

#### **Vision Statement**

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.





# **CONTENTS**

04\_Our Vision, Mission & Values

05\_Message from Mark Soper

06\_Our Shire Salvos Focus

07\_What we currently do

08\_Focus on Miranda

12\_Focus on Panania

14\_Focus on Menai

16\_Focus on Helensburgh

18\_Focus on Engadine

19\_Focus on Support

#### Our Vision, Mission & Values

# INTRODUCTION

#### Mission

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. We share the love of Jesus by:

#### **CARING FOR PEOPLE**

Being there when people need us most. We offer care and compassion as a sacred encounter with transformative potential.

#### **CREATING FAITH PATHWAYS**

Taking a holistic approach to the human condition that values spirituality. We graciously share the Good News of Jesus and grow in faith together.

#### **BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

Investing ourselves in relationships that promote mutual flourishing. We find the wholeness God intends for us in community.

#### **WORKING FOR JUSTICE**

Tackling the social systems that harm creation and strip away human dignity. We join God's work to build a fairer world where all can thrive.

#### Vision

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

#### Values

Recognising that God is already at work in the world, we value:

#### **INTEGRITY**

Being honest and accountable in all we do

#### **COMPASSION**

Hearing and responding to pain with love

#### **RESPECT**

Affirming the worth and capacity of all people

#### **DIVERSITY**

Embracing difference as a gift

#### **COLLABORATION**

Creating partnerships in mission

#### The Inclusion Statement



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and intersex status. 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.

#### From our Leader,

# MARK SOPER

Having lived, worked and served the community of the Sutherland Shire for 16 years, I have a heart to see positive transformation in individuals and families across this unique and beautiful location.



#### **Mark Soper**

Shire Salvos Team Leader



Over time, God has been instilling in me a vision for the Shire. A vision of unity – of churches and organisations working together to journey alongside individuals and communities with love and respect; creating pathways for people to experience full, whole and healthy lives.

As a follower of Jesus, my focus has always been to love others the way he demonstrated. What does that look like in our modern world today? It looks like a group of people working together to love, serve, support and empower all people, particularly the most vulnerable in our community. Our key focus areas reflect this – the pursuit of unity, having a Kingdom agenda and being a 'sent' church (living out God's values outside the four walls of a church building.) We work to invite people to enter into spaces where they are supported to take steps to reclaim their lives.

Regardless of your belief system, I want to invite you to join the vision for the Sutherland Shire to be transformed. Join us in the fight against hardship and injustice; poverty, violence and despair.

As you look through this Impact Report, please consider your role in making our community a better place to live.

#### Our Shire Salvos

# **FOCUS**



#### **Pursuit for Unity**

Built Through Healthy Relationships, Partnership and Team Work

We believe God is calling The Salvation Army to pursue greater unity in the Sutherland Shire.

We believe our vision is possible through unity, team work, and healthy partnership and relationships with local churches and community services in the Shire. We will strengthen each other and increase our effectiveness as the body of Christ.

We will not re-create the wheel, but honour and support like-minded people, organisations and churches, with the belief that this will allow people to experience and see genuine transformation in the Christian community.

A key landmark centred around unity will be the centre of transformation in Miranda, that will be built to bring multiple community services and faith communities together to create a purpose built holistic community centre. We believe we are stronger together as unity commands a blessing.



#### Kingdom Agenda

Based on John 13:35 (Love) & Mathew 25:40 (support for vulnerable in community) Jesus is the agenda!

We desire to ensure that Jesus is reflected by the way we love, serve, support and empower the most vulnerable in our community. Glorifying Jesus and representing Him is our only agenda as we want to see long term transformation in our community.

Jesus is the agenda and our commitment to prayer and partnering with the Holy Spirit will be matched with the practical love, support and services we offer our community. It is not one or the other, it is both.

Our goal is to grow the Kingdom of God, not just The Salvation Army. When the body of Christ is winning and growing, so are we. We will not be short sighted and will always look to bless and support others wherever possible.



#### Being a Sent Church

Building the church beyond four walls

Every Salvation Army location including Salvos Stores in the Sutherland Shire, will be seen as a place for people to find Jesus through friendship and practical support.

Every Salvation Army location will have a Mission Leader appointed to ensure that our vision is being lived out in its truest sense, and raising up others to do the same.

We will equip and release people who will build and invest more in relationships, serving and caring for our community with greater boldness in sharing the good news of Jesus built on friendship.

We desire that everyone would have the opportunity to be part of a caring Christian community and not just focused around a service but genuine friendship and relationship. Every Christian has a part to play in this.

#### What we

# **CURRENTLY DO**

#### **MIRANDA**

**Financial Crisis Assistance -** being there when people need us most. We offer care and compassion as a sacred encounter with transformative potential.

**Transitional Housing** - for vulnerable individuals and families.

**Reconnect** - a service committed to helping young people (12 -18 years old) and their families restore healthy relationships within the family and wider community.

**Drive for Life Program** - providing training and mentoring to help vulnerable youth attain their driver's licence.

**You're the Boss Program** - a financial education program for 16 - 25 year olds.

**Community Co-Op** - a collaborative initiative with partner charities and organisations to support existing community service groups, provides hampers to those in need, ensuring the required quantity, consistency and quality of food relief support is available.

**Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)**- 1:1 case management, access to support group (Foundations Program), assessement into residential services.

#### **HELENSBURGH**

Salvos Store - See 'Salvos Stores'

**Material Assistance** - For vulnerable community members.

**Referrals** - Drugs and Alcohol, trauma, counselling, domestic violence services.

**Pastoral care** - Support, mentoring and offering the Positive Lifestyle Program.

#### MENAI

**Sunday Worship Services** - for all ages including kids church for children.

**Children and Families** - Music and Play program for kids and parents, and playgroup for building relationships with families in the local community.

**Small Groups** - connect groups, social groups and bible studies.

**Youth & Young Adults** - youth group to link young people from within the community.

We have a youth worker who networks with schools in the Sutherland Shire.

#### PANANIA

Salvos Store - See below

**Music & Play** - A music program for kids and parents and a space for families in the community to connect and build relationships.

**Cafe** - A communal space for people to connect and feel like they belong. Opening end July 2023.

#### **SALVOS STORES**

For second-hand clothing, furniture and toy donations.

Current locations are: Helensburgh, Sutherland, Menai, Engadine and Panania. Within the Salvos store, we have a space allocated for a Mission Leader/ Community Engagement Worker, who connects with community members offers pastoral care and refers to local services and churches.



# Focus on MIRANDA

Shire Salvos Miranda is our food relief and assistance centre situated in the heart of the Sutherland Shire. Here, we work alongside other Salvation Army services and partner organisations to champion positive change in the lives of people in need.



Formus Property's Adam Lucas, Shire Salvos' Mark Soper, The Salvation Army's Major David Collinson, and Formus Property's, Ben Fairfax at the Shire Salvos Miranda site, which will be redeveloped for greater missional use.

# Vision for greater impact becoming reality

The Salvation Army has entered into a partnership to re-develop it's Shire Salvos Miranda site, into a centre of transformation for the community in Sydney's South.

"There has been a growing demand for social support and faith pathway connections in the Sutherland Shire over many years," said Shire Salvos Team Leader Mark Soper. "This is something that Shire Salvos has dreamed and prayed about for the past 15 to 20 years. To see it starting to take shape is exciting!"

After a 12-month expression of interest process to find a partner that aligns with the principles, mission and vision for the site, in March 2023, The Salvation Army appointed, Formus Property, to work with it. The proposed re-development will include a purpose-built, holistic community centre that offers a variety of professional services and faith pathways for community members.

In addition to the new community centre, the partnership will explore building a mix of apartments, including affordable housing, a Salvos store at ground level, along with a social enterprise café, providing opportunities for social connection and job skills, building upon the over 55 years of great work by Shire Salvos personnel.

Mark says, a key part of the process is partnering with other organisations and churches to bring about positive transformation across the Sutherland Shire: "Already we have Salvation Army services operating from our Miranda site, such as Oasis Reconnect, Drive for Life, SAL Connect, casework and an alcohol and other drugs worker.

"We also partner with several churches and community services to deliver food relief throughout the week. I truly believe that unity will bring about revival. I believe that The Salvation Army is part of bringing churches together. It's already happening in the Shire, and this is just the beginning."

Shire Salvos will be looking for more partner organisations to operate from inside the new space, working together to bring holistic service delivery for people in need. "We would love to see people able to have a whole range of needs met in the one space," says Mark. "From housing, to counselling, and even having health and wellbeing professionals on site at various scheduled time so that people who are struggling can be assisted in all ways – body, mind and soul."

On-site construction is not expected to start until mid-2025. The development will be funded by Formus Property while aligning with The Salvation Army's mission, values and intent for the site.



Volunteers like Anna from The Tradies make a huge difference to the mission of The Salvation Army in the Sutherland Shire.

# Community Co-Op makes Tuesdays terrific at Shire Salvos Miranda

If you walk into Shire Salvos Miranda site on any given Tuesday morning, you'll probably smell a cake in the oven, hear the booming sound of laughter and definitely be greeted with a smile.

Shire Salvos Miranda food relief and assistance centre is a hub of services, including The Salvation Army's Drive For Life, Moneycare, OASIS Reconnect and Alcohol and Other Drugs counsellors. It also houses the Sutherland Shire Community Co-Op, a partnership between a number of local charities that provide food relief for individuals and families in need.

"The Co-Op was formed so that the charities involved could work together to fight food insecurity and poverty in the Sutherland Shire," says Shire Salvos Team Leader Mark Soper. "Rather than each of us having to source donated food for distribution, we centralised that all here at the Shire Salvos Miranda site.

You don't have every charity working hard on the same job, which then frees up time and resources for services to assist more people."

But such an undertaking needs hands and feet to make it happen. Local club, The Tradies, stepped up and committed its staff for the task. "We love helping people out. As a community organisation, that's one of our values," says General Manager, Jason McMaster.

Teams of volunteers from Tradies and the local community spend every Tuesday morning preparing boxes of fresh produce and grocery items for the Community Co-op participating charities.

These are then collected and used throughout the week at their various community meals, outreach events, or to give to community members they are helping to support.

An afternoon-shift of volunteers then packs 50 individual fresh-food hampers and 50 individual grocery hampers. And at 5pm, the day culminates with a delicious hot community meal supplied by partner charity One Meal, where members of the community can also take home the hamper bags and other donated food and goods.

# **SCAN**



To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Miranda. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Miranda, phone us on (02) 9542 9500



Drive for Life's Laurie Camilleri and Moira Guthrie at Shire Salvos Miranda.

# Sutherland Shire Youth given keys to their future

The Salvation Army's Drive For Life program at Shire Salvos Miranda supports young people between 16 and 25 who find obtaining their driver's licence challenging due to various life barriers.

"I really love this job," says Moira Guthrie from Drive for Life at Shire Salvos Miranda. "I see some amazing changes in young people's lives." Moira works with the young person to achieve their L-Plate licence. "It opens up so many opportunities to employment; it opens up their independence, setting goals, achieving them, seeing something through," she says.

After Drive for Life clients pass their L-test, they meet Laurie Camilleri, The Salvation Army's Drive for Life driving instructor. With two-hour lessons, Laurie usually develops a strong bond with his pupils, many of whom have experienced hardship in their lives, which has led to them being unable to gain their licence: "There's a lot of people on the program that don't have that support for whatever reason, they don't see their parents, they have no family, or they live in hostels or houses provided by project managers."

With the help of volunteer supervising drivers, the Drive for Life program can bridge this gap and help young people get to that all-important final stage of the driving journey, the practical driving test, and finally, achieving their provisional driving licence.

"You're not really just giving them their licence; you're setting them up for life, really."

## PANANIA



# Cafe Ministry in the heart of Panania

A key component of 'Salvos: The Village' is the building of a community focused café, which will be located at the front of the building, and provide a second access to the existing Salvos Store.

"From the street you will be able to see into the store from across the café deck and in through the café," says The Salvation Army, Panania Mission Leader/ Community Engagement Worker, Natalie Sheehan. "When people access the store through the main entrance they will pass the entrance to the café and a few small tables in the hallway. So, we will be co-located with the store but not directly in the store."

Shire Salvos Panania is the home of 'Salvos: The Village' – a café, Salvos Store, and mission hub in the south-west Sydney suburb. Here, we meet people where they are at, whether they're sustainable shoppers, locals experiencing hardship, or coffee-lovers!

The café is expected to be constructed and operational in mid-late 2023. "The Village was created from a heart to be a presence for all in our community. We dreamed of a place that operates like a town hall. Where all people from the community could come; be heard, be seen and feel welcome. The Village is all about loving people and helping people to realise their full potential," says Natalie.

Apart from great coffee and good conversation, Natalie's role as Mission Leader/ Community Engagement Worker in Panania, is to integrate The Salvation Army services and local mission delivery. An office situated right next door to the entrance of the café will have a glass door panel, and a separate entrance to the kids play area on the café deck. That way, people who need a confidential chat or require assistance, can seamlessly move from the café space into a space of service delivery. "And for parents who need to bring their children along, their kids can be playing in the safe play area on the deck, while the parent is speaking with a Salvation Army service provider."

As a community worker, Natalie is able to provide some financial and food assistance to people in need, as well as offer to journey with community members through the Positive Lifestyle Program (PLP). A Moneycare Financial Counsellor works part time at The Village and Natalie says, there are plans to integrate other services into the space in the future.

44

# The Village is all about loving people and helping people to realise their full potential!

Natalie, Mission Leader, Panania

Shire Salvos Panania - Services offered: Salvos Store, Positive Lifestyle Program, Case Management, Moneycare Financial Counselling, Emergency Relief, Café and small groups, Music and Play.







To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Panania. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Panania, phone us on (02) 9773 4107

# **MENAI**

Shire Salvos Menai is the home of The Salvation Army's gathered worshipping community in the Sutherland Shire. Here, all are welcome to worship on Sunday and connect with vibrant kids, youth and adults groups throughout the week. A Salvation Army community worker also works from the local Salvos store and other community locations.



Coffee Spot on Tuesdays is a connection point for adults looking for friendship and fun. Playgroup on a Friday and Music and Play on a Thursday, is a noisy, loving hub of support for local parents and their bubs. ONEighty Youth every Friday provides a safe, uplifting place for teens to learn about their unique identity and have fun. Sunday services offer beautiful worship and fellowship for all generations.

The Shire Salvos Menai sports hall is regularly used by local sporting teams for practice and games which means that from early morning until late at night, the centre is a buzz with locals living life at the Salvos.

"As The Salvation Army we believe in living life to the full," says Kym. "It's a joy to be able to share our faith with our local community through loving others the way Jesus loves us. It's like an open-home here, where everyone is welcome."

#### A bustling centre

On any given day of the week, you'll hear laughter, chatting, or singing emanating from Shire Salvos Menai. The bustling Salvation Army centre located in Bangor has been serving the community for more than 30 years and offers a range of connection programs for community members young and old.

"Shire Salvos Menai is like a family for many of the people involved, including me!" says Menai Mission Leader, Kym Briggs who coordinates Shire Salvos Menai with co-leader loel Campbell.

# SCAN



To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Menai. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Menai, phone us on (02) 9543 0487 SHIRE SALVOS MENAI – services offered: Salvos Store, Positive Lifestyle Program Playgroup, Music and Play, Moneycare Financial Counselling, ONEighty Youth group, Young Adults group, Coffee Spot

#### Meet, Michelle Wheatley

Greeting people with a big smile and a warm welcome when they enter the Salvos Store in Menai is Michelle Wheatley, Salvos Stores Menai Mission Leader/ Community Engagement Worker. She's tasked with living out The Salvation Army's four mission pillars - Caring for People; Working for Justice; Building Healthy Communities; and Creating Faith Pathways – both within the store setting and in the wider community of Menai.

"I'm here to come alongside people in our community," Michelle says. "To chat to people who are lonely, to refer people to services if they are in need."

"Everyone's important, everyone deserves to feel loved and valued and my role is to give people a sense of community so that they feel like they're part of something, and to know that someone loves and cares about them."

With Salvos Stores often the only point of contact members of our communities have with The Salvation Army, it makes sense to locate mission at the heart of the action. Michelle acts as a link in the chain between people in the community and the range of Salvation Army services available within the local area.

"I am a facilitator for The Salvation Army's Positive Lifestyle Program so I can come alongside people who want to take that journey," she says. "I'm also studying a Certificate IV in Community Services and I've completed my Mental Health First Aid course."

She's one of several new local Salvation Army community workers who base themselves at Salvos Store locations throughout the Sutherland Shire.



# **HELENSBURGH**

Shire Salvos Helensburgh is an established mission of The Salvation Army, delivering practical, emotional and spiritual support to the small village located just south of Sydney. Throughout the week, several support groups run from the local Salvos Store, or mission partner, The Cupbearer Café, and residents can access one-on-one support through Mission Leader, Lauren Martin.

#### **Boost your Friday**

"Boost your Friday" is a drop-in group based on The Salvation Army First Floor Program's 'Boosted' – a program designed to help boost psychological well-being. 2508 Salvos Mission Leader/ Community Engagement Worker, Lauren Martin, is based at the store on Fridays, running a drop-in assistance and information morning from 9-11am and then the 'Boost your Friday' group at 11am.

Her co-facilitator, The First Floor Program's, Chez Wilson, says every week, the possibilities of who will join the group are endless:

Mission Leader, Lauren Martin, and Boost your Friday, group

"This group is about so much more than positive psychology ideas, it's about growth, community, fun, encouraging each other and cheering each other on in healthy goals and new habits.

It's about understanding each other and meeting each other where we are at and a safe place to be yourself and perhaps make new friends in the community.'

One regular attendee, Carmen, says the group has enabled her to grow in a positive way: "I have gained a new respect for being kind to myself and that you can find gratitude in even the smallest of things that occur throughout the day."

Topics covered at 'Boost your Friday' include gratitude, kindness, mindfulness, expressive-writing and reminiscing. One regular participant, Ruth, says she has seen benefits in her wellbeing since she started attending. "Since I've been coming here, my mind has gotten clearer and I'm getting stronger in my mind, more positive."

Another woman, Barbara, said it was a "delight" to meet with other like-minded people "in an atmosphere of love, caring and friendship."

Boost your Friday is often the first contact that people have with the local Salvation Army and expands people's thoughts about The Salvation Army's work. "Many people think that The Salvation Army only helps people experiencing homelessness or gives people food," says Mission Leader, Lauren Martin. "But I've been able to explain to people our four pillars: Building Health Communities, Creating Faith Pathways, Caring for People and Working for Justice. Boost your Friday's often ticks all of those boxes."

2508 Salvos and the outdoor fitness company Fluro Fun N Fitness partner to deliver a free weekly walking group to encourage friendship and health.



Alison Hawley, Salvos Volunteer who runs the free weekly walking group.

# Friendship and Fitness at Free Walking Group

Run by Alison Hawley, who is a local Salvo volunteer and owner of Fluro Fun N Fitness, the group meets at the Rotunda at Charles Harper Park every Wednesday at 10am. "It's a great way to embrace the great outdoors, connect with other members of the community and take some time for yourself."

Alison is passionate about seeing people reach their full potential and believes connection with others and connection with nature are key. "Many people live in Helensburgh but haven't explored the local trails and I love showing people the beauty of where we live!" Her connection with The Salvation Army and its mission to build healthy communities inspired her to launch the walking group.

Shire Salvos Helensburgh – services offered:

- See Change course
- Positive Lifestyle Program
- Boost your Friday drop-in group
- Emergency financial Relief
- Case management & referrals
- Walking group
- Small groups
- Bible Study

# **SCAN**



To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Helensburgh. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Helensburgh, phone us on 0410 341 419

Focus On Helensburgh (cont.)

# **ENGADINE**

Shire Salvos Engadine is a local community mission operating out of the Engadine Salvos Store. It's a place where people can find friendship support, seek financial assistance, participate in The Salvation Army's Positive Lifestyle Program and be supported.

Mission Leader/ Community Engagement Worker at Shire Salvos Engadine, Chez Wilson, is a qualified caseworker who operates out of the Engadine Salvos store, to assist people in the community.

"I see myself as a link between what The Salvation Army can offer, as well as helping locals connect with other supports in the community. This could look like someone who is lonely coming in for a chat and a cup of coffee, someone who is in need of prayer, a new mum to the community looking for a playgroup or other women to connect with, or someone in addiction or escaping an abusive relationship, homeless or in need of financial assistance.



# **SCAN**



To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Engadine. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Engadine, phone us on (02) 9543 0487.

"My role is to meet people where they are at, listen and respond to their need and connect them with the right help and supports either in the local community or in the wider Local Government Area as appropriate."

Salvos Stores are often the first point of contact that people in the community have with The Salvation Army.

Mark Soper heads up The Salvation Army's work across the Sutherland Shire and said it makes sense to place a Mission Leader, like Chez, within a Salvos Store: "Our vision is to have a Salvation Army Mission Leader in every Salvation Army expression across the Sutherland Shire" he said.

"We want people to know that wherever they see The Salvation Army Shield, they can find someone who can assist them with whatever hardship they may be facing. That assistance may be in the form of, a referral to another Salvation Army or different partnering agency, it may be just that they need a listening ear and someone to support them, or we might be able to help them with food and other emergency assistance."

## SUPPORT

# Samara house, answer to prayer

Seven years ago, Mark Soper, Shire Salvos, arrived at Shire Salvos Menai early one morning and discovered a woman asleep in her car in the carpark.

"When she got out of the car, I could see she had been assaulted; fat lip, black eye and scratches on her arm and body. She didn't know where to go, so she came to the nearest Salvos. We gave her something to eat and she shared her story of domestic violence."

Mark and several Salvos worked with her to find somewhere to stay. They called hotlines and different services but nowhere was available in the Sutherland Shire. The closest place, was to accept three night's accommodation in a motel in Western Sydney, more than an hour away from her support service.

"When I went to bed that night, I said to myself, "We have to do more,"" remembers Mark.



A week later, two more women and families who had been impacted by domestic violence came to Shire Salvos Menai for help. God was opening the eyes of the local Salvos about the hidden crisis of family violence right in their local area and the burden on the hearts of those praying increased.

Mark started to do some research on the issue and met with local agencies. He discovered waiting lists for services. "The sad reality is that most services are in the city and Western Sydney, and so many women stay in vulnerable and dangerous situations because they don't want to take their kids from school and locate somewhere that is unknown to them, without their friends and support structures," he says.

## **SCAN**

To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos

After speaking with The Salvation Army leadership, he learned that there was no money available to fund an accommodation service in the area, yet he wrote a proposal anyway.

"Shortly after writing the proposal we were informed that a bequest had just been given to The Salvation Army specifically for families affected by domestic violence and escaping hardship. We were given the money we needed on a tight budget to buy a house!"

The home is called Samara House, which means "protected by God". Since then, Shire Salvos has been able to acquire another property – Chara House – to accommodate single women impacted by family/domestic violence and homelessness.

Over the years, a great partnership has formed with Kingsway Community Care - Platform 9, who do a lot of the emergency accommodation support in The Shire.

The Salvos are focusing more on transitional housing and partnering with Platform 9 for referrals and case management support.

"The best part is seeing lives changed," says Mark. "We're continuing to pray for more finances to invest in more properties throughout The Shire to fight against the housing and domestic violence crisis in our area, by provided transitional housing accommodation."

# FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN OUR WORK

