

# salvos

magazine

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023

## Our actions matter

Changing how we live and taking responsibility for the Earth



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### FEATURE

The Salvos  
and climate  
change

### FAITH TALK

The power  
of one

### MY STORY

From  
hardship  
to hope



# BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023**

**#BEATPLASTICPOLLUTION - 5 JUNE**





## 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.

### Mission 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 wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.

# Salvos Magazine

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## Care for the Earth

The theme for this year's United Nations (UN) World Environment Day on 5 June is 'solutions to plastic pollution'.

According to the UN, the world produces about 400 million tonnes of plastic waste every year.

It's estimated that 75-199 million tonnes of plastic are currently found in our oceans. Unless we change how we produce, use and dispose of plastic, the amount of waste entering aquatic ecosystems could nearly triple by 2040.

Time is running out, and nature is in emergency mode. We need to respond today. The positive news is that the solutions and the technology needed either exist or are rapidly developing, but we need the will and the determination to act.

God also told the first humans that they were "trustees" of his "estate", and they were to care for his creation (Genesis chapter 1, verses 26-28, *The Voice Bible* translation).

This edition of *Salvos Magazine* looks at actions we can take individually and collectively to do this, and highlights some of the initiatives already making a difference.

For these stories and more, go to [salvosonline.org.au](http://salvosonline.org.au)

Simone Worthing **Editor**

# EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE, ALL AT ONCE

Transforming how we live and taking responsibility for the Earth

**WORDS** Peter McGuigan

From the upper windows of our home in Canberra you can look out on a clear day and see the majesty of the Brindabella Ranges in one direction and the beauty of the Molonglo Valley in another. Right now, Canberra's notorious winter freeze is kicking in and most mornings a heavy white mist hovers over the Molonglo River – adding something quite ethereal, perhaps even spiritual, to our view.

Three months have passed since I moved to the nation's capital and still every morning I observe and breathe into my whole being the magnificence of the Earth in front of me. It's an inspiring way to start the day, particularly as the sun rises. Often a prayer comes onto my lips: "Thank you great God for the Earth, our home. Thank you for the love and

awesome attention to every detail that is evident in what you have made."

“

**COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY,  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES WE  
ARE TAKING NOW ARE CRITICAL.**

”

It also occurs to me that the damage human beings have inflicted on the Earth and its environment is not always noticeable and I have wondered sometimes if environmental decline is actually as serious as what climate scientists tell us.





### ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

But then I consider the poor state of the Great Barrier Reef, for example, and the occurrence of coral bleaching. In the past three decades the reef has lost half its coral cover and is on course to losing it all within 10 years, particularly in its central and southern regions.

Biodiversity loss is another example. The demise of habitats and the related extinction of species has escalated at an alarming rate in recent years.

And the earth's ice caps are melting. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration agency of the United States) says that, "Antarctica is losing ice mass at the average rate of about 150 billion tonnes per year" and that "Greenland is losing about 270 billion tonnes per year, adding to sea level rise."

This is undeniable evidence of the impact of human activity on the Earth. Our large-scale burning of fossil fuels,

unbridled deforestation, and our unthinking reliance on non-recyclables such as single-use plastics are three patterns of human behaviour behind the self-made dilemma we now face. Environmental decline is actually much worse than many of us think. ►



**OUR COMMITMENT**

The good news is that more and more of the world’s citizens, organisations and governments are signing up for climate action. Collectively and individually, the environmental measures we are taking now are critical. Humanity cannot afford to ease up in its resolve to arrest environmental decline and give the Earth the opportunity it needs to heal itself.

And it’s not tokenism – it’s about transforming how we live and taking responsibility for the Earth, with no going back to our old reckless ways. Nurturing this renewed sense of being custodians of the Earth and letting it fully flourish is key to our future.

On the eve of World Environment Day 2023 (5 June), it would be helpful for us to take stock of our efforts and what we have committed to do. Here is a list of four:

**Recycling and waste reduction:**

We are committed to recycling everything that is recyclable, to vegie gardens and composting, and to replacing non-recyclables such as plastic bags and single-use cups.



**Clean energy:**

We are committed to transforming our energy sources from carbon-based to renewable. Every home in Australia should have solar installed. And we can switch to renewable energy suppliers.



**Transport:**

We are committed to transforming our vehicles from petroleum-fuelled to electricity-fuelled. As the technology advances and as electric vehicles go down in price, all of us should be looking to drive an electric car. In the meantime, we can leave the car at home and cycle or walk when possible. We can also reduce the number of long-haul flights we choose to take.



**Planting trees:**

We are committed to restoring the natural eco-system through planting trees. You can do this on your own or, more effectively, as part of an organisation committed to tree-planting. Plants and trees help the planet to breathe. They absorb carbon like nothing else and, in the process, produce oxygen.



To borrow the title from the recent Academy Award-winning film, our collective strategy should be to target everything, everywhere, all at once.

*Major Peter McGuigan is a Salvation Army officer and Head of Government Relations for The Salvation Army Australia.*



Scan here to read more life-changing stories of hope.

# The Salvos and climate change

Committed to making change happen

In Australia, The Salvation Army is committed nationwide to remedial action towards reversing environmental decline. For example, right now the Salvos are exploring introducing electric vehicles to their fleet, which already comprises a significant number of hybrid cars.



The Salvos first electric vehicle, based in South Australia.

One significant commitment the Salvos have made is to transition their properties across Australia from carbon-based energy to solar power. A 15-year renewable energy partnership with AGL was announced last November in which the energy supplier will install solar energy systems at more than 850 Salvation Army sites. The goal is to reduce the Salvos greenhouse emissions by at least 17,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

It would also generate substantial savings on running costs, freeing up additional funds to resource the Salvos frontline work in Australia.

The first site commissioned was in Coburg (Vic.), and significant work has been done to progress the project

nationally in the last five months. In a recent update, the Salvos Environmental Projects Coordinator, Elyse Anderson, said that the current solar capacity is around 2.15 megawatts (MW) and that 134 sites had been completed.

“Over the coming months, around 4.02 MW will be installed on commercial sites,” she confirmed, “bringing us to a total of 6.17 MW.”

Solar installations in several Salvation Army officers (pastors) quarters have been completed in the Northern Territory and South Australia. These had been the result of government rebates that were no longer available. Future residential installations would be a part of the partnership between The Salvation Army and AGL.



Over time, solar energy will power more than 850 Salvation Army sites.

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. – **Peter McGuigan**

## Salvos host table tennis Tuesdays

A partnership between Hurstville Salvos and a local table tennis association in Sydney's south has created new connections and opportunities for outreach.

The Georges River Association (GRA) runs the table tennis group, which meets at Hurstville Salvos every Tuesday. Corps Officer (pastor) Lieutenant Beth Shao says someone from the church is always present "to chat with people and build relationships with them".

The Tuesday table tennis group is a place for the people involved – mainly from the local Chinese community – to socialise and exercise. Those who attend are also invited to participate in other activities at the church, including English-speaking classes, the community centre coffee and conversation group and social gatherings.



Table tennis is bringing people together for exercise and social contact.

Some members of the table tennis group have now become Salvos volunteers.

"I'm passionate about The Salvation Army because I have witnessed the devotion of so many Salvo officers and the positive impact they have brought to the individual and community," says Councillor Ben Wang, from Georges River Council. – **Lauren Martin**

## New focus for emergency relief

Following national changes to The Salvation Army's Doorways (emergency relief) operational model, Devonport Salvos in Tasmania has refocused its local program on creating space for connection and community.



Lieutenant David Bruford enjoys a cuppa and chat with community members Dennis and Carol Cannon.

"As well as meeting our community's physical needs, loving and caring is our focus," says Lieutenant David Bruford,

Devonport Corps Officer (pastor). "We are having fantastic conversations and doing life together."

The Salvos Connect site is also focused on the way those conversations occur, and this has provided a safe place for community members to discuss their challenges. The Salvos can then respond, connecting people to programs such as their craft group, men's and women's get-togethers, Employment Plus, Disability Employment Service, and Positive Lifestyle Program.

"We are with people when they need it most," David says. "This is a fantastic adventure, and calling, to live out our values and vision, to really connect with community." – **Cliff Worthing**



## UK Salvos march for the Earth

A group of Salvos and supporters took part in the No Faith In Fossil Fuels worship gathering and pilgrimage to the Houses of Parliament in London recently, part of The Big One climate rally.



Salvos in the UK recently took part in the 'No Faith in Fossil Fuels' event in London.

The Big One climate protest aimed to bring 100,000 people to protest outside parliament on 22 April 2023 (Earth Day), with a Christian service and pilgrimage to Westminster on 21 April.

Salvo, Lizzy Kitchenside, said, "We cannot claim to love God and love others and ignore this crisis. Our inaction speaks loudly ... I walk for my future, for the planet, for justice but, most importantly, I walk for and with God."

Care for Creation is one of five mission priorities of The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory, and Salvos joined with other faith organisations to praise God, pray for national and global leaders, and show that they want decisive action to tackle the climate crisis.

## A shift to thrift

The Salvation Army in Canada called for action on Earth Day (22 April) to do more for the environment and society by changing our daily routines and habits. Something as simple as shifting to thrift as part of our lifestyle can have long-lasting benefits for the communities and the planet we share.

"From planting trees to participating in park clean-ups, there are many ways you can help save the Earth," they said. "However, if you want to commit to making a positive long-lasting impact in the environment, we encourage you to make a shift to thrift."

This shift will help avoid sending more textiles to landfill, make a positive difference in the environment while caring for our communities, and help save money.



Whether your motivation is saving money, being more environmentally conscious or discovering vintage and unique finds, making the shift to thrift is a triple win – good for you, good for the planet and good for our communities.

# The power of one

We all have a part to play in working towards a cleaner, greener planet

**WORDS** Melanie-Anne Holland

This year, World Environment Day turns 50. For half a century, 5 June has been observed as the United Nations international day of engagement, with the aim of deepening people's environmental awareness and pursuing greater cooperation for the care of the Earth – our common home. It is worth asking how much we have achieved in that time.

Set against the present ecological crisis, it is easy to be pessimistic, but World Environmental Day has certainly garnered a greater social awareness about the need to care for the environment and the global dimensions of that need. Over the years, World Environment Day has drawn attention to ozone layer depletion, toxic chemicals, desertification and climate change. It has been a platform that encouraged us all to value clean air, forests, rivers and seas, and to strive together to protect our common home.

## STOP PLASTIC POLLUTION

On the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, the theme is 'Stop Plastic Pollution'. Here's a quick hit of facts:

- More than 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year worldwide (the equivalent of 137kg of plastic per person every day). Of this plastic, half is designed to be used only once and less than 10 per cent is recycled.
- It is estimated that 19-23 million tonnes of plastic end up in lakes, rivers and seas annually.
- Microplastics (tiny plastic particles up to 5mm in diameter) find their way into food, water and air. It is estimated that each person on the planet consumes more than 50,000 plastic particles a year – and many more if inhalation is considered.
- Discarded or burnt single-use plastics harm human health and biodiversity and pollute every ecosystem in the world, from mountaintops to ocean floors.

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**Every person has the capacity to make a difference and reduce plastic waste.**

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While the breadth of the issue of plastic pollution is (literally) breathtaking, the good news is that every person has the capacity to make a difference and reduce plastic waste. As individuals, families and communities, in partnership with businesses and government, we can effectively end plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution is a reflection of our culture, where things are so readily thought of as 'disposable'. We simply throw things away, not really considering where they go or what happens to them.



We can all join the movement to end plastic pollution in our lifetime.

The next time we want that product, we simply buy a new one, and the cycle starts again. I continue to be inspired by stories of people pursuing zero-waste lifestyles, not only eliminating plastic pollution, but challenging the wastefulness of our contemporary lifestyle. They offer a different perspective, modelling a more thoughtful way of living, seeing all waste as a precious resource that can find new life, time and again.

### WASTE AND SPIRITUALITY

Could waste be a spiritual issue? It is possible that most of the rubbish we generate is grounded in attitudes such

as indifference and ingratitude, failing to see the true value of things before us. I am reminded of a story of Jesus where he miraculously fed a massive crowd (see John chapter 6, verses 1-13). As the thousands of men, women and children disperse, he tells his disciples to gather the pieces that are left over. "Let nothing be wasted," he says (verse 12).

On this World Environment Day, I invite you to be more 'waste conscious' and become part of the movement to eliminate plastic pollution in our lifetime. May we hear Jesus encouraging us, "Let nothing be wasted."

### SIMPLE ACTION STEPS

- Actively reduce what is going into your bin.
- Buy items with less packaging.
- Recycle everything!
- Put in the effort to research options for items that are harder to recycle.
- Compost food scraps.
- Stop impulse shopping.
- Pick up some litter when you are out and about.

\* [un.org/en/observances/environment-day](https://un.org/en/observances/environment-day)

# From hardship to hope

Salvos' helping hand turns a family's lives around

Until a few years ago, Sharon's family was doing fine. Regular hard-working Aussies, Sharon was a barista and her husband, Mike, a builder. Their two teenage boys, Flynn and Jordan, loved basketball and video games.

“

**They [the Salvos] opened their arms and their hearts, saying, ‘Come with me. We will help you.’**

”

Although they were not wealthy, the family was getting by. Most importantly, they were happy. But along with the

cost-of-living crisis that was hitting everyone, Sharon and Mike were hit by a personal crisis of their own. Mike, who had always had heart issues, became seriously ill, to the point where he could no longer work.

With the family's finances already in decline, the final straw came when Mike suffered a stroke that nearly killed him. In addition to four weeks in an intensive care unit (ICU), Mike was put on a ventilator for another three weeks. By the time he came home, he had only 23 per cent heart function.

## **BREAKING POINT**

The emotional and financial strain on the family reached breaking point as Sharon had to give up work after the accident to become a full-time carer for Mike. As a result, the family that was not long ago happy and getting by found themselves



Families like Sharon's can reach breaking point when faced with multiple financial, health and emotional crises.



The Salvos assist people like Sharon to find long-term financial security as well as assistance with budgeting.

drowning in bills and costs due to the combined loss of two salaries.

Following Mike's hospitalisation, Sharon started making the daily 150km round trip to visit him while he fought for his life in ICU.

"I'd used everything we had to keep us afloat," she says. "We had no money in reserve. I couldn't pay for fuel to visit Mike in hospital, and pay the rent too. I fell behind on my rent. I'd come home from the hospital and just break down in tears. I didn't know what to do. I felt so low, and so alone."

One day, just as she hit rock bottom, Sharon remembered something that would turn the family's lives around – a breakfast service offered every morning by a nearby Salvos cafe. She called in for the free breakfast, a coffee and a chat. What she received in return brought her to tears.

"They [the Salvos] opened their arms and their hearts, saying, 'Come with me. We will help you.' I only wish I'd gone sooner," says Sharon, "so I didn't have

to struggle for so long." Sharon and her family were no longer alone.

### **A WAY TOWARDS HOPE**

With the support of the Salvos, the family received emergency financial assistance to get back on top of their rent, cover outstanding bills and put food on the table. And that was just the beginning.

Apart from immediate assistance, Sharon was able to gain long-term financial security with the steady, guiding hand and ongoing support of a caring Salvos caseworker, as well as financial coaching and budgeting advice.

Sharon now refers to the Salvos as her friends, who she knows will walk alongside her and her family for as long as they need in their journey towards healing and a happy and full life.



Scan here for information on Salvation Army financial services.

# Bread and butter pudding

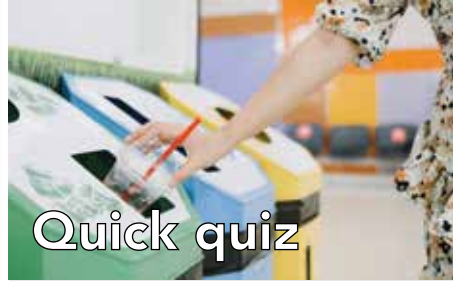


## Ingredients

1 loaf raisin bread, 3 eggs, 2 cups milk, ½ cup sugar, 200g butter (melted), 100g jam

## Method

- Put all the bread and crusts through a food processor until it's the consistency of bread-crumbs. Grease a baking tray and fill it almost to the top with the breadcrumbs.
- Mix eggs, milk, sugar and melted butter in a bowl. Pour this mix onto breadcrumbs, adding more milk if too dry. Once it's a 'wet pudding' consistency, mix the jam through.
- Bake pudding at 160°C for 25-35 minutes. Serve hot with ice cream or cream.



## Quick quiz

1. According to the UN Environment Program, how many million tonnes of plastic is produced every year?
2. World plastic production has doubled in how many years?
3. What is the average time a plastic bag is used before being thrown away?
4. On average, how many plastic bottles does one person use each year?
5. About what percentage of plastic bottles don't get recycled?

## Bible byte

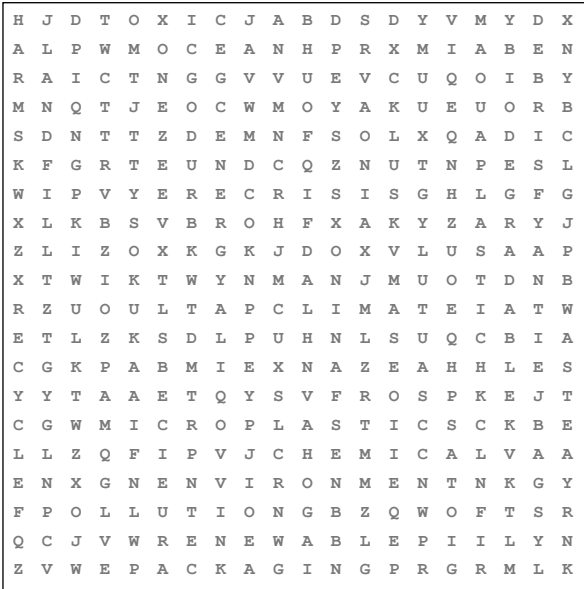
"God saw everything that he had made, and it was very good."

Genesis chapter 1, verse 31  
*New International Version*

## Tum-Tum

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





# Wordsearch

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

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Bags          | Landfill      |
| Biodegradable | Litter        |
| Bottles       | Microplastics |
| Climate       | Ocean         |
| Chemical      | Packaging     |
| Crisis        | Plastic       |
| Debris        | Pollution     |
| Energy        | Recycle       |
| Environment   | Renewable     |
| Harm          | Toxic         |
| Health        | Waste         |

## FUNNY THINGS KIDS PRAY

"Dear God, Grandpa says he used to speak to you when he was young. So, exactly how old are you?"

"Dear God, my mum tells me that you have a reason for everything on Earth, so I guess broccoli is one of your mysteries."

"Dear God, I hope my dog is with you in Heaven, please take care of him. Sorry if he chews your sandals."



## DID YOU KNOW?

**World Environment Day, held annually since 1974, is on Friday 5 June.**

**World Environment Day 2023 is being hosted by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.**

**This year's theme is #beatplasticpollution.**

**Quiz answers:** 1. 300 2. 50 3. 12 minutes 4. 156 5. 90 per cent.

**Turn-Turn:** is hiding on the electric car charger on page 7.



Eva Burrows  
College



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OF DIVINITY

# Turn your passion into *purpose*

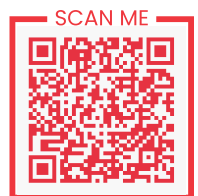
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