

FEATURE

Hope, help
and heroes

FAITH TALK

Unravelling the
wreath tradition

MY STORY

Sharing the joy

Making the most of holidays

Having fun on a budget this summer

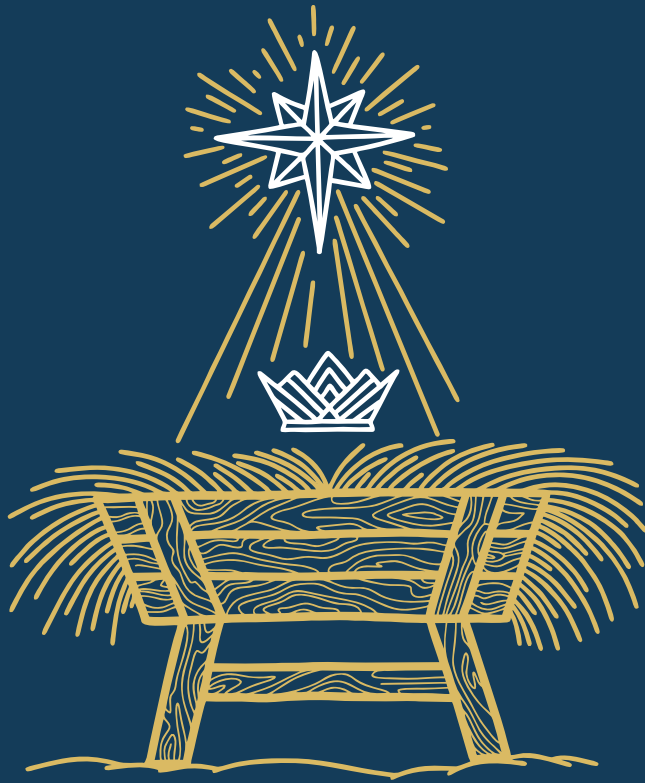


SALVOS

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“The birth of Christ is the central event
in the history of the earth – the very
thing the whole story has been about.”

– C.S. Lewis



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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Feature [4]
A Christmas streaming wrap

Faith Talk [10]
Unravelling the wreath tradition

My Story [12]
Love, hope and forgiveness

Summer fun

We're heading into summer school holidays for students – around 4,030,717 students across 9581 schools in 2021, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics!

As many families face financial hardship, housing difficulties, job insecurity, and are struggling with additional personal issues, having children at home for the holidays can be an additional pressure and stress.

This week, we feature some tips and ideas for a fun and budget-friendly summer holiday that can help families enjoy the break together without the need to spend a fortune.

One fun and low-cost activity is watching movies together, and in this edition our seasoned reviewer, Jessica Morris, takes us through some of the latest Christmas-related offerings available on different streaming platforms.

Maureen also shares her story of Christmas joy and how love, hope, forgiveness and caring for others have become additional blessings for her during the festive season, and beyond.

For these stories and more, check out salvosmagazine.org.au

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Making the most of holidays

Having fun on a budget *this* summer

Summer holidays are a special time in Australia. The Christmas rush gives way to long, lazy days with beach trips, barbecues, sunshine and sport. But when the days are long and hot, many people find themselves under a lot of pressure. Our hope is that you can discover your happy place these holidays.

F.O.S.H. (FEAR OF SUMMER HOLIDAYS)

It is common to feel a level of financial anxiety during this supposedly silly season. Some reasons people may feel overwhelmed include additional childcare requirements, extra holiday costs, extensive to-do lists and feeling the need to entertain 'bored' kids.

MAKING THE *MOST* OF YOUR HOLIDAYS

We hear you – summer holidays can be tiresome. But as schedules change and the household mood shifts, this is a perfect time to reassess and reflect on what's most important in life.

Your usual routine might feel out of whack, so why not change the lens of your outlook, embrace new adventures and connect more deeply with the people in your life? For those with young children, remember you only have 18 summers with your child and this is one of them!

Activity:

What are some of the pressures you feel during the summer holidays?



OUR 5 TIPS FOR A JOY-FILLED HOLIDAY

You can take the holiday feeling into the rest of the year!

Our holiday secret:

You can take the (good) holiday feeling into the rest of the year!

1. Keep it simple: It can be tempting to fill holidays with activities, so make sure you leave space to relax and connect with loved ones, neighbours or friends. Work out what's essential and what to let go. Be intentional about how you spend your money.

2. Screen-time limitations: Set reasonable expectations about technology use. Holidays are supposed to recharge and promote health, but this could be hampered by too much screen time. Set an example for your family to follow. Some 'house rules' could include a 60-minute limit in the morning and no screens between 9am and 4pm.

3. Socialise: Plan outings to connect with friends, extended relatives or others – suggest meeting for a barbecue, go to a park or plan house visits.

4. Time and space: It's okay to 'just be'. We don't always need to be entertained. Allow time and space for rest (for everyone!), and create opportunities for creativity, exploration and problem-solving.

5. Start planning a 'staycation':

A staycation cuts down on travel expenses. It's an intentional way to see your hometown through the eyes of a tourist!

- **Think like a tourist:** What would you tell friends or family visiting your area to see or do? Ask around for recommendations and search local papers or online for free events coming up.
- **Brainstorm:** Make sure activities are affordable and achievable. Some indoor examples include craft activities, board games, baking or pyjama days. Outdoor examples include picnics, bushwalks, bike rides or scavenger hunts.
- Write a list of everything – more than you can do – then plot your staycation!

This information comes from The Salvation Army's financial assistance book *You're the Boss*.

To download the book, go to [salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/financial-assistance/youre-the-boss](https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/financial-assistance/youre-the-boss)



Hope, help and heroes amid the flood devastation

Salvos respond to disasters in NSW

WORDS Carolyn Hide

In response to the recent floods in Central West NSW, The Salvation Army sent emergency services teams to Orange, Forbes and Eugowra to assist impacted people. Salvo volunteers Carolyn Hide and her husband Neil drove to the flood zone to assist. Carolyn shares her experience here with *Salvos Magazine*.

Driving into Eugowra was like entering a disaster movie set. We had been warned about what to expect, but seeing the aftermath of the floods firsthand was overwhelming.

The force of the water was so immense that it lifted houses completely off their foundations and relocated them in backyards, across roadways. Everyone was out with tractors, forklifts, brooms and any other tools that could help clear the town of the muck and mud, while also finding precious possessions in the wake of this inland tsunami.

Our task was to deliver supplies from Orange to the SAES (Salvation Army Emergency Services) team, who came from Bowral. They had set up the SAES truck in the showground to provide meals for those impacted by this disaster.

While Neil was helping deliver 500 meat patties and 30kgs of mince, I took a moment to stand back and take in the whole operation, watching all the helpers who had come to assist the townsfolk of Eugowra in any way they could.

HEARTBREAKING AFTERMATH

One lady shared with me that she was from Forbes, but her house was safe

from the floods there. She was fortunately on the side of the town that allowed her to drive to Eugowra. She has a friend who had been rescued by helicopter, and was there to support her. When they returned to her friend's house there was not much to salvage, but her main concern was to find her family photos. Although they found some, the photos were covered in mud and were almost unrecognisable. How very sad to lose such tangible memories!

As I approached the SAES truck, I saw the team in full swing, preparing for the next meal and assisting those who



Riverbanks are no longer visible as floodwater spreads across the land. Photo: Cazeil Creative



Salvo volunteer 'Smithy' diligently prepares meals from the catering truck at Eugowra. Photo: Cazeil Creative

just needed a cuppa or a listening ear. I introduced myself to the SAES lady, who was busy chopping lettuce for lunch. Her name was 'Smithy' and, even though I was interrupting her busyness, she shared a story with me: "Yesterday was full on, and at one stage in the afternoon we ran out of food. I asked the 'Man upstairs' to send some loaves and fishes, and 30 seconds later there was a knock on the truck door. A lady stood there with some bags and asked if we could use 20 kilos of sausages!"

We should not be surprised when God answers prayers, but sometimes we don't expect the answer to come immediately.

FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS

Salvation Army officer (pastor) Major Colin Young has been overseeing operations in Orange as SAES crews worked hard in evacuation centres and continued to cater from mobile units.

"Forty people were evacuated to Orange, and we've also been looking after them," he says. "They were hoping to go back to their homes, but 21 homes in Eugowra are now uninhabitable, and

another 200 are flood-damaged – and that's in a town of around 800 people."

Evacuation centres were also set up in Forbes and Eugowra, and accommodation options organised in Orange.

Colin said while food and shelter were vital emergency responses, the request for cleaning products was high on everyone's agenda.

"I know we always say it, but the Salvos will be here for the long haul, long after the water has gone down. We'll keep working with the communities to get them back on their feet.

"We couldn't do it without community support too. For example, the three Rotary clubs in Orange have been magnificent – absolutely amazing with their support and assistance to us and the community."



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Disaster and Emergency Services.

A Christmas streaming wrap

Ideas for an extra merry Christmas

WORDS Jessica Morris

With streaming services dominating movies and television, we have an excess of new holiday flicks to choose from every year. Ranging from A-list musicals to low-budget TV movies, there's a little something for everyone. And while none quite reach the heights of *Home Alone*, they do bring some extra merriment and love at this time of year. So, grab a mug of hot cocoa, switch on the Christmas lights, and press play. Here is a wrap up of the new holiday films streaming for you in 2022.

SPIRITED

This modern-day version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is a delight. And if singing and dancing Ryan Reynolds, Will Ferrell and Octavia Spencer aren't enough, then the meta and poignant take on humanity's use of social media and advertising should. Rated PG, this film is definitely suited for an older audience, as *The Ghost of Christmas Present* (Ferrell) strives to save the 'irredeemable' publicist



Briggs (Reynolds). Witty and meaningful, but with innuendo, this will be a great conversation starter in your household. *Rated PG. Streaming on Apple TV.*

FALLING FOR CHRISTMAS

It's not every day that a multi-million-dollar heiress falls off a mountain and loses her memory, but when Lindsay Lohan appears in a made-for-Netflix movie, she comes with sparkles and flair. Aptly titled *Falling for Christmas*, Lohan stars as the rather forgetful Sierra Belmont who must learn to take care of herself, let love in, and throw an excellent fundraiser ball. Who knows – she might even find true love with cabin owner Chord Overstreet along the way. This is corny, sentimental and has everything you could want in a 90-minute flick. *Rated PG. Streaming on Netflix.*



THE SANTA CLAUSES

What is Christmas without nostalgia? Disney Plus have brought back Tim Allen as the Santa Claus, 28 years since the original blockbuster film. This time around,

Santa is looking towards retirement and needs to find a replacement. But when none of his kids step up, he must grapple with the changing nature of society and his failures as a father. As whimsical as the original films, but with some modern references thrown in, this series is a worthy cap to Allen's reign as Saint Nick. *Rated PG. Streaming on Disney Plus.*



CHRISTMAS WITH YOU

Get excited '90s kids, Aimee Garcia is back as an iconic popstar named Angelina, who seeks to fulfil a fan's wish. As she tries to reclaim her identity and career, she meets widowed dad Miguel (Freddie Prinze Jr). A celebration of Latino culture, this film carries enough heart to make up for the sheer unbelieveability of its entire plot. *Rated PG. Streaming on Netflix.*

THE CLAUS FAMILY 2

In the first *Claus Family* film, Santa was on a mission to ensure his grandson Jules believed in Christmas following his father's death. Now in the sequel, Jules must prove to his magical grandpa that no present a child requests is impossible to fulfil – even if it involves reconciling a family. Filled with whimsy, but endearingly honest about the things we can't control, this is a good choice for the kids. *Rated G. Streaming on Netflix.*

CHRISTMAS EVER AFTER

This sweet romance is a few years old, but well worth digging through *Nine Now's* archive to watch. Starring Ali Stroker as headstrong romance author Izzi, her writer's block begins to disappear when she meets a stranger who looks bizarrely like the painting of her fictional leading man. But what secret is he hiding that could keep them apart? This is wonderfully predictable, but shows realistic nuance as the characters navigate grief, conversations about disability, and fear of rejection. *Rated G. Streaming on Nine Now.*

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

This stars *7th Heaven's* Beverley Mitchell, who returns to her hometown on a mission to direct her church's live nativity play in memory of her mother. Naturally, things go haywire when her athlete ex-boyfriend also volunteers to run the event. There is a Christmas tree to decorate, snowball fights to be had, and a second chance at love in the air. However, changing dynamics between their families and new career prospects mean the childhood sweethearts must decide if they will pursue success on the field or as a family. *Rated PG. Streaming on Nine Now.*



Unravelling the wreath tradition

The surprising symbolism behind these festive decorations

WORDS Wendy Walters

The Christmas wreath tradition is deemed to have commenced in the 16th century when fresh green boughs of trees were twisted together and placed on the outside of doors. These decorations could be found on doors across northern and eastern Europe, but it is Germany that claims to have started the tradition.

“

Jesus came to be the Light of the World, and he still brings light today.

”

This practice is believed to have also stemmed from another ‘yuletide’ tradition – the evergreen Christmas tree. These Christmas trees were unlike the artificial ones we have in our parts of the world today, which get packed in a box after the new year and stored until the next December. These trees were living evergreens and needed to be pruned to help keep the desired shape, and this was all part of the preparations for Christmas. The offcuts were then woven and twisted together in a circle.

When reading up on the history of the Christmas wreath, it can be found that the definition of the word ‘wreath’ comes from the old English word ‘to

writhe’ or ‘to twist’; thus, the ‘twisted together in a circle’.

The wreath that today can be found in many homes, hanging on the door or lying flat on the table, is much more than a decoration, it is also full of symbolism.



PERFECTION WITHOUT END

The circle shape represents Christ’s eternal love, strength, and divine perfection without end. The use of evergreens could symbolise the creation of new life, renewal, and in a way, the hope we celebrate at Christmastime! This would have been a very clear message across Europe back in the 16th century, at this time of year, as the winters are harsh, and no new growth would be seen for months – but the branches stay green and strong.



Another thought is that before the wreath became associated with Christmas, it was also symbolic of victory, especially with the Greeks and Romans. We have all seen pictures of the early Olympic athletes wearing a wreath made from the laurel tree as a symbol of their victory. How symbolic, when we consider the wreath, that it is a mute reminder of our victory in Christ.

During the Advent season – the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day – often the wreath is used along with four candles, one lit each succeeding week. Each of the four candles is a reminder of the promise of hope, love, joy and peace. The lighted candles are a clear reminder that Jesus came to be the

Light of the World, and he still brings light today.

So, over these next few weeks, when you see a Christmas wreath, let the reminder of the symbolic meaning bring a renewed understanding of the victory, hope, strength, and so much more we have in Christ. The One we celebrate at Christmastime.

Colonel Wendy Walters serves in Officer Personnel for The Salvation Army Australia.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Love, hope and forgiveness

Sharing the joy brings added blessings at Christmas

WORDS Naomi Singlehurst

Over the past few Christmases working on behalf of the Salvos, Maureen has lavishly shared the gift of hope. She has organised and helped pack hundreds of Christmas hampers, including gifts for children in need. It is hard work, but a joy, she says, and only possible because she first received her own gift of hope through the care of The Salvation Army.

As an admin assistant at Craigieburn (Vic.) Salvation Army, and a member of the Salvos' Moonee Valley Recovery Church, Maureen smiles as she remembers the night she and husband Brian first came into contact with the Salvos.

At that stage, things were desperate in their life. Struggling with almost 30 years of addiction to cannabis and alcohol, Maureen – as well as Brian – had exhausted every avenue to get sober and recover.

Maureen's addiction began when she left school at 16 and secured a well-paying job with a government agency.

“

At Salvation Army Recovery Church there is love and forgiveness.

”

“I earned lots of money even though I was only 16,” she says. “Lunchtime on Fridays was a two-hour event at the pub with the work team. That’s kind of how it started.

“I ended up meeting my husband Brian about 18 years ago. We were both in addiction and eventually buying huge amounts of marijuana.”

A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

One night, when they attended a 12-step meeting, they saw a sign advertising an informal gathering including a meal and conversation at the Salvos' Moonee Valley Recovery Church. Maureen says sheer desperation drove them to attend – they had no interest in



Maureen and Brian collect together for Recovery Church.



Maureen and Brian renew their wedding vows.

anything religious. The couple skipped the dinner and arrived in time for the service, which was packed.

Maureen explains with a laugh: "The service started and they said, 'Right, can everyone stand up – we're going to sing.' Brian snapped his neck around and said, 'They sing?' I was thinking, 'He's going to end up walking out as soon as it starts', but we stayed for the whole service.

"Brian told me later that as soon as the singing started, he was captivated. 'I've never been spiritual,' he said, 'but I feel more like that here than anywhere I have ever been.'"

Since attending that first night, the couple stopped using drugs and alcohol.

A NEW BEGINNING

Not long after Maureen started attending Recovery Church, the local Salvos offered her an admin role, and she is

now also a member of the ministry leadership team. After Brian became a Salvation Army member he gained his Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs, and supports those with drug and alcohol dependency.

"At Salvation Army Recovery Church there is love and forgiveness," Maureen says. "Whatever you have done you are still part of God's family – a child of God."

While Maureen always made an effort to stay in touch with her family over Christmas, she says relations are now better and deeper. And even though she is exhausted at the end of organising Christmas support through the Salvos, she hopes it gives extra joy and hope to others.

"It is often said how much people rely on credit to be able to buy gifts, and that's putting them in debt. Others are on their own and lonely at Christmas.

"They're the sort of people I think about now. If we can give them a gift that can be passed to a child and save them from debt and give them a meal and make it feel like Christmas, then we have made a difference.

"That makes me feel happier at Christmastime too."

To get involved with the Salvos this year, to locate local events, or to find help, go to salvationarmy.org.au/christmas



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Alcohol and Other Drugs Services

Lemon cheesecake mousse



Ingredients

250g cream cheese, at room temperature, chopped; 220g or $\frac{2}{3}$ cup lemon curd; 300ml thickened cream; fresh mint

Method

- Beat cream cheese in a bowl until almost smooth. Add half lemon curd and beat until smooth and combined.
- Beat cream separately until firm peaks form, then fold into cream cheese mixture. Mix.
- Spoon 2 tbsp remaining lemon curd into one side of a piping bag or Ziplock bag cut at the corner. Spoon half cream cheese mixture down the other side.
- Pipe into four small serving glasses. Repeat with remaining curd and cream cheese mixture and pipe into four more small serving glasses (eight in total).
- Place in fridge for at least 1 hour or until mixture firms slightly. Decorate with fresh mint and serve.

HAVE A LAUGH

What do you call it when a snowman throws a tantrum?
A meltdown.

What do you call a lazy kangaroo?
A pouch potato.



What do you call a dinosaur that crashes its car?
Tyrannosaurus Wrecks.

How does an octopus go into battle?
Well-armed.

SIGNING IN!



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

6			3			9		
			6			8		
								6
						6	8	5
	9	7		1		3		
8	6				2			7
	8						5	
			4		8			
				5	9			8



Quick quiz

1. Which was the first country to allow women to vote?
2. Where did Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his famous 'I have a dream' speech in 1963?
3. In what year did the Dalai Lama win the Nobel Peace Prize?
4. How many rights are there in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
5. Does Australia have a Human Rights Act?

Tum-Tum

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



Bible byte

"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew chapter 1, verse 21
New Living Translation

Quiz answers: 1. New Zealand (1893). 2. Washington DC. 3. 1989. 4. 30. 5. Australian Human Rights Commission
Act 1986.
Tum-Tum: is hiding behind Tim Allen on page 9.

DID YOU KNOW?

Human Rights Day is observed annually on 10 December.

Human rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, gender, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language or any other status.

The theme of the day this year focuses on 2022 being the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

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5	9	7	8	1	6	3	4	2	
3	1	2	9	4	7	6	8	5	
2	3	8	7	9	4	5	1	6	
9	4	5	6	2	1	8	7	3	
6	7	1	3	8	9	5	2	4	



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