

salvos

magazine

Impossible dreams

Supporting students outside the mainstream



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for all

FAITH TALK

Lost and
found

MY STORY

Bee's
healing
journey

"WORTHINESS DOESN'T
HAVE PREREQUISITES."

— BRENÉ BROWN





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 wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.

Salvos Magazine

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Everyone belongs

There are so many examples in our world of places where one size doesn't fit all. This includes culture, language and lifestyle choices, as well as around common yet diverse needs in areas such as health and education.

In this edition of *Salvos Magazine*, Lerrisse Smith looks at one example of alternate education at Pine Rivers Salvos in Brisbane where a school/church partnership supports students who are, or have been, disengaged from mainstream education. The goal is simply to help the students reach their full potential.

Kirralee Nicolle writes about Reservoir Salvos in Melbourne and the safe space for all in their diverse community that the officers (pastors) there are trying to facilitate. Their work is focused on connecting their community to each other and to God.

Major Belinda Davis talks about losing a valued kitchen gadget, and likens her long searches for it to the parables of Jesus about treasured items – and more so people – who were lost, searched for, found, restored to where they belong and celebrated.

For these stories and more, go to SalvosOnline.org.au

Simone Worthing **Editor**

Impossible dreams

Supporting students outside the mainstream

By Lerisse Smith

Waking up for what was going to be an extraordinary day in his life, a talented student who was completely non-verbal when he first enrolled at school prepared to speak for the first time at the Pine Rivers Red Shield Appeal launch breakfast.

"For a child who's had such a negative experience in other schooling systems to get up in front of people and be able to share some of his personal journey was just huge, it was so big – and he nailed it," said Auxiliary-Lieutenant Alli Holland, Corps Officer (pastor) at Pine Rivers (Qld).

"And he's been on a high since."

“

The young people are on the journey to reaching their full potential.

”

A BEAUTIFUL PARTNERSHIP

Extending an invitation to the student to speak at the big event was a top priority for Alli and her husband, Auxiliary-Lieutenant Liam, who described the partnership between The Salvation Army Independent School and their church as "a beautiful one."

Thanks to the exciting partnership between the school, which supports



Liam Holland interviews a student about his experience at The Salvation Army Independent School.

students who are, or have been, disengaged from mainstream education, and the Pine Rivers Salvos, the young people are on the journey to reaching their full potential.

"We used to go over to the school to use their kitchen and serve breakfast, but now the tables have turned thanks to an exciting new service learning model where students come across to the Salvos to help serve breakfast and coffee to our community members," Alli said.

"It has been a really lovely launchpad from us providing something for them, to them coming on board and going, what can we do together, which I really love."

The 'doing something together' has seen the students learn the art of being

a barista, of making a great coffee, from grinding the beans to using the machine tamper. The Salvos have 70 to 90 community members on Tuesdays and Thursdays for breakfast and lunch.

"We flip a lot of pancakes!" Alli said.

BUILDING LIFELONG SKILLS

The Service Learning Framework, intentionally linking the school students with the church, has formed an integral part of supporting students at the school, which comprises one school and two campuses – Lawnton (North Brisbane) and Riverview (Ipswich). The Special Assistance School supports young people in accessing quality education and training programs from Years 10 to 12.

School Principal Helen Boardman said the greatest benefit of the partnership was the strong relationship with the church that enabled the students to participate in the learning framework.



Many students are developing advanced barista skills.

"This model allows students to 'give back' to the wider Salvation Army community and those in need of support in our community by working alongside the corps staff and volunteers to help with community support projects offered by the corps," she said.

"It builds skills aligned with empathy, compassion and generosity of time and spirit and demonstrates to our students that, alongside the support they receive, it is important to reciprocate the kindness shown to them by serving others in our wider community."

“

It builds skills aligned with empathy, compassion and generosity of time and spirit.

”

Alli agreed and said one of the interesting aspects that both she and Liam had noticed was the development and growth in confidence of the students they engaged with.

They recalled another special occasion with a student who experienced a pivotal moment when he received a bike donated to the corps from a local business. It enabled him to have his own mode of transport – and helped to bring down his defences. After wearing a face mask and glasses for a long time, he finally took them off at his school graduation.

Liam said the corps always loved to hear what the students were undertaking.

"We love their energy and hearing about what they want to do when they ▶

finish school," said Alli. "They sometimes get a family model that they may not have had, or people that are constantly looking out for them, and praying for them, and wanting what's best for them and championing them. It's just this beautiful dual relationship."

Cheryl Dunkley, the National Student Support Services Manager of Youth and Education agreed, adding, "If you've got someone who believes in you, if you've got someone who can see potential, and you can draw that potential out in those young people, it's liquid gold."

"Because for some young people, that's been pushed down, it's been squashed. However, we know that for young people, if they have self-esteem, they can start to believe that what they thought was impossible, was possible."

A key encouragement for the staff is the students wanting to turn up to school and be involved in projects such as service learning.

"We're talking about disengaged young people. It blows me away how we have young people that want to

come to our school during school holidays. There's so much going on for these young people. However, they're coming to class. And these are students that haven't been to mainstream school for maybe two years.

"The school is a safe space for most of our young people. They have that feeling, that sense of belonging and purpose. Our school exists not just for the here and now but also for five to 10 years down the track to prepare our young people for life past the four walls, past the desks, the tables and the chairs.

"There is so much potential in each and every one of them."

““

There is so much potential in each and every one of them.

””

HOLISTIC APPROACH

Helen said the school staff advocated tirelessly for those who may not be aware of their rights in education or the available resources.

"Young people who have missed large portions of school find it difficult to navigate through the job market, Centrelink services, the legal system and so on," she said.

"The staff at our schools provide education, training and employment pathways as well as advocating for young people, especially those who do not have the support of an adult in their lives at home."



A lot of pancakes are flipped at the community breakfasts!



Students find a sense of belonging and purpose at the school, as well as options for the future.

Delivering a holistic approach to care incorporates a psychologically informed environment where all staff are trained in trauma and using strength-based language in restorative practice. There's also an emphasis on numeracy and literacy, while Beyond Blue and Headspace services are used to assist students and staff on the topic of anxiety.

Every student has an Individual Learning Plan, flexible options with the Queensland Certificate of Education, and a transition plan where students are followed up once they leave the school.

The students have also started a Certificate II in Self Awareness and Development.

"We are encouraging our young people to start thinking about themselves as citizens," Helen said.

"To think about themselves in terms of being aware of themselves and other people around them, regulating their emotions, and all of those things that we know employers are looking for.

"We are very excited about our future projects, which include the development of a community radio station, 'You're the Boss' financial literacy program, entrepreneurship development and barista training.

"These initiatives help ensure our school goes from strength to strength and supports our students with 21st-century employability skills."



Scan here for more stories of hope.

A safe space for all

The suburb of Reservoir, north of Melbourne, is a colourful place, boasting a culturally and socially diverse demographic.

“Who Reservoir Salvos is has shifted over the years, constantly trying to reflect the needs of the local community,” says Corps Officer (pastor), Auxiliary-Lieutenant Esther Atkins. “Our main goal has been to provide a safe place for anyone, regardless of their status.”

She says that emphasis is now reflected in welcoming those of all ages with mental health concerns, diverse gender- and sexual identities and different cultural backgrounds.

“So just across the board, a safe space,” Esther says. “We just had that as our foundation, and then it sort of evolved from there what we need to do to create that space and meet the needs of those who come.”



Matt Atkins prepares the community Christmas table.

BRIDGING GAPS

To bypass some of the challenge of communicating across multiple cultural, economic and political divides, Esther and her husband Matt use pop culture to bridge gaps. One of their go-to shows is the wildly popular children’s cartoon *Bluey*. The show features a family of blue and red heelers who, together with their dog friends, explore themes including neurodivergence, fear, anger, relationship challenges, miscarriage and infertility, all packaged in a humorous and all-ages-appropriate seven-minute format.

“

Our goal is to reconcile people to each other, the community and to God.

”

“Some of our best messages have come from *Bluey*,” Esther says, “about being brave, being vulnerable, trying new things [or] how you see the world.”

The couple calls the church services “chaotic, messy gatherings” where community connection happens.

“It feels like such a privilege to be able to facilitate these moments where this is God at work,” Esther says. “All of us are broken and struggling. Our goal is just to reconcile people to each other, to the community and then to God.”

– Kirralee Nicolle

Five minutes of social justice – LGBTQIA+ disadvantage

Social justice means different things to different people, but it generally includes the idea of a society being fair and equitable.

In Australia, social justice challenges are multifaceted. Some of the issues we face are huge and will take effort to fix - but all of them can be made better.

This week, we look at some of the challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community and the impact systemic disadvantage can have on their lives.

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community often face discrimination, prejudice and unequal treatment based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or [gender] expression. This systemic disadvantage can lead to various negative impacts, including higher rates of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, increased vulnerability to violence and harassment and limited access to healthcare and legal protections.

Additionally, the societal stigmatisation of the LGBTQIA+ community perpetuates a cycle of marginalisation, hindering their full participation in social, economic and political spheres. Efforts to address these disadvantages involve advocating for inclusive policies, fostering acceptance, and promoting equal rights for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

GOT FIVE MINUTES?

- We can stay Informed: If you're not familiar with terms like gender expression and cisgender or current

LGBTQIA+-related news and issues, educate yourself. Try reading this blog post on key terms and concepts - bit.ly/45r4gyN

WANT TO DIG DEEPER?

- As individuals, we can treat all people with love, respect and dignity. We can examine our own language and behaviour and call out discrimination, exclusion and oppression whenever we see it.
- To learn and hear some more about the experiences of LGBTQIA+ Australians, try watching the ABC iView series *You Can't Ask That: LGBTQIA+ Australians*: bit.ly/45u2WeG (see QR code below.)



Scan here to view the ABC iView series, *You Can't Ask That*.

Lost and found

Celebrating a life restored

By Belinda Davis

About two years ago, my late mother gave me two kitchen gadgets designed for people with decreasing mobility.

One is called a 'jar key' and it's an ingenious item for opening stubborn lids. You only need to position it on the lid and with a gentle lift of the wrist, the seal of the jar is broken, enabling the lid to slide open effortlessly.

The other one is a 'can key' and it has saved me countless fingernails. It hooks under ring pulls on the top of cans and levers the lid off. I seriously did not know how much I would LOVE this device until I started using it. It occupies a specific spot in my kitchen second drawer so it's always in easy reach.

Until the day I lost it.



It was a day that started like any other. I went to grab it, but it wasn't in its usual spot.

A quick rummage did not yield results, and so I checked another kitchen drawer in case it was mistakenly put back there. No luck. Back to more thoroughly searching the first location. Nothing. It wasn't in the cupboards either.

I asked the other inhabitants of my home where they may have put this device. Both denied knowing what I was talking about or having any recollection of ever seeing it before.

I needed to resort to more primitive strategies to open the said can, and that sent me rechecking all the same spots in the vain hope it would materialise.

It did not.

This continued for some weeks until I came to the point of admitting my prized kitchen utensil would never be found, and perhaps I should look at replacing it.

A few days later I opened a kitchen cupboard (one that I had searched multiple times before) and noticed that some things had been rearranged.

As I was moving these things back to where they should go, there was my missing can key. The lost had been found!

My jubilant outcry was met with marked indifference from my household, but somehow my world had righted itself again as I returned this oddly



shaped marvel to its spot in the second kitchen drawer.

Straight away my mind went to the line in the famous hymn *Amazing Grace*: “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.”

“

Jesus speaks a great deal about the importance of lost people becoming ‘found’.

”

I pondered for some time about my joy in finding my lost kitchen gadget, and compared that to the joy felt as people who are lost to God are found once more and returned to their rightful spot in his kingdom.

Jesus speaks a great deal about the importance of lost people becoming ‘found’ and gives three examples in

the book of Luke, chapter 15. He talks about a shepherd of 100 sheep who, when one sheep is lost, leaves the 99 to go and find it. He calls his friends to celebrate when it’s found. Similarly, a woman who has 10 gold coins but is missing one, turns the house upside down to find it, and then rejoices when it’s discovered.

The last example is that of the ‘prodigal son’, who takes his inheritance early, squanders it in foreign lands and ends up homeless and hungry. He comes back to his father, sorry for what he has done, and his father welcomes him with open arms and throws a party.

God wants us all to be restored to a relationship with him and is waiting for us with open arms – regardless of our past or present – whenever we want to come.



Scan here for more stories of hope.

The power of being there

Bee's journey to healing

By Lauren Martin

There are rare occasions when we have the opportunity to hear firsthand the story of someone who has survived a traumatic childhood and found peace and purpose through the help of those who care.

One such occasion is the launch of The Salvation Army Sydney Red Shield Appeal, where each year, someone assisted by the Salvos helps to show the reality of why help is needed, and how it is given, by telling their own story.

NOBODY CARED

This year's testimonial speaker, Bee Orsini, told those gathered that her limited memories of childhood included moving around a lot, having very little to eat and growing up with a mother who, in hindsight, slept and drank a lot because she was incredibly lonely and depressed.

"It wasn't the lack of money, presents or a washing machine," Bee said, "It's what the absence of these things said about our lives: that we were worthless, added no value to the world, and that no one cared about us."

“

It's what the absence of these things said about our lives: that we were worthless ...

”

Eventually, Bee left home as a teen because she didn't feel safe there, ironically moving into situations that she would later realise were even more unsafe. After a tumultuous few years,



Bee found life-changing support and care at The Salvation Army's Oasis Youth Support Network.



Bee Orsini shared her story of hardship to hope at the recent Sydney launch of the Red Shield Appeal.

while experiencing homelessness and couch surfing, a friend told her about The Salvation Army. Bee reached out and began a long-term journey of healing, with the Salvos alongside her every step of the way.

“

**My hope is that ...
you recognise the profound
impact of investing in
one life at a time.**

”

“What are three things from my time at Oasis [The Salvation Army’s Oasis Youth Support Network] that helped me to heal? Consistency, accountability and love,” she said.

LONG-HAUL HELP

“When we think of these big, complex challenges like homelessness or the

cost-of-living crisis, we often think of the big solutions or changes at a systemic or institutional level. This is different from walking alongside someone to directly transform their life.

“While it’s not one or the other, my hope is that when you hear my story, you recognise the profound impact of investing in one life at a time – no matter how long it takes. The thing is, though, there are very few organisations or initiatives prepared to journey alongside people in this way for the long haul. But the Salvos are!”

Bee, who now works for The Salvation Army as a Financial Inclusion Project Officer, encouraged those gathered to give generously to this year’s Red Shield Appeal. The response was overwhelming, with more than \$850,000 pledged on the day.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Youth Services.

Easy chocolate pudding



Ingredients

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cocoa powder, 3 tbsp cornflour, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt, $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups milk, 2 tsp vanilla

Method

- In medium saucepan whisk together sugar, cocoa, cornflour and salt.
- Continue to whisk, adding milk.
- Simmer over medium heat for 1-2 minutes until thick and bubbly.
- Remove from heat, add vanilla.
- Pour into dessert glass and chill.
- Garnish with nuts, berries or grated chocolate if desired.
- Serve with cream or ice cream (optional).



Quick quiz

Chocolate slogans

1. "Have a break, have a _____"
2. "The lighter way to enjoy chocolate."
3. "Say it with a Kiss."
4. "A ____ a day helps you work, rest and play."
5. "You're not you when you're hungry."
6. "Premium chocolate, exceptional taste."

Bible byte

"Be kind and merciful, and forgive others."

Ephesians chapter 4, verse 32
Contemporary English Version

Tum-Tum

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



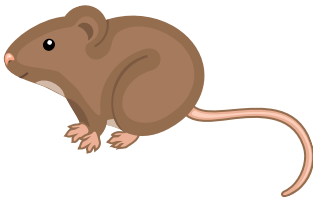
C B J S M O O T H M C Y A P T X
 E R R H R E P U N M A N F T C Q
 A E E O C A R A M E L U H R O J
 N L D A W L A P J K M T X U C B
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 O P W N E C H O C O L A T E T K
 R I S E S G H G I N G E R V J Y

Wordsearch

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

- Almond
- Bitter
- Bonbon
- Brownie
- Caramel
- Centres
- Chocolate
- Cocoa
- Coconut
- Creamy
- Dark
- Fondue
- Fudge
- Ginger
- Hazelnut
- Milk
- Mint
- Mousse
- Nutella
- Praline
- Smooth
- Sweet
- Toffee
- Vanilla
- White
- Truffle

HAVE A LAUGH



What is a French cat's favourite dessert?
Chocolate mousse.

What do you call a lamb covered in chocolate?
A candy baa.

What's the best part of Valentine's Day?
The day after, when all the chocolate goes on sale.

DID YOU KNOW?

World Chocolate Day is celebrated on 7 July. Historians estimate that chocolate was widely introduced to Europe on this date in 1550.

Chocolate is the only edible substance to melt at around 34° Celsius, just below body temperature, causing it to melt easily on your tongue.

One chocolate chip gives an adult enough food energy to walk 4.5 metres. Around 35 chocolate chips are enough for a mile, or 875,000 chips would take them around the world.

Chocolate contains more antioxidants than green tea.

Quiz answers: 1. Kit Kat 2. Maltasers 3. Hershey's Kisses 4. Mars 5. Snickers 6. Lindt **Tum-Tum:** is hiding behind the table of contents on page 3.



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