

# A brief illustrated history of The Salvation Army in New Zealand, Fiji & Tonga

**1882** Miss Arabella Valpy wrote to General Booth in London urging him to send officers to New Zealand and, to assist in bringing this about, included a bank draft for two hundred pounds.



Miss Arabella Valpy

**1883** General William Booth sent out two young officers, George Pollard and Edward Wright, who arrived in Invercargill via Melbourne on Easter Monday. They travelled to Dunedin and on 1 April 1883 held the first open-air meeting of The Salvation Army in New Zealand at the fountain (Cargill's monument). The Salvation Army's 'invasion' of New Zealand was a brilliant strategic success. By the end of 1883, 11 corps, from Invercargill to Auckland, had been firmly established.



Pollard



Wright

**1884** The Salvation Army began its social work in New Zealand with Prison Gate Brigades and Rescue Homes for women in Dunedin and Wellington. In August 1887, the Minister of Justice, the Hon J.A. Tole, paid public tribute to the work of the Army in bringing about the moral regeneration of many men who were unfortunately regarded as social outcasts. In one year 11,827 meals and 4,797 beds were supplied to discharged prisoners by the Auckland Prison Gate Home, and over three hundred men were provided with temporary accommodation.



Men's Prison Gate & Industrial Home, Epsom, Auckland

**1888** Ernest Holdaway began pioneering work with Māori on the Whanganui River. Under his dynamic leadership the influence of the Salvationists spread, and from Whanganui to Pipiriki and beyond, the Army canoes became well known in all the settlements, and the officers welcome on every marae.



Holdaway and Māori Touring Party, 1898

**1892** By this time The Salvation Army was running four rescue homes for women in the main cities, one maternity hospital for unmarried mothers in Christchurch, prison gate homes, and a labour bureau.



Rescue Home laundry cart, Caversham



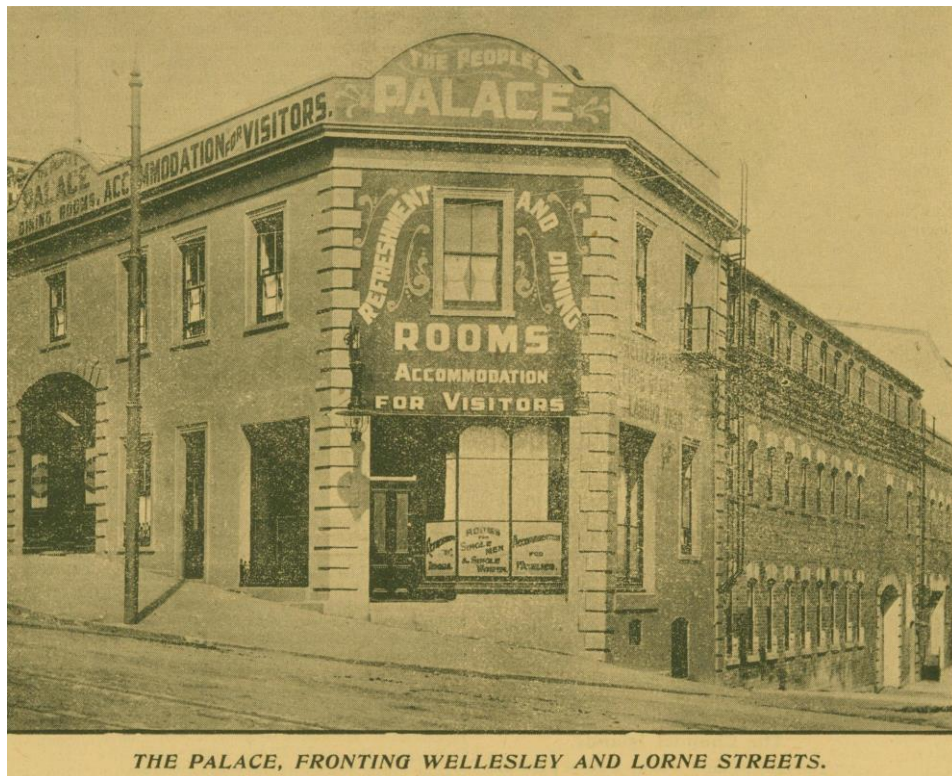
Rescue Home laundry cart, Parnell

**1893** There are 82 corps with more than 100 outposts, 300 officers, close to half of them women, and in the 1891 government census 9383 people registered themselves as Salvationists.



Newton Citadel, 1893

- 1903** The Auckland People's Palace opened and the first children's home opened in Wellington. The People's Palace provided liquor-free, reasonably inexpensive but good standard accommodation for the travelling public, including families with children.



*THE PALACE, FRONTING WELLESLEY AND LORNE STREETS.*

People's Palace, Auckland

- 1907** Pakatoa Island is purchased for work with those addicted to alcohol.



Pakatoa Island, circa 1938

**1910** Rotoroa Island is purchased for work with males addicted to alcohol and Pakatoa is used for work with females addicted to alcohol.



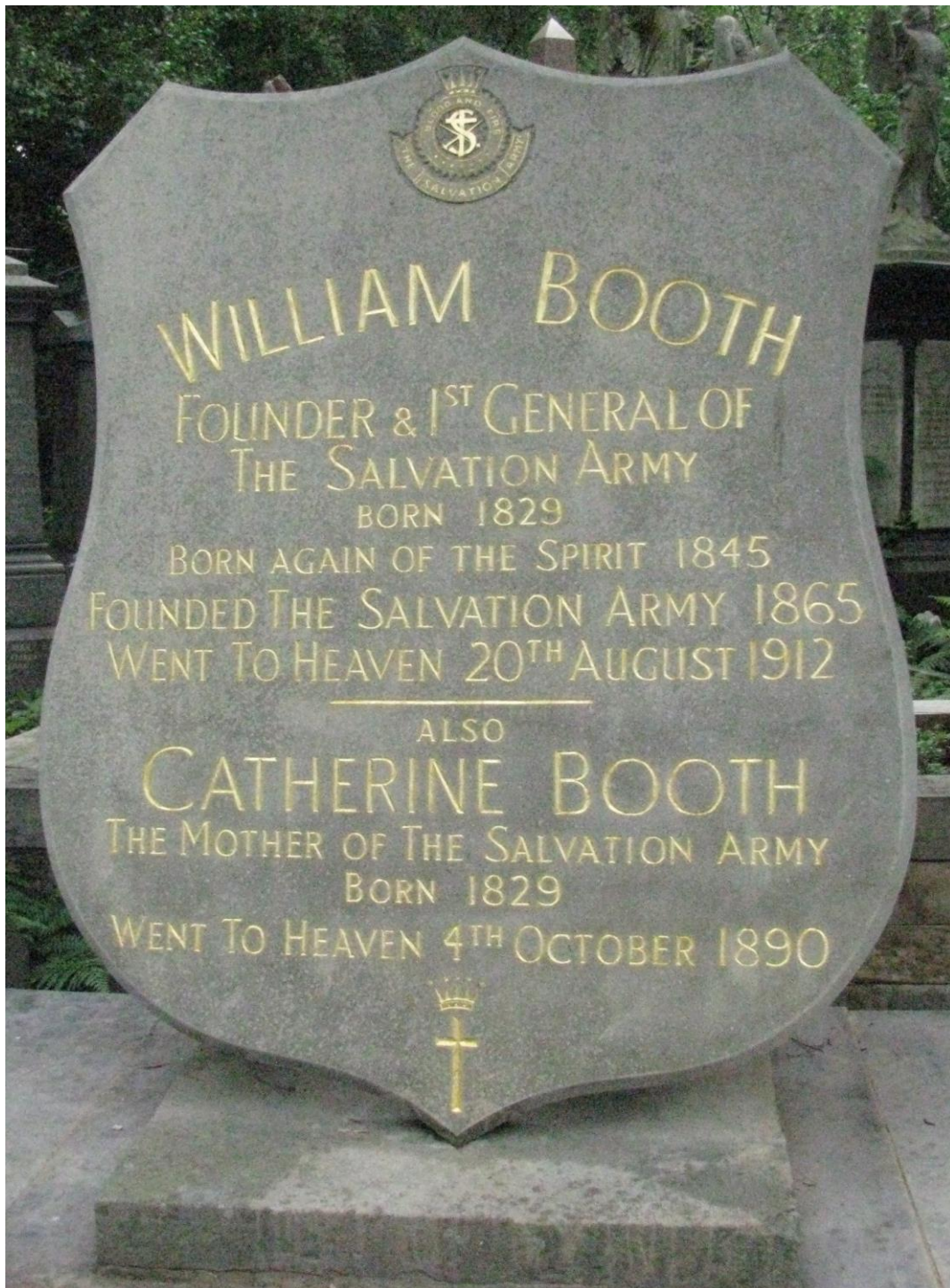
Rotoroa Island, circa 1929

**1911** The Salvation Army Life-Saving Guards and Scouts were established.



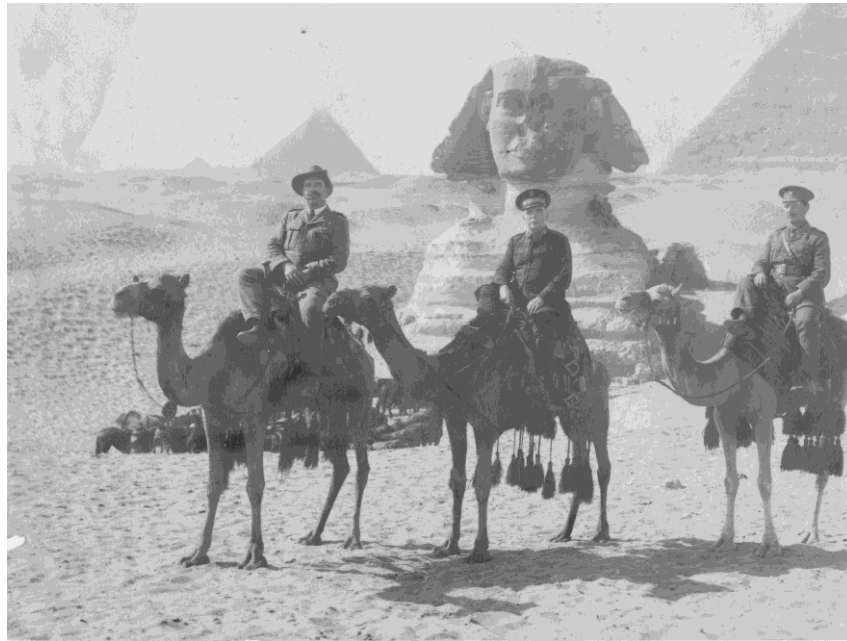
Sydenham Life-Saving Guards and Scouts, 1924

**1912** General William Booth was 'Promoted to Glory' and New Zealand became a Salvation Army Territory separate from Australia.



Booth Headstone, Abney Park Cemetery, London

**1913** Four New Zealand Salvation Army officers were gazetted as military chaplains. This was the first time in The Salvation Army's history that such appointments had been made in any part of the British Empire. The Territorial Commander, Commissioner W. J. Richards, selected Brigadier William Hoare, Staff-Captain David Gunn, Adjutant Andrew Gray and Adjutant Haywood, who were gazetted as Territorial Chaplains late in 1913. These were part-time appointments, and none of these initial appointees actually saw overseas service in the war. Eight Salvationists, out of the 130 New Zealand Chaplains, served abroad over the following four years: John S. Bladin, Edward L. Garner, Alfred Greene, Samuel S. Green, Charles Walls, Walter S. Winton, Donald Macauley and Herbert Colledge.



Captain Greene, Colonel Unsworth and Captain McKenzie, Egypt, 1915

**1914** World War I began and the William Booth Memorial Training College was opened in Aro Street, Wellington.



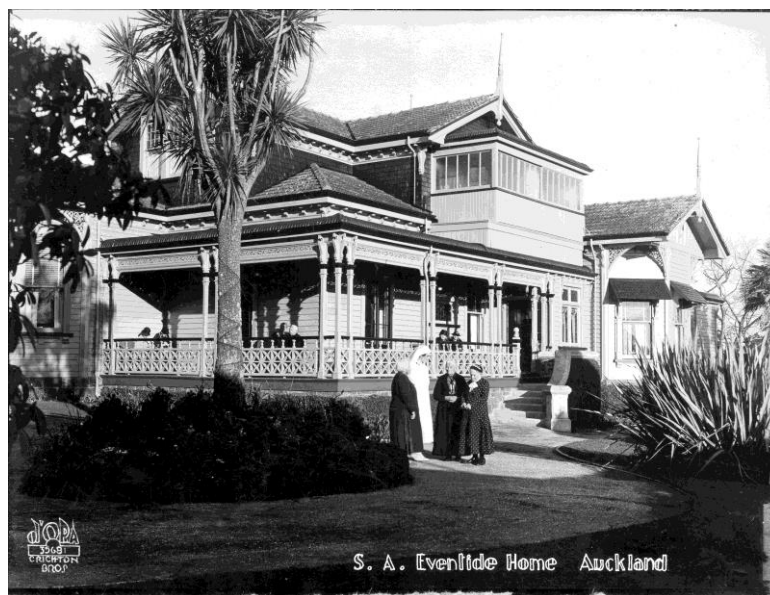
Training College opening, Aro Street, April 1914

**1917** Four New Zealand Salvation Army officers joined in a pioneer missionary venture to China. They were joined by officers from England, Australia, Sweden and Finland, and by 1940 13 countries represented The Salvation Army's missionary endeavours in China. This work fulfilled a desire of General William Booth. On his death bed one of the things the General said to his son Bramwell Booth was, "Promise me you will begin the work in China."



Eva Ludbrook, Peking circa 1920

**1925** The first Salvation Army Eventide Homes (rest homes for the elderly) were opened in Auckland and Wellington.



Eventide Home, Auckland



**1929** The beginning of the Great Depression and The Salvation Army was very much involved in relief work.



Envoy John Walker and mobile soup kitchen, 1931

**1941** World War II had commenced two years earlier. The Salvation Army in New Zealand had by 1941 established ten military camp institutes. The Institutes were there to provide a place of recreation, comfort, reading and writing along with a cuppa tea and a listening ear, a 'home away from home' for the wounded soldiers known as the "Blue Boys".



Red Shield Institute - Featherston

**1959** The Salvation Army established a newly named 'Bridge' programme in Wellington for alcohol and drug treatment. From the experience gained in Wellington a nationwide Bridge programme developed which would be officially recognised under the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act 1966.



Wellington Admission Centre, 35 Vivian Street

**1961** The Salvation Army presented its first 'telecast' in New Zealand lead by Wesley Simpson and he was promptly invited to do several more. The Waikato Times wrote "Hats off to The Salvation Army. The challenge in religious television programmes ...is to get ordinary people to stop, look and listen...The Army has met this challenge." In 1964 Lawrence Weggery was appointed to the Public Relations Department as Secretary for Broadcasting and Publicity (including Television) and he made a number of television appearances.



Lawrence Weggery

**1968** Salvationists assist victims of the TEV Wahine disaster.



Salvationist David Bennet assisting victims

**1973** Captains Brian and Beverley McStay pioneered the work of The Salvation Army in Fiji which now has eleven Corps, four outposts, three Family Care Centres, a farm project, two hostels, two sewing skills programmes and seven kindergartens.



Opening of Lomaivuna Hall, Fiji 1975

**1979** The school for Salvation Army officer training in Fiji was opened.



Class, School for Officer Training, Fiji

**1980** Employment programmes run by The Salvation Army were established. In 1980-81, 1500 young people were placed in permanent employment.



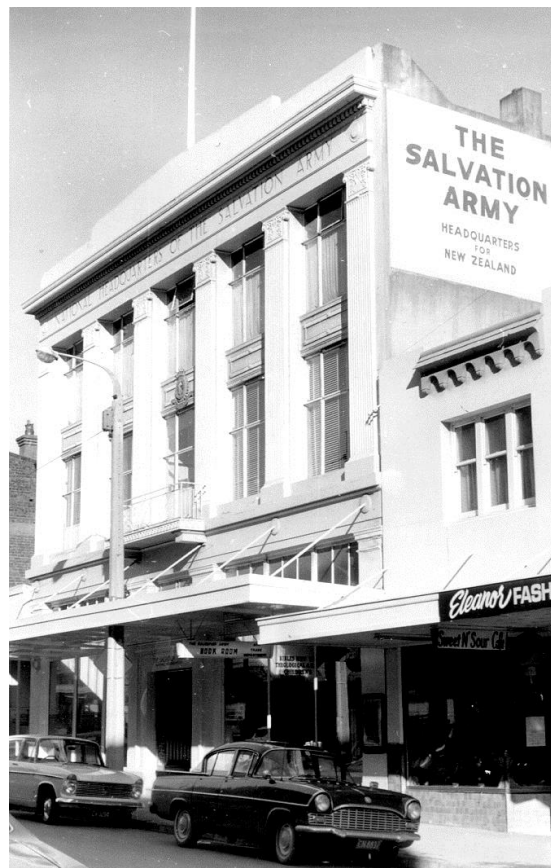
Prime Minister David Lange viewing a programme, Whakatane 1985

- 1986** The Salvation Army commenced its work in Tonga which now has four corps, 1 outpost, an addictions programme, a health team and mobile health clinic, a farming project and three kindergartens.



A float promoting the addictions programme. Tonga

- 1988** The Territorial Headquarters building on Cuba Street is demolished to make way for the new Territorial Headquarters building.



Territorial Headquarters, 1972

**1990** The new Territorial Headquarters building is opened by Anne the Princess Royal.



Territorial Headquarters, 1990



HRH Princess Anne

**1999** The Salvation Army establishes Oasis Centres for the treatment of addictions to gambling.



The opening of the Oasis Centre in Christchurch. 11 June 1999

**2005** In March 2005 a non-stop year of prayer, known as 24/7 Prayer was launched.



24/7 Prayer at Mirimar Corps, 2005

**2015** The international Salvation Army celebrated 150 years since it began. The celebration culminated in a special International Congress titled “Boundless” in London during July.

Today The Salvation Army serves in 128 countries around the world. In the New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory the Army has over 100 communities of faith (including 13 Recovery Churches) and myriad social programmes and services supported by five hundred officers, 8000 members, 2800 employees and many volunteers.

