**Weekly Corps Events**

**Monday** – Ladies Bible Study 10am led by Gay Woodburn, meeting in the foyer.

**Tuesday** – Mainly Music – 10am.

**Tuesday** – Band practice – 7pm.

**Wednesday** – Home League 10am.

**Wednesday** – Craft – 12.30pm. Bring your craft have a chat while you finish off some of your projects.

**Friday** – Community Lunch – 12 noon. Feel free to come

to lunch and sit & chat with our community members.

**Friday –** Walking Group. Phone Trevor Williams on 0428 863 284

for more information on starting location.

Sunday – 10am Morning Worship

15th October – Peter

 22nd October – Alan Feeney

 29th October – Jean Ridley

 5th November – Steve & Lydia Spencer

 12th November – Steve & Lydia Spencer

 19th November – Mark & Fran Everitt

\* Alan Feeney is on the Leadership Team at Lakes Salvos

\* Major Steve Spencer is our Area Salvos Stores Chaplain & Major Lydia Spencer is the Carpenter Court Chaplain

Sunday - 5pm **Rivers of Joy Evangelical Church**. All welcome.

**Monthly Corps Events**

3rd Thursday of the month – **Evening Fellowship**

4th Monday of the month – **Prime Timers**.

**Prime Timers** October guests are The Lemon Drops

**Evening Fellowship Group** are having Coffee, Cake & Dessert at Margaret & Sam Price’s home on Sat 21st Oct 2 – 4pm. BYO chair. Cost $8 with profits to Cancer Council.

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Newcastle Worship & Community Centre

67 Cleary St, Hamilton 2303

Ph: 40885850

Officers: Leanne & Peter Bennett

**Newsletter OCTOBER 2023**

*“The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and his compulsion is our liberation.”*

*(CS Lewis – Surprised by Joy).*

**Corps Calendar - Please find attached to this newsletter**

We rely heavily on our volunteers and thank God for them every day.

As we move closer to the end of the year, we are seeing the hand of God bringing more people into our ministries so that we can connect with them. These last weeks have seen more people than ever connecting with us at our Friday Community Lunch which has been averaging 65 people attending. The team are very stretched and we really need corps folks to join our friends at a table for conversation. A great opportunity to share Jesus.

It is great to have Salvos Stores support for Christmas this year. They are an invaluable support in being able to organise our Christmas assistance with providing their truck & team to pick up, deliver & store our toys as well as to provide the space at their warehouse for us to pack all our toy bags. We see the hand of God in bringing together the corps & expressions to work together for the Kingdom.

Please go down to our Salvos Store and say hello and do some shopping. The volunteers there are also working to build the Kingdom of God since all the funds they help to raise are coming to the Salvation Army and shared with us to spend on our ministries.

**Mainly Music Report**

We have had a great year at mainly music, seeing lots of new families join us and always having fun on Tuesday mornings. We would like to thank each of you for the support you have offered through the year through prayers, thoughts and with our fundraising. We raised $527.55 through our Thompson’s Pie Drive. This will be used to purchase further equipment to enrich the experience the young ones have at our Mainly Music sessions.

We loved seeing so many of you at our Corps Inclusion Day at the end of term 2 and would like to invite you again to join us in a few upcoming events. Grandparents Day will be held 24th October and we are hoping to have a few “stand in” grandma and grandpas for those children that won’t have their own grandparents joining them. We will be sharing in a special morning tea after our music session. Come along and join in with our singing, dancing and instrument playing.

We would also love to see as many of you as possible at our end of term session on 28th November. We will be saying goodbye to our older children who will be heading off to big school next year, presenting them with their own bible to take home. Christmas celebrations will of course, also be happening that day. If you can join us on either of these dates, can you please let one of the Mainly Music team know so we can have an idea for catering.

**ARISE Weekend 2023 – Men’s Retreat** at The Salvation Army Conference Centre Collaroy, 27th – 29th October. The theme is “All Things New.”

**Defenders of Justice and Reflectors of Holiness –** Cadets Commissioning Auburn Corps 10:30 26th November 2023.

The new **General Lyndon Buckingham** and **Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham** are set to pay a visit to our territory in late August 2024.  More details to come.

Leanne and Peter will be on leave from 1st Nov – 20th Nov.

**Christmas for Home League/Prime Timers/Ladies Bible Study**

 **29th November** – Combined break-up lunch at Hexham Bowling Club.

We are in need of an extra receptionist to take Christmas calls. If you can help please talk to Lyn or Leanne.

**Family Christmas Carols Event – Sunday 10th Dec**

We have a team working on the vision & planning for our Christmas Carols Event. We will be recruiting other team members who will be key in the organisation & staging of the event. They will be asked to be responsible for a certain aspect of the event which will include setting it up on the day with a few helpers whom they will recruit to assist.

We would like to encourage all corps members to engage in supporting this opportunity to celebrate Christmas. For this event to be the best that it can be we need these team members assistance.

Plans are for jumping castle, petting zoo, sausage sizzle, Santa, gifts, message about the true meaning of Christmas, and Christmas carols.

**Christmas Toy Packing**

Key dates are on the attached calendar for your reference.

We will be needing volunteers to pack toys. We will need a large team so that we can have marathon packing sessions between 9am – 2pm on the days marked on the calendar attached.

Please complete the Event Volunteer Form attached to declare your interest in assisting us. At this stage we just need to know if you are interested. Once we are closer to the date we will give you a call to let you know which day we need you.

All toys for both Lakes Corps & Newcastle Corps will be packed together at the Salvos Stores Warehouse at Thornton. We will take the bus to make your transport easier.

**Christmas Assistance List**

The list will be opened next week for people to call to discuss the need for assistance at Christmas. Last year we assisted around 350 kids with toys and distributed around 200 hampers. We are expecting an increase upon last year’s numbers.

**Christmas Gift Cards**

The Salvation Army Christmas Warehouse can only supply toys this year up to the age of 12. This means that there will be nothing available for us to provide to teens. We do not have the funds to purchase any. We are asking if anyone could consider donating some so that we can provide something for the teens. We would suggest $25 gift cards from Kmart or Big W.