



# Wills Update

News & stories from The Salvation Army Wills & Bequests team

## A heart for the isolated Caring in Katoomba



Captain Colin Young shares breakfast with Katoomba locals

ADAM HOLLINGWORTH

until, one day, she just stopped and we were very concerned.

“So, we sent one of our welfare workers around to see her, and discovered her dog (who was her only companion) had died. The welfare worker found her alone in her house, which was in an abysmal state, with her dead dog. This poor woman was lost.

“Our worker also found out she had been suffering cancer for some time but had kept this secret. We were able to give her immediate help and support, get her to hospital and contact loved ones from interstate. Sadly, she has since passed away.

“Without coming to know others through the breakfast program, she almost certainly would have died alone, in her home, with absolutely no one to care. Instead, she died, loved and surrounded by friends...

“For some, the community breakfast is their only contact with others – and apart from the breakfast program, they are just isolated. These are people who are, in a way, lost as the world goes on around them. Our goal is to make this one place where they are truly cared for and valued as somebody special.”



ADAM HOLLINGWORTH

**“For around 80 per cent of the people who come to our breakfast service, it’s the only hot meal they will have for the day.”**

**Captain Colin Young**

It is the time of the Great Depression and stuck over the ‘welcome to town’ sign is another sign, which reads, ‘no jobs here – turn back’.

Although only a scene from one of his favourite movies, it is beginning to feel all too familiar to Katoomba based Salvation Army Captain, Colin Young.

Captain Colin heads The Salvation Army Upper Blue Mountains NSW Corps (church), which runs a welfare service, including a breakfast program (six days per week). In the past 12 months, demand for the service has doubled.

The breakfast program, which serves up to 200 meals each week, is made possible by bequest funding to The Salvation Army.

Captain Colin says: “It concerns me that we are beginning to see echoes of that depression time, when large numbers of individuals took to the road to find jobs and shelter. We are seeing more and more of these ‘displaced people’ than ever.

“The hope of finding cheap rent seems to be drawing an increasing number of people into the Blue Mountains.”

He says, however, many arrive and then have trouble securing housing. Others have prospective jobs fall through, and it can become all too easy to slip into the spiral of homelessness.

Many locals, often socially isolated because of mental health struggles, are also turning up for the breakfasts. Sharing these morning meals allows Captain Colin, and the team of 16 dedicated volunteers, to better understand the needs in the community.

Captain Colin says: “We had one woman who used to come to breakfast daily

## Farewell valiant friend

The Salvation Army, family, friends and ex-service personnel around Australia are mourning the loss of one of the longest serving Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services (RSDS) representatives. Brigadier John McCabe OBE, who passed away in July, aged 96.



Brigadier John McCabe OBE

John McCabe joined The Salvation Army at the age of 20, and served as a 'Sallyman' supporting the Australian defence forces in the Middle East, Ceylon, Korea, Papua-New Guinea and Australia.

He was the only RSDS representative to cross the Kokoda Track and the Sanananda Track (PNG) with 'his' men during World War II. Recalling the events years later, he said: "At one stage we existed for months on a daily ration of a 12 ounce can of bully beef and some dry biscuits. But we got through."

For 12 months, from 1951, John McCabe also served in Korea. He wrote at the time: "On D-Day I moved in with our RAP (Regimental Aid Post), and was able to see that the wounded men received a cup of tea - a small thing, but greatly appreciated under those circumstances..."

"Unfortunately my sole method of 'boiling up' was a small petrol burner, which only stopped for re-fuelling. That little stove must have boiled gallons of water during the period it was in use. Fires, of course, were right out, as we were within range of shelling and mortar fire from the enemy. Fortunately, nothing came our way..."

Although he could only occasionally give a short message, John McCabe's men had the best kind of preacher with them. True to his own philosophy, John McCabe lived out his beliefs, and his actions spoke more loudly about the One he represented than any sermon could have.

John McCabe later became a Salvation Army minister, serving in Corps (churches) in NSW and QLD, before retiring 30 years ago. Until recently, he was still helping others, working as a volunteer driver at The Salvation Army's Riverview Gardens facility.

In early 2007, a plaque was presented to John McCabe, by the 3 RAR Association, honouring the work of The Salvation Army RSDS and the Brigadier for his work as a 'Sallyman' during World War II and the Korean conflict. In April 2007, the plaque was placed permanently in Concord Hospital's Kokoda Memorial Garden in Sydney.

John and wife Elsie (who passed away in 2005) had five children. John is survived by the five, Joan, John, Jenny, Keith and Stephen, as well as 12 grandchildren.

In his book *Salvos With The Forces*, author Walter Hull concludes that Brigadier John McCabe OBE "represents all that is finest in a Red Shield representative."

## Excellence in aged care

A new \$12.8 million Salvation Army high care facility, for the frail elderly, recently opened within The Salvation Army Riverview Gardens Aged Care Centre, near Brisbane. It incorporates two wings, totalling 40 new high care places, each with en suite, and a third wing containing 10 refurbished high care places.

Salvation Army Riverview Gardens Manager, Pam Woolgar says the new facility is state of the art. Some rooms have beautiful views, en suites, internet, cable TV and telephone access. They have been designed to create a 'warm and welcoming' feeling for the residents who will call the facility home.

The Riverview centre also includes 118 hostel beds, 26 independent living units as well as a 25 bed dementia specialist unit. The centre aims to provide four levels of care – community, self care, hostel and nursing home.

Salvation Army Aged Care Property Projects Administrator Paul Campbell says: "This [Riverview] is The Salvation Army at its best. The project was \$360,000 under budget which allowed for an extra 40 beds."



Riverview Gardens high care facility

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