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Art reflects
Tanita's heart
for Country

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FAITH TALK

It's a bird's life

Harry paints a new picture for his life

Salvos support helps give Harry the tools to a fresh start



SALVOS

MAGAZINE



A landscape photograph showing a red dirt road in the foreground, leading towards a large, gnarled tree with sparse green and yellow leaves. In the background, there is a range of mountains with reddish-brown and purple hues under a clear blue sky.

Heaven

is under our feet
as well as over
our heads.

Henry David Thoreau



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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Cover Art is helping Harry Taylor rebuild his life.

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Sense of identity

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to highlight the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for NAIDOC Week this year (4-11 July) is 'Heal Country!'

Our feature story is about Tanita, an Anangu woman whose childhood in the Pukatja region of South Australia has given her a connection to Country that brings her a deep sense of belonging, spirituality and identity. Tanita is now sharing that sense of identity through her art and with the young people she mentors in her role with the Salvos.

Our cover story looks at Harry's journey, a young Indigenous man from Western Australia who has faced much turmoil over the years but has now found hope and is rebuilding his life.

Facing turmoil in life is common to most of us. Belinda Davies writes about this in Faith Talk and shares how hoping in and trusting God gives her strength to go through tough times. She finds her identity in her relationship with God. "Where do you find yours?"

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**



Tanita combines her love of art and the meaning it brings with her role in mentoring young people through the Salvos.

Art reflects Tanita's love of Country

NAIDOC Week (4-11 July) highlights Indigenous identity and culture and the need to protect Country – lands, waters and sacred sites

WORDS NAOMI SINGLEHURST

Tanita Paige, artist, Salvation Army case manager and youth mentor in South Australia, believes the 2021 NAIDOC Week theme, 'Heal Country', is vitally important.

In caring for and protecting Country, Tanita says the land is healed and respect is shown towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their culture, history, lore, spirituality and kinship.

"As [an] Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Country is the most important thing, and everything else falls into place around that," she explains. "From Country comes culture

and lore. It is literally part of our identity, and people have to respect and take care of our lands and waters, no matter what their race, because at the end of the day, if you are damaging Country, you are damaging people's identity."

Tanita grew up in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands in the remote north-west of South Australia, and it continues to inspire her today. She was born in Alice Springs but spent most of her childhood living in and around the Ernabella (or Pukatja) region, in what she says with a smile was "the middle of nowhere".

But, far from feeling isolated, Tanita says the experience was beautiful and meaningful. She says it has given her a connection to Country that inspires her art and gives her a deep sense of belonging. Tanita's parents later moved the family south to Port Augusta to access a higher standard of education for their children, but it is the early memories that she holds dear.

"My favourite childhood memories were living out on the homeland," she says. "We had to grow our own vegetables. Dad would take us hunting, or we would go and put fences up with him. Mum would teach us to cook. Living there and being taught by Mum and Dad has taught me to be a strong and independent Anangu woman."

Tanita shares that all of her art is about these childhood memories.

"The memories of going out with my family, learning about bush tucker and how to find it, the excitement when we found tjala (honey ants) and maku (witchetty grubs). Living on the homeland, we often rode our horses and went walking around to look for lizards, or I would teach my siblings how to make wiltjas (shelters made from sticks). Walking on the red sand dunes, the blooming wildflowers and the miles and miles of spinifex. These are the memories I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

PASSION FOR ART

Tanita learned traditional dot painting as a child on her mother's lap. Her grandmother and an aunt were also artists, depicting family

Some of Tanita's artwork



“

I'm really proud of my art and where I come from.

”

stories and childhood memories in their art.

"I've always had that interest in art," says Tanita. "When I was old enough, I would ask Mum to do the design and ask if I could dot it. After a couple of years, she said, 'You know what you are doing, so give it a go and design your own'.

"I love to paint about my connection to Country in the APY lands and parts of the Northern Territory. You don't really know how much of a connection you have, or how strong it is, until you look back. I'm really proud of my art and where I come from."

DEPICTING COUNTRY

Last year, Tanita contributed to The Salvation Army Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) artwork titled 'Our Strength. Our Truth. Our Journey'. ▶



Tanita also serves as a youth worker within the Youth Safe Transport Service, which includes mentoring and running school holiday activities.

Her role in the design was depicting 'Country'.

The artwork and the RAP are part of a larger initiative by the Salvos to build stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – relationships based on mutual respect, honest acceptance of past failures and hurt, forgiveness and moving forward together as one.

“For me, my connection to, and the importance of Country, is massive,” Tanita shares. “So, to have the chance to paint the RAP art background of Country was a blessing.”

CARING FOR OTHERS

Tanita is also passionate about her work with the Salvos. “I work as a transitional housing case manager, supporting community members on the journey to housing stability. I am also a youth worker within the Youth Safe Transport Service, which includes mentoring, running activities during school holidays and transporting youth to a safe place during summer.”

Tanita also works with Connected Horizons – a collaboration between The Salvation Army and Tjungu Services – where she mentors small groups of Indigenous youth and provides guidance, advice and an understanding of establishing identity in a modern world while staying true to traditional culture.

FOSTERING THE FUTURE

Tanita says that for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children and youth, connection to Country and culture is very important.

“I have two kids and they were born in Port Augusta, but it is important, as they get older, to take them home, back to where I grew up, to show them and say to them, ‘This is your Country, this is your bloodline. You’ve got family at Uluru, all through South Australia and the Northern Territory’. It is so important for their sense of connection and identity,” she explains.

“I’ve organised trips out bush, just to take kids from town out to cook kangaroo tails, tell stories and give them some of the sense of identity and connection that I was blessed to get growing up. I am also lucky enough to have my father’s support as a male role model in our family to want to help these kids.

“They say it takes a village to raise a child, but it can take one person who genuinely cares to change that child’s whole life.”



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Salvos share commitment to inclusion

The Salvation Army Australia has announced its first national commitment to inclusion through the release of an official statement.

The Inclusion Statement reinforces the Salvos' values and international mission statement: To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

"This new statement stands alongside and in alignment with our existing mission, vision and values* and publicly declares that we welcome all people in every engagement they have with The Salvation Army, and we are committed to each of them feeling respected and safe," said Colonel Winsome Merrett, Chief Secretary, The Salvation Army Australia.

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

The statement reads:

"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 people of all cultures, languages, capacities, sexual orientations, gender identities and/or expressions. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children."

Alongside the inclusion statement, six icons have been created to represent the key groups that often feel isolated, excluded or discriminated against. These icons are a visual representation to ensure people know that they are welcome.



"With the announcement of the new statement and icons comes requirements across [The Salvation Army] to ensure our commitment to inclusion is clear and unwavering," said Winsome.

"Our Code of Conduct provides clear expectations of our behaviours, and we are committed to demonstrating our values of respect, integrity, collaboration, diversity and compassion.

"I am thankful for all those who have contributed to this inclusion statement and the commitment and intent it communicates to ensure all can find a safe and accepting welcome at The Salvation Army. It enacts our international mission and compliments our vision in Australia – to transform Australia, one life at a time with the love of Jesus by serving and supporting all people experiencing hardship and injustice."

*salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/mission-and-vision/

Volunteers assist in storm-ravaged areas



(From left) Ellen Farrell, John Donaldson, Adam Clark and Craig Farrell organise care packages for residents impacted by last month's destructive storms in east Melbourne.

The Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) set up its catering operations at Lillydale Lake in Melbourne's outer-east last month to assist emergency services workers and residents impacted by the destructive storms that hit the area. Thousands of homes in the Yarra Ranges were without power, some for up to three weeks.

With two huge SAES trucks set up in the carpark, SAES personnel, volunteers and workers from the Shire of Yarra Ranges swung

into action. Hundreds of meals were provided during each sitting for almost a week.

The hot meals prepared by the SAES are placed in insulated carriers, then delivered to affected areas by council drivers.

The SAES also provided "financial assistance through council referrals, material aid and care packs," said Adam Clark, Salvos Assistant State Coordinator Emergency Services. "There's a big need here in the Yarra Ranges."

Turning the page

School nurses, teachers, Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) workers and other family support specialists in south-east Tasmania have been given a free education resource created by The Salvation Army Tasmania Communities for Children and Drug Education Network Inc.

The children's book *Cooper helps Jack make a plan* was written by Mary Koolhof and

illustrated by Mich Oliver, and was seed-funded by The Australian Drug Foundation.

It tells a story that navigates how to support friends and family affected by methamphetamine (Ice) use. Information and downloadable copies are available at salvationarmy.org.au/tasmaniac4c/publications/



Bikers blanket Beechworth



(From left) Blanket run organiser Trevor Botting, Captain Pauline Middleton, Jim Kenney and Kurt Dissengna sort through the mammoth haul of blankets donated by more than 60 motorcyclists. Photo courtesy O&M Advertiser.

Beechworth Salvos, Victoria, received a huge number of donations from last month's annual blanket and coat run.

Trevor Botting, who has organised the run for six years, said as well as items brought by more than 60 motorcyclists from north-east Victoria and Phillip Island, four ute-loads of blankets and coats were also delivered.

These included many knitted over the past year by Pamela Alison of Wangaratta. Beechworth Salvos officer (pastor) Captain Pauline Middleton said, "We're in a very cold snap right now, so we have been able to share these much-needed blankets and coats as well as fill up our stores for winter."

Trekkers hit Sydney with a 'boom'

"Boom" was the word young Will Neisler used to describe the final step he and his walking partner Tim Koloï took to end their 1000km, 47-day trek from Brisbane to Sydney to raise money for the Salvos.

With the tread well worn from their walking shoes, 15-year-old Will and 46-year-old family friend, Tim, marched confidently up the 40-odd steps to stand proudly in front of Australia's iconic Sydney Opera House. Family and friends joined them for the last 3km as they walked from Bradfield Park at the north end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Opera House. Tim said the pair had "sore feet every afternoon" during the journey but had "recovered each morning".

The pair managed to raise more than \$7200 on their journey, but some online donations are still to be factored in. "This was an awesome adventure," Tim said. "I am



To a backdrop of Australia's most famous icons, the Harbour Bridge and Opera House in Sydney, Tim Koloï (left) and Will Neisler completed a 1000km fundraising walk from Brisbane to the NSW capital.

so proud of Will. So happy to have raised a bit for the Salvos and to have met so many beautiful people [along the way]."

It's a bird's life

Lessons from our feathered friends in working through our weariness

WORDS BELINDA DAVIS

I seem to have a growing fascination with birds. Over the past few years, I have found myself focusing on them more and more while I am out and about – not enough to invest in binoculars and join a bird-watching group, but enough to watch and listen to them when and where I can.

In Australia, we are blessed by the variety and beauty of our native birdlife. In the area I now live, many different types of birds are a part of our neighbourhood. My husband and I are fortunate to live in a hilly area of Adelaide where there are many trees, and I can hear birds calling to each other at almost all times of the day and night.

As dawn breaks and I hear the magpie chorales and the kookaburra chuckles, I smile as I scan the trees to try to catch a glimpse of these well-hidden choristers. In the first few weeks of us living here we had left the side door open for a time and discovered a black and white visitor checking out where we had placed our material goods!

I wanted to entice some of this wildlife into our yard (not our kitchen), and as I considered ways to do this, I came across a beautiful bird feeder (pictured right).

It is made in Ghana, Africa, using reclaimed metal from all manner of discarded objects, such as street signs, fences and old cars. As soon as I saw it, I knew I had to buy it and put my strategy into action.

I purchased some wild birdseed to offer

“

**Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.**

”

potential diners, filled the feeder and sat back to wait for the birds to come. Nothing. Not one came, and this was very disheartening.

My next step was to take some seed and sprinkle it on the ground around the feeder. Still nothing. I even purchased a small pot to use as a water bath and/or feeder and placed that nearby. I continued to sit, watch and hope.

Several days later my husband called me to look outside and, sure enough, there was a bird in my feeder. There was also one on the fence waiting its turn to dine. I am now at the end of my second box of seed as each morning's supply disappears by the end of each day. I don't always see the birds that feast, but the ones I do are varied, so I know it's not just one who will soon be too big to take flight!

This activity has brought me joy – and I wonder why. Could it be an effort to feel connected to the natural countryside we have left behind in regional Victoria? Is it about bringing God's



renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

As I continue to watch these creatures in my environment, especially as they take flight, I will choose to remember this reference to soaring above the turmoil of life. This will be an encouragement, especially in those times of weariness, as I hope in God.

Next time you see a bird in flight, perhaps you can hope too.

creation to within arm's reach? Could it be about a reward for patience and persistence? Could it be a combination of all three?

One of the favourite, often-quoted verses from the Bible refers to a bird. Isaiah chapter 40 and verses 30-31 says, "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will

Major Belinda Davis is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in South Australia. She blogs at a-blessed-life.com



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Harry paints a new picture for his life

Salvos support helps give Harry the tools to success

WORDS JESSICA MORRIS



Harry first came into contact with the Salvos in the remote Western Australia town of Karratha.

When you meet 19-year-old Harry Taylor, you are struck by the untapped potential that lies just below the surface. An artist, mentor and up-and-coming tradie, the Banjima and Yindjibarndi man has worked tirelessly over the past year to create a better life for himself. But this journey really began three years ago, when he first met the Salvos in the remote Western Australia town of Karratha.

At 16, he was couch-surfing and surviving in the Pilbara region by travelling from town to town. So, when he was given a guaranteed place to stay at the Salvos youth refuge in Karratha, he thought he'd give it a go.

"Someone was telling me about this place [the youth refuge]," Harry says. "I didn't know why I came here; I was a young fella

staying with friends and all that. I stayed here for a good while, sometimes months, or I'd leave and come back for weeks.

"When I came back [the Salvos] were welcoming and made me feel at home. It's a good place."

The Salvation Army Karratha Youth Accommodation Service is a small but essential service in the town. Six units cater to young people aged between 15-25 who need a safe place to stay. Many of these young people are experiencing homelessness or have just been released from prison.

As Acting Service Manager Kerry Hall says, "We provide help, support and assistance to young people." This often means providing

the youth with new clothes, ID and access to Centrelink. But the real life change begins to happen when the young people engage with the community, be it time at school, a short course, practical classes or volunteer work. And that's when Harry's life began to change.

Much like the harsh but beautiful landscape of Australia's north-west, Harry has weathered his fair share of ups and downs. Initially, the youth refuge was a safe place for Harry to reset and refocus. The staff saw his potential and invited him to mentor younger children by participating in sports and activities through the Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC) program.

"That boosted my confidence. I felt like I had more people who believed in me," says Harry.

Harry really began to grasp his potential after serving time in prison last year. He came back to the refuge for the 11th time, wanting to take control of his life. And now, nothing can stop him.

"I got a job at the nightclub and first started as a glassy [waiter]. That led me to become a security guard at the door," Harry beams. "I got my Responsible Service of Alcohol certification and just recently started to do this other course to get into a program with Fortescue Metals Group and start a traineeship!"

As Harry sets up his new life, he is determined to give back as well. He is working on painting a mural at the youth refuge and puts up his hand to help out whenever needed. He doesn't know what the future holds, but he knows his future is full of hope.

"The Salvation Army has stuck with me, and I just like to come back [now]. It took me a while to notice that they were pretty much just trying to help me out to help myself.



Harry is building a new life with help from the Salvos

“

I felt like I had more people who believed in me.

”

"I am very thankful for all the help I have received from The Salvation Army over the years. I believe it has changed my life and given me the tools to succeed."



Scan here for more information on Salvos homelessness support.

Lemon brownies



Ingredients

Brownies: 2 tbsps lemon zest, 2 tbsps lemon juice, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon sea salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsalted butter, 2 large eggs.

Lemon glaze: 8 tpsps lemon zest (grated lemon rind), 4 tbsps lemon juice, 1 cup icing sugar.

Method

Zest and juice two lemons and set aside. Beat the flour, sugar, salt and softened butter until combined.

In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs, lemon zest and lemon juice until combined.

Pour it into the flour mixture and beat for 2 minutes until smooth and creamy.

Pour into baking dish and bake at 180°C for 23-25 minutes. Allow to cool completely before glazing.

Lemon glaze

Whisk lemon zest and juice with icing sugar.

Spread the glaze over the brownies with a rubber spatula and let glaze set.

Sprinkle with additional icing sugar if desired. Cut into bars and serve.

Funny things kids say

A kindergarten teacher was walking around the classroom while the children were drawing. As she got to one little girl working diligently, the teacher asked what the drawing was.



The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."



Children were lining up for lunch in the cafeteria of a religious primary school.

There was a pile of apples at one end of the counter with a note from the teacher that said, "Take only ONE. God is watching."

At the other end was a pile of chocolate-chip cookies. Next to it was a note written by one of the children that said, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples!"

Bible byte

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis chapter 1, verse 1
New International Version

Wordsearch

K G R H S A C R E D A S A E I
 C O T S R G C U N M R N C L E
 R L O T N I L A L E Y I N D A
 G E O K O I L T V T O R T E O
 C I F R A R T I I V U E E R K
 E N A O E B R N J O U R N E Y
 L D U B R T U E R E S P E C T
 E I O C O M T R S C A R O O R
 B G G G M R H N R S R R I G E
 R E C O N C I L I A T I O N A
 A N C N D N G G T U E R M I T
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 E U B O O M E R A N G O T I E
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|------------|----------------|
| ABORIGINAL | MOUNTAINS |
| ART | RECOGNITION |
| BOOMERANG | RECONCILIATION |
| CELEBRATE | REFORM |
| COMMUNITY | RESPECT |
| CULTURE | RIVERS |
| ELDER | SACRED |
| HEALING | SONG |
| INDIGENOUS | TORRES STRAIT |
| JOURNEY | TREATY |
| KOOKABURRA | TRUTH |
| LAND | VOICE |
| LANGUAGE | YARNING |

Quick quiz



INVENTOR
DAVID UNAIPON

1. Who was the first Indigenous member of Australia's Parliament?
2. Who was the first Indigenous person to be granted Australian citizenship?
3. Which Indigenous author also played a key role in the campaign to ensure Indigenous people were granted full citizenship in Australia?
4. Which Indigenous woman fought to become the first Aboriginal person to train as a nurse, and continues to champion many causes today?
5. David Unaipon is known as the 'Australian Leonardo da Vinci'. The boomerang inspired which of his inventions?



Tum-Tum

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

Answers: 1. Neville Bonner 2. Albert Namatjira 3. Oodgeroo Noonuccal 4. Lowitja O'Donoghue 5. A helicopter rotor.
Tum-Tum: is hiding behind the van's window on page 6.

Did you know?

- The Canary Islands are named after dogs, not birds.
- A teaspoonful of neutron star would weigh around four billion metric tons.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- You share your birthday with at least nine million other people in the world.



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