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Right side up

# A priceless work

International Volunteer Day



# SALVOS

MAGAZINE





“Volunteers don’t get paid,  
not because they’re worthless,  
but because they’re priceless.”

- Sherry Anderson



## 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



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

# Salvos Magazine

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**General** Brian Peddle

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**Right side up**



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**The heart of Christmas**

## Valuing volunteers

International Volunteer Day is just around the corner – 5 December. The Salvos are among the many organisations, locally, nationally and globally, that rely on volunteers to keep their work and services running effectively and, in many cases, just to keep them running!

Around the world, Salvo volunteers serve those who need help physically, emotionally, economically and spiritually. They help run playgroups for families with children with disabilities, oversee evacuation centres in times of disaster, assist victims of war, and chat with the lonely in local communities.

Volunteers serve from air-conditioned halls, tents in disaster zones, and from cars, bikes and vans. They serve on the streets, in prisons, in domestic violence shelters and in hospitals, local churches, and community gardens.

Volunteering can be time-consuming, inconvenient and challenging. It can also be motivating and life-changing. Several volunteers we spoke to said they do it “to give back”, “to help fellow humans”, and to “be part of making the world a better place”.

On 5 December, and every day, we thank our volunteers.

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

# A priceless work

## International Volunteer Day

Every year, on 5 December, The Salvation Army pauses to recognise the efforts of volunteers across the globe by celebrating International Volunteer Day. The Salvos are privileged to be joined and supported by thousands of volunteers internationally in the 133 countries in which we work.

The volunteers work in a wide variety of ways, including at local churches, in community programs, youth work, international development, emergency services, outreach to seniors, medical services, cleaning, food preparation, driving, secondhand stores, pastoral care and helping to restore economic, social, ecological and spiritual relationships.

"This International Volunteer Day, I take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to all volunteers across every Salvation Army territory, for the gift of who you are and what you do," said General Brian Peddle, International Leader of The Salvation Army.

"A truth I have long known is that volunteers are a lifeline to all that we do; we couldn't bring hope and make a difference without you, without volunteers. So, thank you and God bless all of our volunteers today, and always."





# Family violence in the spotlight

Salvos to launch new model of care

**WORDS** Anthony Castle

**Earlier this year, the Salvos launched their Social Justice Stocktake report – a map of social justice priorities across Australia. Not surprisingly, family and domestic violence was high on the list of issues that concern Australians around the country.**

“We sourced 100 responses from every single electorate,” explains Chelsea Boyle, Salvos Policy and Advocacy Adviser. “We asked about the social justice issues people thought were a challenge and family violence appeared in the top five issues in every single state and territory.”

“

**Family violence at its core is an attempt by one person to control another.**

”

More than 15,000 Australians responded to the report questionnaire in the lead-up to the release of the report in February.

One woman, on average, is murdered by her partner each week. Research also reveals the COVID pandemic coincided with the onset of physical or sexual violence or coercive control for many women. While the issue came to national attention last year when an estimated 110,000 people across Australia participated in the Women’s

‘March4Justice’ events, there was a reluctance to respond among some decision-makers. Many felt it was a failure to listen.

## **FORMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE**

“Last year there was a change in the national conversation around violence against women,” Chelsea says. “I think there’s a better understanding of it; it’s not just physical, it’s emotional, it’s financial, it’s coercive control.”



Chelsea Boyle says family and domestic violence is in the top five concerns of Australians.

Family violence can take many forms, including sexual harassment, verbal violence, psychological and emotional abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse, stalking, and technology-related abuse.

Family violence at its core is an attempt by one person to control another.

“General society doesn’t know enough just yet,” Chelsea says. “Victims are still being told ‘You weren’t hit’ or ‘There are no bruises’. Our new model of care offers consistency in terms of how we respond to family violence.”

The Salvos assist over 9000 women and children experiencing family violence each year and will soon be launching the National Family Violence Model of Care developed by its Family Violence Stream. Where the Social Justice Stocktake sees the scope of the problem, the new model of care listens to victims and survivors.

“We wanted to be able to move forward in a way that was informed by those who use our services, the actual victim/survivors of family violence,” explains Alexandra Miller, Senior National Specialist for the Family Violence Stream.

### MODEL OF CARE

Beginning in 2019, the model of care was developed in accordance with an evidence-based approach and the voices of lived-experience advocates. Its purpose is to drive best practice responses across the Salvos, according to its commitments to inclusion and safety.

“The key principle is safety first,” Alexandra explains. “There’s no point giving someone accommodation if they’re still not safe. The strength of the model of care is that it’s rooted in the evidence around best practice and core principles of safety, with an intersectional feminist underpinning. It recognises the diversity of our participants, making sure our language is more inclusive, with a LGBTIQ+ inclusive practice framework.”

With the impending launch of the National Family Violence Model of Care, training and guidelines are already rolling out through Salvos services, though large-scale reform is still needed in many areas.

“We need a national definition of family violence,” explains Chelsea. “We want a national strategy on housing, bringing in all states and territories. Cost of living is a factor too, as well as men’s behaviour change programs. Gender inequality is the key driver of family violence.”

The Salvation Army is committed to working for justice wherever there is hardship, and is advocating for a range of actions on gender equity. The problem of family violence has never been more visible at a national scale but by listening to victims and survivors the solutions can be too.



The Social Justice Stocktake report maps social justice priorities across the country.

To access the Social Justice Stocktake, go to [salvationarmy.org.au/socialjusticestocktake/](https://salvationarmy.org.au/socialjusticestocktake/)



Scan here for more on Salvation Army Family and Domestic Violence Services.

# Hope and heartbreak at Christmas

*I Heard the Bells*

Christmas is a season of wonder, but when it coincides with grief, the pain can be great. Where is God when all is lost? Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow addresses this question in his 1863 poem, *Christmas Bells*, which became the Christmas carol *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*.



sleeping or dead," Charlie shouts. And while Charlie goes to war to find answers, Henry must face his own internal battle. Is the God of hope that he once celebrated at Christmas really there? He must dare to believe that hope still exists, but experiencing this requires him to dig deep and feel the weight of his grief.

*I Heard the Bells* is filled with nostalgia and Christmas imagery of small-town America, but don't expect fluff and jingle bells. Instead, *I Heard the Bells* resounds with the sacred depth of hope and heartbreak that many silently experience in December.

The film creates a safe space for us to ask the hard questions about God, and leads us to the answer found in Longfellow's words when he says, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."

“  
 The film creates a safe  
 space for us to ask the hard  
 questions about God ...

”  
 Now in a biopic of the same name, we meet Longfellow as a middle-aged man, celebrating his marriage of 18 years and raising six children. With the United States on the verge of civil war, his poetry has become a national war cry. He and his family have a profound Christian faith, but this changes after Henry loses his wife in a fire. In the midst of his grief, he tries to keep his 17-year-old son Charlie from going to war.

"I will not put hope in a God who is



*I Heard the Bells* is rated PG for mild themes. Available at select cinemas from 1 December. – **Jessica Morris**



## Starting a new Christmas tradition



Salvos volunteer Rosalina holds a favourite secondhand gifting option from Salvos Stores.

If you're looking to introduce a new Christmas tradition to your festive celebrations, Salvos Stores are encouraging you to consider contributing to the lives of people who are struggling, while also saving money and reducing waste.

This can be done through making a 'pre-loved promise' and buying secondhand gifts for friends and family.

It might seem a little unconventional – even avid thrifters who are confident in kitting out their homes and wardrobes with pre-loved pieces often feel it's 'safer' to buy new for those around them. However, a 2020 survey by online consignment store thredUP revealed that almost half of consumers are planning on buying secondhand gifts this Christmas.

Overconsumption is always an issue, but Christmas emphasises the scale of its impact. Estimates of how much the average Aussie spends on Christmas gifts each year range from \$374 to \$726, not accounting for other expenses such as food or holiday outfits.

Alongside gifts that will be truly appreciated, an estimated 20 million will end up unwanted or unused, with a large percentage being sent to landfill.

It's difficult to guarantee that every Christmas present you buy will be a success, but there is an approach to Christmas gifting that involves just as much meaning while contributing to the circular economy and reducing waste.



Secondhand gifting may be seen by some as 'cheap' or 'careless', when it is actually quite the opposite. Presenting a loved one with a one-of-a-kind vintage or pre-loved gift that you have thoughtfully chosen is sure to delight. And if you shop from a charity retailer like Salvos Stores, your purchase helps to improve the lives of those who need it most. Check out [salvosstores.com.au/stories/preloved-promise-gift-guide](https://salvosstores.com.au/stories/preloved-promise-gift-guide)

So, begin a new Christmas tradition, make the pre-loved promise and gift secondhand this season! – **Olivia Hurley**

## Right side up

Christmas is good news for the oppressed of the world

**WORDS** Star Conliffe

Who doesn't love a good Christmas carol? The first Christmas carol ever written was composed by Mary, mother of Jesus, but it's not your typical carol.

When she hears that she will give birth to Jesus, Mary says that her "soul magnifies the Lord ... He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke chapter 1).

This is no gentle hymn – it reads more like a political statement!

The image on this page is by the artist Ben Wildflower, who, after hearing Mary's Magnificat for the first time at church one Christmas, carved this image from a piece of wood. It is now his most famous work, though some have complained that it is too political.

“

**This incredible song reminds me that God cares about our political, economic and social realities.**

”



He says, "She's a young woman singing a song about toppling rulers from their thrones. She's a radical who exists within the confines of institutionalised religion. There are enough images out there focusing on the lowliness and meekness of Mary. I wanted to make one that highlights her holy rage and her indictment of an economic system built on idolatrous ideas about what kind of people do or don't deserve things like food and shelter. I like that Mary."

### **REVOLUTIONARY**

The Magnificat is a part of the Bible that has not always been well-known or understood. It has even been controversial and has been banned by powerful rulers at least three times in



history. They decided that Mary's words about God's love for the poor were too dangerous and revolutionary because it inspired them to believe that change was possible.

Throughout history, poor and oppressed people have often identified with this song because it gives them hope that God is on their side.

Mary was a peasant girl living in a small village that was part of the Roman Empire. She knew what it was like to live in a system designed to keep most people very poor while benefiting a small number of influential people.

Not long after Jesus' birth, Mary and her little family became refugees, forced to flee King Herod to save Jesus' life. Mary's life did not get any easier.

Looking around the world today, we can't actually say that God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. I see so much injustice and oppression in our world. Sometimes I feel powerless to do anything about any of it.

And yet the Magnificat, this incredible song, reminds me that God cares about our political, economic and social realities. And that Christmas is not just about the birth of a baby, as exciting as that is. It's about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind. It's about the wonder of a creator who enters his creation and is born human, not as a prince, but as a refugee child.

Mary could sing this song because she knew that Jesus would turn the world upside down. Or right side up. She perhaps did not fully understand how Jesus would do this. But Mary sings in wonder of a time when all will enjoy the good things given by God. And so, Christmas is good news for everyone around the world who continues to be crushed in a cruel world that thrives on exploitation and injustice.

“

**Mary ... knew that Jesus would turn the world upside down. Or right side up.**

”

This Christmas, let us wonder at a God who became human to start the slow work of turning this world right side up.

*Lieutenant Star Conliffe is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# The heart of Christmas

Salvos bring hope and help to the Bega Valley

**WORDS** Naomi Singlehurst

It has been a challenging few years in the beautiful Bega Valley on the NSW Sapphire Coast – an area popular with tourists and home to dairy farmers, oyster farmers, fishers, those living ‘off-grid’, surfers, business owners, young families, retirees and more.

Captains Deb and Rod Parsons are the Salvo Corps Officers (pastors) at Bega, and over the past six years they have forged close connections with the community, not only through the adversity of drought, bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, but also through their vibrant Christmas Cheer season.

After several years of drought, the Black Summer fires hit the valley with a vengeance just after Christmas 2019, forcing locals to shelter on beaches, claiming lives, stock, native animals and destroying more than 450 homes.

The Parsons led the Salvos’ response and worked with more than 100 other local service agencies to support the Bega Valley community.

Then COVID arrived and the tourism industry took another hit.

Rod says, “Lack of housing and general homelessness is [now] an enormous issue here, and rental prices and demand is through the roof.”

## **BUSY FESTIVE SEASON**

Last Christmas, Bega Salvos experienced their greatest demand ever for support. However, Rod says the season

was also one of the best because community support was very strong.

“We had to order extra Christmas hampers last year to cover the demand, Rod says. “But it was also one of the most exciting and happy Christmases we’d had because we had so many people come on board, donating food and gifts and wanting to volunteer.”

For Rod, pastoral care is the most important aspect of the Christmas season, and he says the Christian faith is integral to that depth of care.

He says: “So often everyone focuses on the action – such as toys and gifts – but what’s driving us is serving Jesus our Lord in our community. That’s the motivation behind what we do as the Salvos.



Rod Parsons checking out the Christmas Cheer set-up at Bega Salvos.



Captains Deb and Rod Parsons comfort a victim of the Black Summer bushfires.

"I come from a reasonably privileged background, even though we weren't a rich family. Christmas, for me, was always family time. I could never have imagined being more excited than I was at Christmas as a kid. But since coming to know the Lord and becoming a minister for Jesus in the Salvos, the joy I now feel far outweighs any of that. It's a spiritual joy which is far more exciting and far, far deeper than I could ever have imagined as a youngster."

### **MAKING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

Deb says there are many beautiful Christmas moments each year.

"We have what looks like a 'pop-up shop', so we have all our toys set up in our hall, and we roster people to come in and do their 'shopping' – which, of course, is all free," she says. "We have a helper for each person and have no more than two people at a time in the space, so it is quiet.

"We had a lady come in before Christmas who was struggling and had never come to us before. She went in

the door, looked at the room full of toys, and just burst into tears. She said, 'I can't believe I can go shopping.' She came out with a big bag of toys, and she broke down again and said, 'No one has ever, ever done this for me.'

"When you're struggling, and you haven't had any high points, then we want to make Christmas at least one high point. Many people see God as far away, looking out over the whole universe, but when you see Jesus at work through members of your community, and you have received love and gifts you weren't expecting, it brings God closer. As we get together with the community and all look after each other as a family, I truly believe God is at the very heart of that.

"And, really, that is the heart of the Christmas story – God coming close."



Scan here for more on the need for community.

## Coffee truffles



### Ingredients

200g good-quality dark chocolate, 1/3 cup thickened cream, 2 tsp instant coffee powder, 1/4 cup sprinkles, cocoa or coconut.

### Method

- Chop chocolate into small pieces.
- Combine chocolate and cream in a heatproof bowl. Microwave, uncovered, on medium for two to three minutes, stirring every minute, or until melted and smooth.
- Stir in coffee powder. Cover. Refrigerate for three to four hours or until firm.
- Line a tray with baking paper. Using two teaspoons of chocolate mixture each time, roll into balls.
- Roll balls in sprinkles, cocoa or coconut to coat. Place on prepared tray. Refrigerate until firm.

## Quick quiz



1. What are some of Australia's most popular summer fruits?
2. When did the cultivation of peaches begin in Australia?
3. Nectarines are a variety of which fruit?
4. Apricots are a source of which vitamin?
5. Approximately how many tonnes of summer stone fruit is grown each year?

## Bible byte

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

John chapter 3, verse 16  
*New Living Translation*

## Tum-Tum

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



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

# Wordsearch

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

- Apricots
- Cherries
- Climate
- Crops
- Export
- Farmers
- Flavour
- Fresh
- Grapes
- Irrigation
- Juice
- Mangoes
- Nectarines
- Orchard
- Peaches
- Pickers
- Ripe
- Seeds
- Skin
- Stone
- Storage
- Strawberries
- Summer
- Texture
- Vitamins
- Watermelon

## FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY

"The three wise men brought Jesus presents of gold, frankincense, smurr [sic] and silver. But I think he would have preferred wrestling toys."

"Jesus was born in a stable a long way away from here in another country. Bethlehem - it's in England."

"When Jesus was born, there were sheep, horses and a crocodile outside the stable."



## DID YOU KNOW?

**There are around 17,000 rip currents across Australia on any given day.**

**Every day lifesavers across Australia rescue approximately 30 people.**

**Every hour, lifesavers conduct 451 preventative actions.**

**There are 314 surf lifesaving clubs in Australia that collectively patrol over 400 beaches.**

**Answers:** 1. Mangoes, stone fruit, watermelon. 2. 19th century. 3. The peach. 4. Vitamin A. 5. 100,000. **Tum-Tum:** is hiding behind the pineapple on page 14.



salvos  
STORES

MAKE THE

preloved  
promise

GIFT  
SECOND HAND

Shop pre-loved this Christmas with Salvos Stores. For unique gifts that help people & the planet.

