

**FEATURE**

The real stories behind gambling harm

**NEWS**

Salvos' transition to rooftop solar

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A new outlook on life

# *The holiday gift from God*

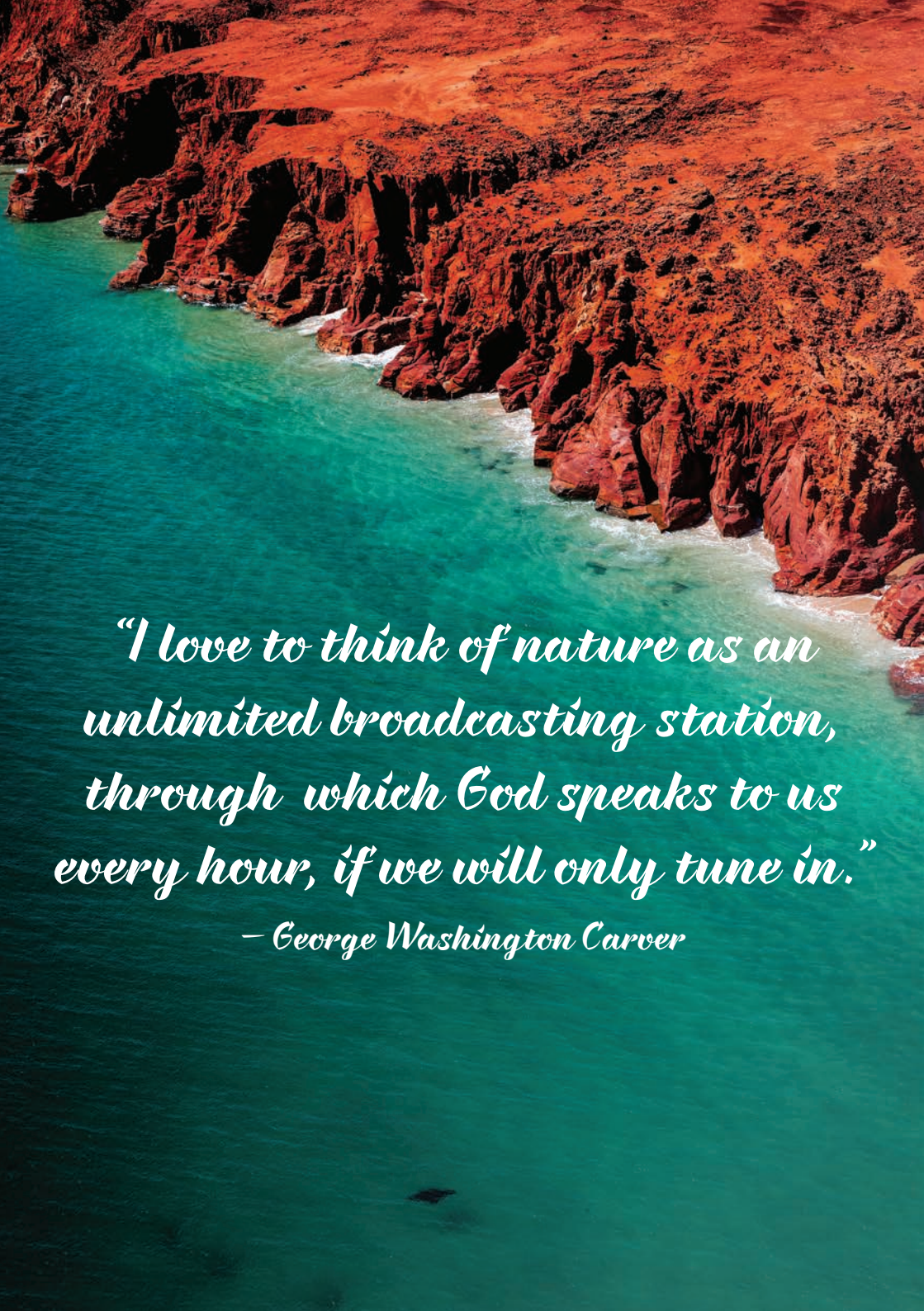
Finding peace through who you were made to be



# SALVOS

MAGAZINE



An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. The land is composed of layered, reddish-orange rock formations that drop steeply to the sea. The water is a clear, vibrant turquoise color, with white foam from breaking waves visible at the base of the cliffs. The overall scene is bright and colorful, capturing the natural beauty of the landscape.

*“I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.”*

*— George Washington Carver*



## The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

### What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

### 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.

### Mission Statement

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

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

# Salvos Magazine

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**General** Brian Peddle

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 [salvosmagazine.org.au](http://salvosmagazine.org.au)



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The holiday gift from God



### My Story [12]

A new outlook on life

## Encouragement

For many of us, the summer holidays are over, we are back at work, and the school routine is about to begin again. Maybe we're looking forward to 2022. Or perhaps we're already feeling tired and overwhelmed, knowing that a new year is not going to bring positive changes in our health, employment, relationships or sense of hope.

Whatever our circumstances, most of us need, enjoy and appreciate genuine encouragement. It can be comforting, motivating, reassuring and, well, encouraging!

Encouragement is one of our busy society's most-needed gifts and, often, one of its most lacking. It is not always easy or convenient to give and yet can make a difference in the lives of its recipients.

In Faith Talk, Dean Simpson writes about the spiritual gift of encouragement and shares how finding that this gift has helped him listen to and support a wide range of people.

We may not be able to encourage all those we meet, but perhaps today, there is someone we can acknowledge, appreciate and support, and in whose life we can make a difference.

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**



# Taking action towards reconciliation

Looking back on the steps forward in 2021

**WORDS** Lucy Davis

The Salvation Army Australia launched its official Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in December 2020, reflecting a commitment to reconciliation and truth-telling in this nation.

During the consultation and development phase of the national RAP, we embarked on a journey of learning. We gained a better understanding of how we can walk alongside our First Nations peoples and how we can contribute to addressing the challenges they face as a daily reality.

As a faith movement, the Salvos' aim is to respect, value, and acknowledge the unique cultures, spiritualities, histories, and languages of the oldest surviving culture in the world and to engage in a unified and positive relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

One year on, we have made some outstanding progress on our journey of facilitating reconciliation practices. Although we still have a way to go, the improvements made within one year demonstrates the ongoing commitment from our personnel, officers (pastors), volunteers, and faith community towards reconciliation in Australia.

Out of the 89 deliverables outlined in the RAP, to date, we have embedded or completed 81. This is a great sign of our growth and its impact on the First Nations communities we work in. These communities will continue to be the focus of our work.

We have established 11 formal and 11 informal partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander organisations in one year. The Salvos National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team members have been pivotal in their engagement with these organisations, ensuring they are collaborative, equally beneficial, and impactful.

“

**Through respectful relationships, we will work for the mutual flourishing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.**

”

Throughout 2021, senior Salvos leaders or members of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team led external and internal events across the nation. These events enabled our faith community and others to come together in respect, support, and celebration of First Nations' communities and traditions. From weaving webinars to guest speakers reflecting on the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart', we came together to learn and grow in unity.

For the promotion of NAIDOC Week 2021, the Salvos had the wonderful opportunity of creating an awareness TV commercial for SBS – Australia's multicultural and multilingual broadcaster. Three videos were produced,



Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Project Development Coordinator Lucy Davis (orange shirt) with Salvation Army participants and elders at the Cherbourg Aboriginal Community Settlement in the South Burnett district north-west of Brisbane.

with one highlighting the RAP and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Framework as a road map to reconciliation. You can watch the 30-second video at [youtube.com/watch?v=4PFRtRgm\\_-w](https://youtube.com/watch?v=4PFRtRgm_-w)

### YARNING CIRCLES

Through our consultation and RAP development process, the organisation formed several 'yarning circles'. These were a major influence in developing our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Framework. Outcomes from this framework included the Cultural Learning Approach and Cultural Learning Standard.

As of August 2021, we have a 76 per cent completion rate of cultural learning from personnel, officers, and volunteers. Over 7500 employees have completed our e-learning program, and 220 have completed the face-to-face learning program. We are so proud of this achievement. It is one of the greatest reflections of our combined commitment and participation as a faith movement to growing our understanding of First Nations communities and their unique cultures.

I want to acknowledge the amount of goodwill Salvos and community members across Australia have taken in embracing and participating in this journey of reconciliation.

A deep commitment to reconciliation, justice, and respect is at the heart of all Salvation Army programs and partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. We also acknowledge the future aspirations of all First Nations peoples. Through respectful relationships, we will work for the mutual flourishing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. We commit ourselves in prayer and practice to this land of Australia and its people, seeking reconciliation, unity, and equity.

For more information on the RAP, go to [salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/governance-policy/our-commitment-to-reconciliation](https://salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/governance-policy/our-commitment-to-reconciliation)



Scan here for more on the need for community.

# The real stories behind gambling harm

Recovery journey starts with taking the first step

**WORDS** Jessica Morris

Isolde Scherrer and the team at the Salvos Gambler's Help service know that gambling robs people of their livelihood. Every week, they help people impacted by gambling to put their lives back together. The vast majority of those seeking help are gamblers themselves – but a quarter are people impacted by someone else's gambling, and they are desperate.

Isolde and the team at the Salvos Melbourne Counselling Service prefer to keep the spotlight on their clients' stories, and they are passionate about erasing the stigma that keeps people from speaking up about gambling harm.

“

**I know that the people we work with can experience positive changes in their lives.**

”

“When clients do reach out for support, they are breaking the mould,” explains Isolde, Community Engagement Coordinator for Gambler's Help City and Inner North. “More often than not we see clients when they are at rock bottom – when they are about to lose their house, relationship, job.

“We also see repeat clients who have relapsed. It takes courage for people to persevere on their recovery journey. It takes a lot of strength to open up your life and share your struggles, and to trust when feeling vulnerable; and that is the start of the recovery journey.

“The trend is that the people who experience harm from their own gambling often don't recognise the harm they are experiencing or how their gambling is impacting others. It often takes a partner, family member or friend to point this out. We want people to seek support early when they notice signs of gambling harm in someone else or themselves.”

## EVERYDAY IMPACTS

Situated on floor two of The Salvation Army's Project 614 in Bourke Street, Gambler's Help is part of The Salvation Army's Melbourne Counselling Service. It offers free, confidential, financial, and therapeutic counselling to people experiencing, or impacted by, gambling harm. Most are referred through the Gambler's Help Hotline and partnered Alcohol and Other Drugs Services, or are self-referrals.

In a city dependent on gambling revenue, it is a vital resource for locals. Many grapple with their own stigma against gambling harm – and that's where the Melbourne Counselling Service's preventative work plays a crucial role, reaching about 1000 people every year.

“I offer community education sessions to



corporate and not-for-profit organisations, with the intention of starting a conversation about gambling harm [so we can] offer small ways that people and organisations can make a difference," says Isolde.

"And we're making a difference through our Schools Program. I talk to students about gambling facts, how much is spent on advertising, and spotting signs of harm. With all the gambling advertising around it provides the facts."

This passion keeps Isolde and the team motivated as they help people overcome gambling harm every day.

"I know that the people we work with can experience positive changes in their lives," continues Isolde. "For many, it's about finding ways to minimise harm from their gambling. People gamble for many different reasons; sometimes it's to find a community and belonging, sometimes it's to escape difficult feelings or a difficult life. We explore ways that people can meet their needs without being worse off financially, emotionally, or socially."

"Every client's journey looks different and some persevere, sometimes for decades, on their recovery journey. As our client stories show, for them it was worth it."

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

Gambling harm isn't isolated – 50 per cent of Australian adults gamble, and for every person who experiences gambling harm, up to six are impacted. It's one of the reasons the Salvos have chosen to partner with the #RethinkAddiction campaign, which exists to change the conversation about addiction in Australia. And that, says Isolde, is also a vital message for the wider community.

"If you experience gambling harm, or are aware of someone else experiencing harm, please reach out for support. It's available and confidential. And if someone doesn't feel comfortable accessing counselling, there's also peer supports, online chat and online resources."

To read client stories, see pages 12-13.

For more information, visit  
[melbournecounsellingservice.org.au](https://melbournecounsellingservice.org.au).  
 For assistance call Gambler's Help on  
 1800 858 858.



Scan here for details on Salvation Army Financial Services.

## AGL powers Salvos' national transition to rooftop solar



The Salvation Army has embarked on a 15-year renewable energy partnership with AGL, which will enable it to reduce its carbon emissions and cut running costs across its social services.

AGL has begun the heavy lifting on the road to installing solar energy systems at more than 850 Salvos sites across Australia, with the first site commissioned at Coburg, Victoria.

Based on the past financial year's usage, the solar project is forecast to generate approximately 23 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy per year, reducing the Salvos' annual greenhouse gas emissions by at least 17,500 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

The Salvation Army's Chief Secretary, Colonel Winsome Merrett, said, "Substantial savings on running costs frees up additional funds for caring for vulnerable Australians.

"However, this is not a project we could have even contemplated without AGL taking on the capital costs and partnering with us through the operational years.

"So, we are sincerely grateful for the commitment shown by AGL to set us on a more sustainable path across Australia as we care for people and our planet."

AGL Chief Customer Officer, Christine Corbett, said, "The partnership with The Salvation Army is centred around supporting the not-for-profit to decarbonise and be part of Australia's evolving energy transition.

"The Salvation Army has been helping Australian communities for 140 years and we are proud to be powering their decarbonisation journey," Ms Corbett said.

"By installing low-emission technology like solar we are creating affordable solutions so the Salvos can do what they do best and direct their resources to those who need it most."

The joint venture with AGL will also position the Salvos to decarbonise their mobile outreach services through trial battery storage and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at select locations across Australia.



Have you taken care of your Will?



A gift in your Will can help The Salvation Army create a long-lasting impact in the lives of those experiencing hardship.

Together, we can give hope where it's needed most and you can start or continue your legacy of generosity.

For information or a free a copy of Your Will booklet



Please contact:

salvationarmy.org.au/wills  
or scan the QR code



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# The holiday gift from God

Finding peace through who you were made to be

**WORDS** Dean Simpson

I love holidays, especially travelling somewhere with my family. But in the middle of last year, I took a two-week 'staycation', intending to tick off a long list of jobs around the house.

Little did I know that God had other plans for me.

In recent years, I have been asking God what my spiritual gift is now that I am in my mid-50s. Throughout the first five decades of my life, I have 'tried on' various gifts in service for God.

I have done a lot of youth and children's work, I've played various brass instruments in Salvo bands, I've been part of sports ministries, I've worked on Christian magazines, and I've even used my ability to draw to get God's message out into the world.

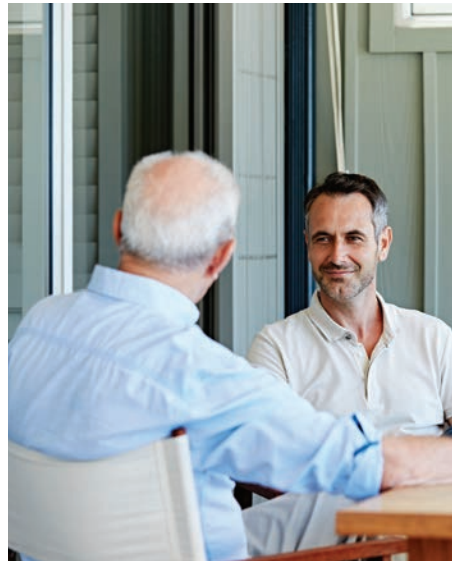
But I've never felt like any of these areas was a 'true' spiritual gifting. This continued to bug me for many years.

I was only a couple of days into my two weeks off when my mate Doug\* called. He'd been having a hard time lately and wanted to catch up. He came over the following day, and I sat and listened to his story. He had just been made redundant from his job, and his wife had left him. A former drug addict, Doug found himself at rock bottom and tried to take his life by taking an overdose. He was

now living in emergency accommodation and needed someone to talk to.

So, I listened to Doug's story over the next hour, offered some encouragement, and prayed with him. I continue to catch up with him now and then.

A few days later, I bumped into Aaron\* at the shops. Recently divorced and with custody of his daughters, Aaron had just been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. It had turned his world upside down. How was he going to work, care for his daughters, and cope with the health journey ahead of him? I offered to sit down and have a coffee with him straight away, and he gratefully accepted.



So, over the next hour in a little cafe, I listened to Aaron's story, offered some encouragement, and prayed with him. I continue to catch up with him now and then.

During the second week of work leave, a neighbour, Mick\*, walked past as I was gardening. We chatted, and he told me he had a teenage son who was "going through a tough time".



I invited Mick in for a cuppa, and over the next hour, he admitted he was struggling to be a “good dad” to his son. I listened to Mick’s story, offered some encouragement, and prayed with him. I continue to catch up with him now and then.

Around this time, my wife and daughter completed a personality course. In short, it identifies personality types, describing patterns in how people interpret the world and manage their emotions.

My wife and daughter identified that I have a “gift of listening and offering encouragement”, and this resonated with me.

It was an enlightening moment. I felt peace inside. I no longer felt jealous of the worship singer on stage, obviously using their God-given gift, or envious of the evangelist saving dozens of souls a week. I could be me, using my godly gift of “listening and offering encouragement” to others.

Finding my ‘spiritual gift’ in this stage of life has changed my outlook. I find it easy to chat

with people, listen to their stories, and offer encouragement and a prayer.

That two-week ‘staycation’ turned out to be a life-changing ‘holiday’. And I still got to tick off many jobs on my to-do list around the house!

The Bible teaches that we all have spiritual gifts. In 1 Peter, chapter four, verse 10, it says, “Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So, use your gift well.”

Have you discovered your gift from God? How might you engage and explore it with God and others?

*Dean Simpson is part of the Communications team for The Salvation Army Australia.*

*\*Names have been changed for privacy*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# A new outlook on life

Jenna\* and Gavin\* rebuild their lives after assistance from the Salvos Gambler's Help

**WORDS** Jessica Morris

**Jenna and Gavin are two clients The Salvation Army Gambler's Help service have supported in 2021 (see article pages 6-7). Below are their stories.**

## JENNA, AGED 28

For seven years, Jenna was in a long-term relationship with a partner who gambled regularly on sports betting apps. He took out personal loans in Jenna's name, and didn't repay them. When the couple broke up, Jenna was stalked and experienced violence. As a result, she moved to a new house and changed her contact number. Her ex-partner later passed away due to substance abuse, leaving Jenna responsible for loan repayments while she grappled with depression and anxiety. She quickly fell behind on the repayments, despite working full-time.

"The impact of the relationship left me feeling manipulated, with broken promises and broken trust," she says.

Jenna approached Gambler's Help, who arranged a three-month moratorium on her personal loan with no extra charges, giving her time to make a plan. With the help of a financial counsellor, she then requested debt waivers under the Family Violence Scheme. Jenna still works to pay off some of this debt and is under some financial distress. However, she now has a budget, and periodically works closely with a financial counsellor. Today Jenna's mental health is greatly improved, and she is starting a new chapter in her life.



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES





PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

### **GAVIN, AGED 60**

Gavin has had a successful professional career and is now in retirement. He has hidden his sexual identity as a gay man from his family and friends all his life and has relied on gambling to escape his feelings of shame. Unfortunately, Gavin has accrued many debts with his loved ones as a result of his gambling. During lockdown, he was unable to gamble at the pokies, and decided he wanted to overcome his unhealthy gambling habits, repay his debt, and find community where he feels accepted.

"[I want] to feel part of the community without feeling the shame," he says.

Gambler's Help enabled Gavin to create a budget and a sustainable payment plan

so he could pay off his debts to family and friends. Due to this, he had no savings left and, coupled with his social isolation, struggled with his mental health. Gambler's Help connected him with a therapeutic counsellor, who worked with him to find networking solutions so he could identify and accept his sexuality. This led him to a support group that will help him engage and build on social connections within the local LGBTQIA+ community. Gavin already has a more positive outlook on life and is feeling more comfortable with his sexuality.

Call Gambler's Help on **1800 858 858**.

For more information on the Melbourne Counselling Service, visit [melbournecounselingservice.org.au](https://melbournecounselingservice.org.au)

*\*Names have been changed.*

## Apple cinnamon lunchbox bars



PHOTO: ANDREA REDFORD

### Ingredients

1 Granny Smith (green) apple, 3 cups rolled oats, 2 tsp baking powder, 2 tsp cinnamon, 1 cup apple puree, 1 cup milk, ¼ cup honey, 2 tbsps butter (melted), 2 tsp vanilla extract.

### Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C. Line a 15cm x 30cm rectangular pan with baking paper.
- Peel and then grate the Granny Smith apple and squeeze out excess juice.
- In a large bowl, mix grated apple, rolled oats, baking powder, and cinnamon.
- In a jug, whisk together puree, milk, honey, butter, and vanilla.
- Pour wet ingredients into bowl with dry ingredients. Mix well.
- Pour mixture into prepared pan and bake for 30 minutes. Once cool, slice into nine rectangle bars.

## Tum-Tum

On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



## Quick quiz

1. In which year was the first Wimbledon Championship held?
2. What is the painting 'La Gioconda' more usually known as?
3. About how many taste buds does the average human tongue have?
4. What are the three primary colours?
5. Which geometric shape is generally used for stop signs?
6. Which colour moves first in chess?

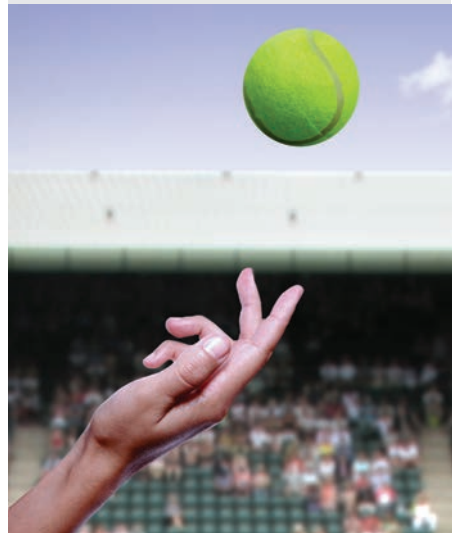


PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

## Bible byte

Jesus looked at them and replied, "With people it is impossible, but not with God – God makes all things possible!"

Mark chapter 10, verse 27

*The Passion Translation*

B O L S S S N R N R H P L E A R N I N G  
 N Y R O T S I H G G T C S C S L N J I S  
 T A K E K C P S I J I P A N H S O S H T  
 C Y S I R S C H S O M B D E O H E O C U  
 E L E K O U H T S A E T A I B M S A C D  
 A I Y M W P S M S M T K N C O S P S I Y  
 T C R R E P H T E E A N L S K L B S L H  
 K E A S M L S A X U B K H B O P C O O K  
 T L M M O I E A T H L G E O G R A P H Y  
 S H I O H E M N A D E L H M R B L C O T  
 G C R O M S P L G O E C E S O D E M K L  
 R I P R U H C C A L S S S O R N N B W L  
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 T C Y O L E N C P S E O H S E S Y D G X  
 S N I H L O O H C S H G I H P S P L S R

# Wordsearch

Words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Assignments | Learning  |
| Backpack    | Library   |
| Books       | Lunchbox  |
| Calendar    | Maths     |
| Classroom   | Primary   |
| Desk        | Project   |
| English     | School    |
| Exams       | Science   |
| Friends     | Shoes     |
| Geography   | Students  |
| High School | Study     |
| History     | Supplies  |
| Homework    | Term      |
| Laptop      | Timetable |

## HAVE A LAUGH

"I like telling Dad jokes. Sometimes he laughs!"

When will the little snake arrive? I don't know, but he won't be long.

6:30 is hands down the best time on the clock.



What do dentists call their x-rays? Tooth pics!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Adults lose about 4kg of skin cells every year.

An octopus has three hearts.

An average person will sleep for 229,961 hours in their lifetime.

Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

Answers: 1. 1877, 2. The Mona Lisa, 3. 10,000, 4. Red, yellow, and blue, 5. Octagon, 6. White, Tum-Tum: is hiding behind the roof on page 8.



*Eva Burrows*  
College



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