

THE SALVATION ARMY
Territorial Headquarters

TOWN HALL MEETING
NEW BEGINNINGS
Thursday 3rd July 2014

INTRODUCTION

Today is a day of new beginnings. Under God, we are moving forward, following a difficult time in our history.

Yesterday was Founder's Day – William Booth commenced The Salvation Army 149 years ago and it began in Australia in Adelaide in September 1880.

The first territorial headquarters was based at 63 – 69 Goulburn Street Sydney

It is interesting to read in our history books that 140 Elizabeth Street was purchased in 1926 and the Army did not need the whole building for its own use immediately, so several floors were leased to tenants.

This current THQ building and Sydney Congress Hall was then rebuilt and officially opened on 20th October 1990.

For many years now, the Territorial Operations Council has been seeking to address the inadequacy of our current THQ building which is in need of extensive upgrade and it is cramped as many well know. For example, up to 4 people now occupy a space that was originally designed for one person. And yes, there has been an increase in staff numbers at THQ in line with new initiatives and programs and everyone needs to be accommodated.

All options have been considered and, after looking at numerous buildings over a number of years, we have now been able to identify a suitable property for a new Territorial Headquarters for the Australia Eastern Territory.

We have looked at buildings in the CBD, Darling Harbour, Strathfield, Parramatta, Hurstville but I am pleased to announce that in this day of new beginnings Territorial Headquarters will be moving to 261 - 265 Chalmers Street, Redfern - formerly the South Sydney Leagues Club. We see this as an investment for the future of The Salvation Army in this Territory.

The purchase will be funded through the sale of other properties of The Salvation Army and investment funds of the Territory. Current invested funds will be used to purchase the building which will give a greater return than current bank interest.

It is important that I stress that no donated funds from the Red Shield Appeal will be used for this relocation and I reiterate we are investing in the future of the Territory.

The building has two main tenants (one being a Woolworths supermarket) and this will provide investment income for the Territory in the years to come. In relation to the two main tenants, the rental to The Salvation Army from their tenancy is 8% per annum. The total building with us as the main tenant will return over 3%.

The building is more than adequate to house us now and the acquisition is futuristic in terms of there being adequate space well into the future for any possible expansion of Territorial Headquarters.

We will be moving other THQ-related services from current rented premises across the city and this will equate to a saving in rent payments of over \$500,000 per annum to the Territory.

The building has 175 car parking spaces – some for tenants but more than adequate for our needs.

We plan to keep this current building and our inner-city church, Sydney Congress Hall Corps, will remain at this current site. There will be an upgrade to the building and then the current THQ office space will be leased on a commercial basis which will generate further income for the Territory – estimated to be \$1 million per annum.

This decision has not been taken lightly. There has been a lot of prayer and research carried out over a number of years.

Extensive discussion has taken place at Territorial Operations Council and with the Territorial Advisory Board. We are indebted to the sound advice of the Territorial Advisory Board members.

As I have stated, it is a day for new beginnings and further information will be presented to you by Peter Alward, our Territorial General Manager of Property; and Ruth Hampton, our Territorial HR Manager.

I want to thank you for your ongoing service to God through The Salvation Army. Thank you for your commitment to our mission.

Our mission is that people will find freedom

I leave with you some verses of Scripture from John chapter 17 verses 20 – 23 – the words of Jesus where **he prays for believers that we will be one in heart and mission**

“I’m praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in me because of them and their witness about me.

The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind – just as you, Father are in me and I in you, so they might be one heart and mind with us.

Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so they’ll be as unified and together as we are – I in them and you in me.

Then they’ll be mature in the oneness, and give the godless world evidence that you’ve sent me and loved them in the same way you’ve loved me.”

Thank you.