

# Salvation Army takes to the skies

'Flying padre' to operate new service



By **STUART CUMMING**

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TOOWOOMBA and Western Downs Salvation Army officer-in-charge Captain Mark Bulow is adding "the flying padre" to his already extensive title.

The Salvation Army will operate a new outback flying service in southern Queensland this summer.

A Robinson 44 Raven II helicopter has been redeployed from north Queensland for an outback flying ministry to begin operation in January.

Captain Bulow will pilot the helicopter on missions from the coast to the South Australian border.

He said he had previously driven as far as Miles from his Toowoomba base to support rural people.

"Having a helicopter will significantly cut down on my travel time, allowing me to increase the amount of rural families I can minister to," Capt. Bulow said.

He learned to fly fixed wing aircraft at the Darling Downs Aero Club before completing his helicopter pilot training at Heliwest Group in Toowoomba about six weeks ago.

"I've always wanted to do the flying padre service."



**UP AND AWAY:** Salvation Army Captain Mark Bulow and his wife Jo-anne Bulow test out a new helicopter which will serve southern Queensland.

PICTURE: KEVIN FARMER

Capt. Bulow said he would offer a range of services to people in rural areas, including weddings, funerals and welfare for those in need.

"What we do in the big cities is what we want to be able to do in the rural communities as well."

Capt. Bulow said his main aim would be to meet with people and listen to their stories.

"We will go to see anybody." He is excited by the prospect of reaching more people in his role.

"I can't wait. "It is going to be great."