missional placements at the Salvos

By Lauren Martin

From next year, Christians from any denomination will have an opportunity to study at an institute embedded within the mission of The Salvation Army.

The Great Commission Institute, founded by Sean Nolan from Shire Salvos Menai, is offering a one-year Diploma in Theology for people wanting to study in person or online, full-time or part-time.

Partnering with Shire Salvos, The Salvation Army's Eva Burrows College and the University of Divinity, the institute says it will deliver the diploma with two key emphases: being 'Bible centred' and 'Spirit led'.

"There are currently two dominant ways to educate for ministry one that focuses on being 'Bible centred', the second on being 'Spirit led'," says the Great Commission Institute Director, Sean Nolan.

"The uniqueness of this program is that it combines these two – mixing high-quality biblical and theological knowledge with training that equips people to apply this knowledge in a real-world setting."

Shire Salvos Mission Leader Mark Soper, who also serves as a director of the new institute, says students who enrol in the Diploma of Theology will be embedded within Salvation Army missional communities across Shire Salvos and potentially further afield.

## NEWS



The Great Commission Institute leadership team (from left): Michael Hosking (business director), Sean Nolan (founder and director) and Mark Soper (director).

"Putting theological knowledge into practice, alongside experienced missional practitioners, will allow the Word of God to become truly alive, just as Jesus intended it to be," Mark said.

'Knowledge on fire' was a phrase coined by US evangelist Billy Graham, who said that Bible College would become a lifeless experience if detached from real-life evangelism and discipleship.

The Great Commission Institute and its Diploma of Theology is offering a life-changing experience for people wishing to deepen their experience of following Jesus.

If you're interested in finding out more, head to [greatcommissioninstitute.org.au](https://greatcommissioninstitute.org.au)

# NEWS

## Kalgoorlie/Boulder Corps hosts free dental clinic

By Anthony Castle

The Salvation Army in the Western Australian Goldfields city of Kalgoorlie/Boulder hosted a free dental clinic over the September long weekend to help people who cannot afford to visit the dentist.

Dentists, clinical staff and volunteers came from Perth and Brisbane to offer services for the Kartirti Ku Free Dental/Health Charity Clinic.

“It all started with an email from Ninga Mia Fellowship church [in Kalgoorlie] requesting the use of a church building to accommodate a free dental clinic provided by a team from the Tzu Chi Buddhist volunteer dental team,” said Major Shirley Spooner, Kalgoorlie/Boulder Corps Officer.

Ninga Mia Christian Fellowship is based in a small Aboriginal community on the edge of Kalgoorlie. It is a non-denominational church that caters especially to the homeless, people living on the fringes of town and Aboriginal people from across the desert.

“The weekend was particularly hoping to help children and adults living in poverty and First Nations people,” Shirley said. “We prayed about it and then

sent an email offering the use of our wonderful corps building for free.”

Dental equipment and volunteers travelled to the Salvos facility for the weekend, with the local Goldfields Family Dental team providing their mobile dental clinic.

Services included examinations, scaling and cleaning, extractions, and fillings. The weekend’s focus was on offering services to people from Indigenous and remote communities, people experiencing homelessness, and those who have concession or healthcare cards.

“Our building was emptied by the volunteers and us, then everything was set up on the Friday afternoon into the early hours of Saturday morning,” Shirley said. “On the Monday, the building was back up as usual. The Sunday morning worship meeting was held in the Youth Shed to make the space available.”

About 80 people were assisted across the weekend, with 241 procedures and basic health assessments. Specialists available were doctors and nurses, a physiotherapist, a pharmacist, a maxillofacial surgeon, a paediatrician, and a neonatal nurse. Sandwiches were also provided for community members who were hungry.

“Overall, this was an amazing partnership that truly blessed our local community,” Shirley said. “We are hoping this will be an annual event the we gladly and proudly support. It has certainly generated a lot of interest in the town.”



Majors Shirley and Craig Spooner, Corps Officers at Kalgoorlie/Boulder Salvos.



# STORY OF HOPE



Captain David Delany and volunteer Lynda Robinson outside Narwee Corps hall where they run the Triple-C ministry twice a week.

## God breathes new life into the old Narwee Corps hall

By Lauren Martin

The Narwee Salvation Army hall stands on a corner of one of the most disadvantaged suburbs in Sydney's south-west. It's just down the road from the pub and on the edge of a public housing estate.

The hall was opened in the 1950s, but Sunday meetings ceased years ago, and the nearby Hurstville Corps has been using it as a sorting facility for the Narwee Family Store.

Earlier this year, newly commissioned Captain David Delany was approached by his team leader, Hurstville Corps Officer Major Sherrie Nicol, to investigate starting a ministry at the former corps.

David was delighted.

He prayed, then acted, firing up a barbeque on the hall's front porch and letting the smell of sausages and onions waft down the street.

Sixty-five per cent of residents in the Narwee/Beverly Hills area are public housing renters, and one in five are unemployed. It didn't take long for people to start gathering around the trestle tables that he'd set up on the front lawn.

Originally, David said that he planned to run a barbeque once a month, but after the first day, it was so popular that those gathered requested that it be a once-a-week occurrence, with one local resident offering to pay for the sausages each week. Thus, on 2 April 2024, the Narwee Triple-C (Coffee, Chat and Connect) was born.

Six months on, and the ministry runs twice a week (with the popular sausage sizzle on both days!) David has a ministry partner in dedicated volunteer Lynda Robinson from the local Lions Club, and he is building a team and raising leaders.

Vinh Ha faithfully cooks the barbeque each week, Hurstville soldier Geoff Maxwell opens and sets up, and another volunteer welcomes people and offers coffee and tea.

Community members gather to socialise, play ping-pong, and enjoy coffee, tea and delicious cakes baked by professional cake-maker Lynda! A community pantry of donated grocery items helps to alleviate food insecurity among local households, and there are often free vegetables and bread for community members to share.

The atmosphere is always friendly and joyful. There is evident excitement among those gathered to have a cost-free place to meet and socialise. ▶



# STORY OF HOPE

“A lady said one time [to me] that she was glad she found out about the place because she’s always at home, she doesn’t go out anywhere, she doesn’t talk to people,” said Lynda.

For David, giving people a place to feel belonging and significance is important: “My favourite thing that happens here is when the people are here. When our community members are here, we are sitting with them, having faith conversations, chatting with them, seeing them leave this place with a smile on their face.”

It’s early days in the ministry, but people are already asking about Jesus. Once a month, on a Thursday, David spends time with those gathered after lunch to give a short devotional, take prayer requests and facilitate an informal worship session with songs of praise.

The Salvation Army’s life and faith ‘Pass the Salt’ conversation cards are regularly used to spark discussions. Prayer and practical support are also offered for those who share their burdens and hardships.

God is at work.

Narwee Triple-C has become so popular with local residents who have found friendship, fun and, for some, faith, that sometimes there’s not enough room in the small part of the hall allocated to the ministry (especially when there’s a boisterous game of ping-pong also going on!).



Volunteer Vinh Ha cooks the barbeque at Narwee Triple-C each week.



Lynda and David in front of the small pantry at Narwee.

The Holy Spirit keeps revealing opportunities to David and his small team. Lynda has started a knitting/craft group, which is gaining interest. She would love to hold cooking classes in the space one day. Her heart is to bless people with love and kindness.

“It just makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside,” Lynda said. “Even if there is just one person that smiles at me and says, ‘thank you’, it’s just that feeling that I get that says, ‘I’ve done something, I’ve given something, I’ve made a difference.’”

David regularly listens to community members who share the hardships of poverty and injustice with him. Soon, a Salvation Army Doorways caseworker will visit the site fortnightly to assist. He is also investigating becoming a SAL Connect site, where community members can pick up Salvation Army assistance cards and utilise the pantry and weekly free food on offer.

“My vision for this place is that it will be a place where in the Narwee community people will come and feel belonging, feel welcome and come and have coffee, a chat and connect with one another,” he said.

“And for God to be glorified.”

*Request: Narwee Triple-C is seeking Mandarin-speaking volunteers to engage with its Chinese community members. Contact Hurstville Corps on (02) 9570 2617 for more details.*

# ENROLMENTS



The 14 senior soldiers who were enrolled at Waverley Temple last month.

## Waverley Temple celebrates multiple dedications and enrolments

**By Corps Officer Captain Paul Chen**

Waverley Temple Corps recently celebrated two significant milestones in our faith community – the dedication of 10 children and the enrolment of 14 senior soldiers from our intercultural congregation.

These moments represent individual commitments to Christ and the collective journey of our community towards growth and transformation.

Our newly enrolled soldiers are Carol Cheung, Elva Qiu, Erik Hung, Jeff Liu, Jenny Hsieh, Joey Zhou, Peilin Chen, Philip Lian, Shelley Liew, Vivian Wang, YiLu Song, Yvonne Ding, Elsa Du and Derek Du.

They have begun a transformative path, motivated by a deepening relationship with Christ and a desire to serve. At Waverley Corps, this spiritual growth has been nurtured through various evangelical programs throughout the week, at weekends and during Sunday services.

Our ministries and intentional focus on intercultural engagement have been vital in supporting these new soldiers on their spiritual journeys, which have been influenced by two key elements.

Firstly, it is the unwavering faith of our corps members, who consistently live out their beliefs through acts of service. Evangelical programs such as Companion Club, Home League, Playgroup, Emergency Relief, the PLP (Positive Lifestyle Program) course, and Community Lunch have served as key touchpoints for many of our new soldiers – whether as volunteers, attendees or recipients of support.

The resilience, humility and servant-hearted nature of our members have deeply inspired these individuals, drawing them into the embrace of Salvationism. They have not only heard the message of salvation but have experienced its transformative power first-hand. As a result, they are now ready to actively join our faith community, living out the same examples of love and service that were extended to them.

Secondly, for those from Asian cultural backgrounds, the spiritual journey has been especially meaningful due to the strong emphasis on teaching and learning. Our new soldiers have connected deeply with the core values and spiritual significance of various Salvation Army traditions, such as the flag, the uniform, the brass band, timbrels, hymns, and appeals like the Red Shield, Christmas, and Self-Denial.

At Waverley, we have taken a simple yet profound approach – consistently and authentically sharing God's message as revealed in each season. In this current season, our focus has been on the territory's rallying cry: Jesus-centred, Spirit-led, hope revealed. We continue to explore how these teachings apply to our present context and circumstances, allowing them to deepen our understanding of the faith journey in real-time. These elements have nurtured their spiritual growth in ways that resonate with their cultural values and mindset.

As these new soldiers embark on this new chapter, our hopes for them are immense. We pray that they will continue to grow in wisdom and strength, remaining anchored in the love of Christ.

May their lives shine as beacons of hope and transformation, reaching out to those in need and embodying the very heart of The Salvation Army's mission. Our goal is that by this time next year, we will see at least another seven, if not 14, new soldiers enrolled – a testament to the continued growth and vitality of our faith community.



## **His Master's Musician** by Lieut-Colonel Ian Southwell

**By Major Mal Davies**

At the Victorian divisional 'Seniors Celebration' event on 9 October, a new biography was released of a Salvationist who is both an internationally renowned composer and an Order of the Founder recipient.

*His Master's Musician* is subtitled 'The life, music and ministry of Noel Jones, OF' and was authored by Lieut-Colonel Ian Southwell. It is the seventh book he has authored or co-authored.

While Noel would be well known to Army musicians, he is far more broadly known than that. He has been involved in the Army since childhood, becoming a member of the Melbourne Staff Band and the territorial music director in the Australia Southern Territory for 14 years.

Noel has published 124 brass band pieces and 20 vocal accompaniments. He has played and taught music in Australia and overseas and has been a strong promoter of Christian music for more than 50 years. In 2014, he was awarded the Order of the Founder.

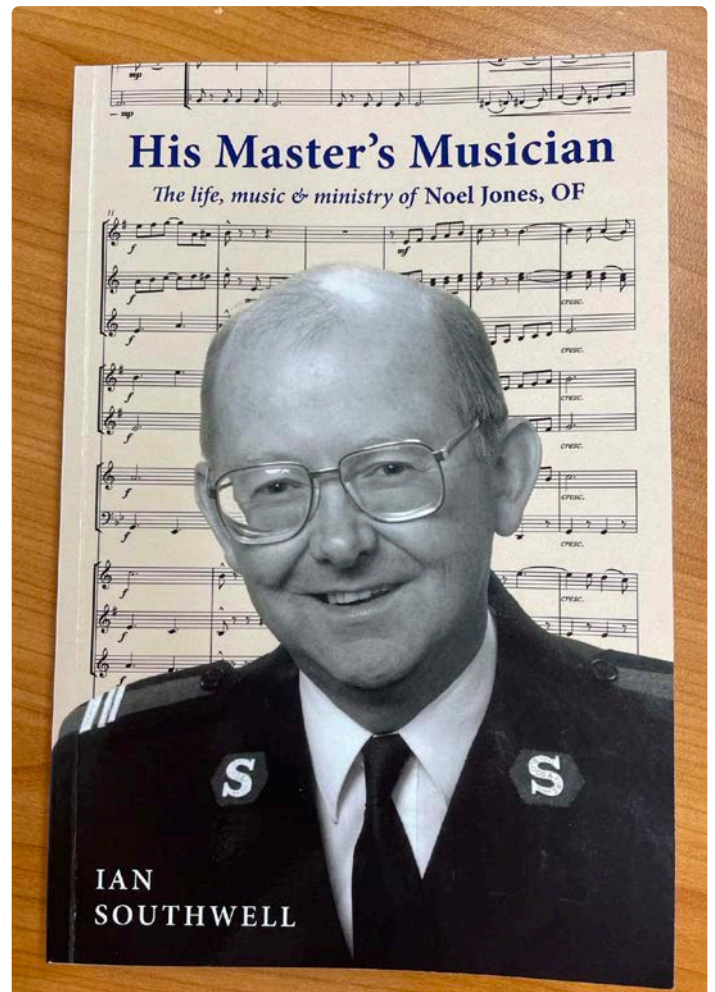
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**Ian Southwell has done well in capturing not just Noel's musical achievements but also his personality in this book.**

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While you may think this resume makes Noel a popular and much-loved Salvationist, his character is of equal renown. Noel is known for his humility, smile, sense of humour, desire to see people know Christ and love of showing people how music can help them connect with God. Perhaps even above and beyond being an outstanding musician, he's an outstanding Salvationist.

Ian Southwell has done well in capturing not just Noel's musical achievements but also his personality in



Lieut-Colonel Ian Southwell explores the life, music and ministry of Noel Jones, OF, in his new book.

this book. We hear of Noel's upbringing, musical ability development, early employment, love of sport, his beloved wife Mary and their children, and service to The Salvation Army in many ways, perhaps especially his love of teaching children musical instruments.

The book is well researched, and in the acknowledgements, the author thanks the staff of The Salvation Army Museum and archives for their assistance and many individuals who provided valuable information and advice.

At around 170 pages, it is not a large book to wade through but is written in a light and informative style, which makes it easy to read. It contains more than 40 photographs and very helpful appendices of Noel's published music.

The book is available in two hard-copy forms (one with colour photos and one with black-and-white photos) and an e-book from Amazon.