

The Salvation Army Bundamba Citadel

The Early Years – 1886-1906

Pre 1886

Following the commencement of the Salvation Army in England on 2 July 1865 the movement rapidly grew and on 5 September 1880 the first Salvation Army open-air meeting was held. The following year Captain and Mrs Sutherland arrived in Adelaide and this led to a rush of Salvation Army Corps being established throughout Australia. These Corps were founded in Adelaide in 1881, Sydney and Melbourne in 1882, Tasmania in 1883, Brisbane in 1885, and Perth in 1891.

The first recorded information regarding Salvationists in the Ipswich area concern the activities of a Captain Cairns in 1882. This gentleman conducted meetings, wore a uniform and displayed the Army flag. Converts were made but subsequently Captain Cairns ceased leading the meetings when he accepted a position with the General Merchants, Cribb & Foote, of Bell Street, Ipswich. Without his leadership the little band of followers lapsed.

Then in 1885 three influential Ipswich townsfolk, who had learnt to appreciate the Army's earlier efforts, encouraged the officers in Brisbane to establish a Corps in Ipswich. Hence, on Sunday 14 July 1885 an open-air meeting followed by an indoor meeting was held. Following the response to these meetings the second Corps in Queensland was officially established in Ipswich on 17 September 1885.

1886 – 1887

On Wednesday, 18th August 1886 Goodna was formed into a separate Corps, having been an outpost of Toowong Corps. It was the sixth Corps commenced in Queensland, and the 137th Corps to be established in Australia.

The first officer posted to Goodna was Lieutenant Lucy McCabe on 31st August 1886. The next year saw the arrival and departure of three commanding officers (all women). These were:

Lieutenant A Brown (Jan – May), Lieutenant Maria A King (May – Aug), Captain Laura Ellis (Aug – Dec).

From their regular reports to the Warcry (the Salvation Army's newspaper) most officers found the going tough, although they continued fighting the good fight believing that God would reward their efforts.

1888

During 1888 the corps again saw the arrival and departure of three commanding officers (this time they were all men). They were Captain Joseph James (Jan - Apr). Captain Searle (May - Sep) and Captain August Asmus (Oct – Dec).

The Corps band commenced the year with an organ, a violin and a cornet. Some months later a drum was added, followed by three cornets.

Life was not easy for the members of the Salvation Army in those early beginnings as they were constantly being pelted with mud, rotten eggs and tomatoes, being sworn at, abused, jostled and jeered at. And yet they continued working tirelessly to plant the seed of salvation in the area. It was during this time that Dinmore became an outpost of the Corps.

1889

This year saw a period of transition in respect to the location of the Corps and ended with a name change. In February, three weeks after Captain Anna Knudson and Lieutenant Hannah Jones (The Lord's Lassies) arrived at Goodna, Bundamba became an outpost of the Corps. In May the Corps and Officers Quarters were relocated to Dinmore. On June 19th Captain Eliza (Lizzie) Lipsett and Lieutenant Madge Wilding arrived at Dinmore to take command of the Corps. After some time they located their Quarters (it was the last cottage from the train station, quite a distance away). The next day they set out to walk the two and a half miles to the Bundamba outpost and only just arrived in time for the meeting. About two weeks later the Corps and Quarters were transferred to Bundamba. However it wasn't until the end of the year that Goodna Corps was officially recognised as the Bundamba Corps.

Although there have been a number of relocations of both Corps and Quarters since then, they have always remained within the Bundamba community.

On 23 October 1889 the first twenty-one soldiers of the Bundamba Corps were sworn in and enrolled. Some of the soldiers who were enrolled that day were Brothers Fred Miller and Statham, and Sisters Gardiner, Rise and Susie Taylor (who in later years served as Corps Sergeant Major at Bundamba).

1890 - 1895

During this period Bundamba had twelve commanding officers appointed (not including assistant officers). Bundamba's growth during this period was very slow. Unemployment, sickness and the 1893 flood caused great hardship. So hard was Bundamba that it was thought of in terms of empty halls and small collections by its cynics.

The term of Captain Mary Murray in 1893-94 brought new life to the Corps, when the number of soldiers increased from eight to thirteen. There was a further enrolment of nineteen new soldiers during the term of Captain Dibley (Aug 94 – Jun 95). By purchasing a "light trap and a smart little nag" Captain Dibley was able to travel distances not possible for the lassies who preceded him. Eventually he was able to report attendances of 100-170 on Sunday nights at Bundamba, 80 in the afternoon at Dinmore, and 50-80 at New Chum on Monday nights. Cottage meetings were held at Moggill and open-air at Goodna. It was also during Captain Dibley's term that Susie Taylor left for the Officer Training Home – Bundamba's first recorded Officer Candidate.

1896 – 1906

This period saw twenty commanding officers posted to Bundamba, many for only 6 months, some for considerably less time.

On May 24th 1896 Bundamba had a great day of celebration when Staff Captain Morgan visited Captain Money to present the Juniors with their prizes – 57 in all – at Bundamba, Moggill and New Chum. In the Dec 26th 1896 report to the Warcry it was stated that Bundamba had a band comprising 2 cornets, a violin, 2 timbrels and the drum.

More flooding in the late 1890's and early 1900's, combined with much unemployment saw Bundamba Corps' strength diminish. So much so that on April 20th 1906 it became attached to Ipswich Corps.

1907 –

On March 25th 1907, after much hard work by the Bundamba stalwarts, Bundamba Corps was officially re-opened with the appointment of Captain Caroline Morter.

Meetings were held in a building renamed The Glory Shop, located next to the Methodist Hall, near the corner of Boyce Street and Brisbane Road, Bundamba.

Six years later in 1913 The Salvation Army Bundamba Hall was officially opened in Coal Street Bundamba.

Since then the Corps has continued to grow and flourish all to the glory of God.

Lieutenant Lucy McCabe on 31st August 1886

Lieutenant A Brown (Jan – May 1887), Lieutenant Maria A King (May – Aug),
Captain Laura Ellis (Aug – Dec).

Captain Joseph James (Jan – Apr 1888). Captain Searle (May - Sep) and Captain
August Asmus (Oct – Dec).

Captain Anna Knudson and Lieutenant Hannah Jones (The Lord's Lassies) 1889

Captain Eliza (Lizzie) Lipsett and Lieutenant Madge Wilding 1889

Lieutenant Mary A. (Polly) Wilson (Jan – Mar 1890), Captain Dora McDonald (Apr –
Jun 1890), Captain Thomas Jones (Jun 1890- Feb 1891), Captain Mary Pleffer (Mar –
Aug 1891), Captain Bertha Brice Aug 1891 – Jan 1892), Captain Matilda Naismith
(Feb – Oct), Captain Marion Clunas (Nov 1892 – Mar 1893), Captain Richard Lloyd
(Mar – May), Captain Ada Dorrell (Jun – Dec), Captain Mary Murray (Dec 1893 –
Aug 1894), Captain H Dibley (Aug 1894 – Jun 1895), Captain James Menzies (Jun -
Dec 1895).