

salvos

magazine



Jumping from judgement

Seeing humanity through compassionate eyes



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FEATURE

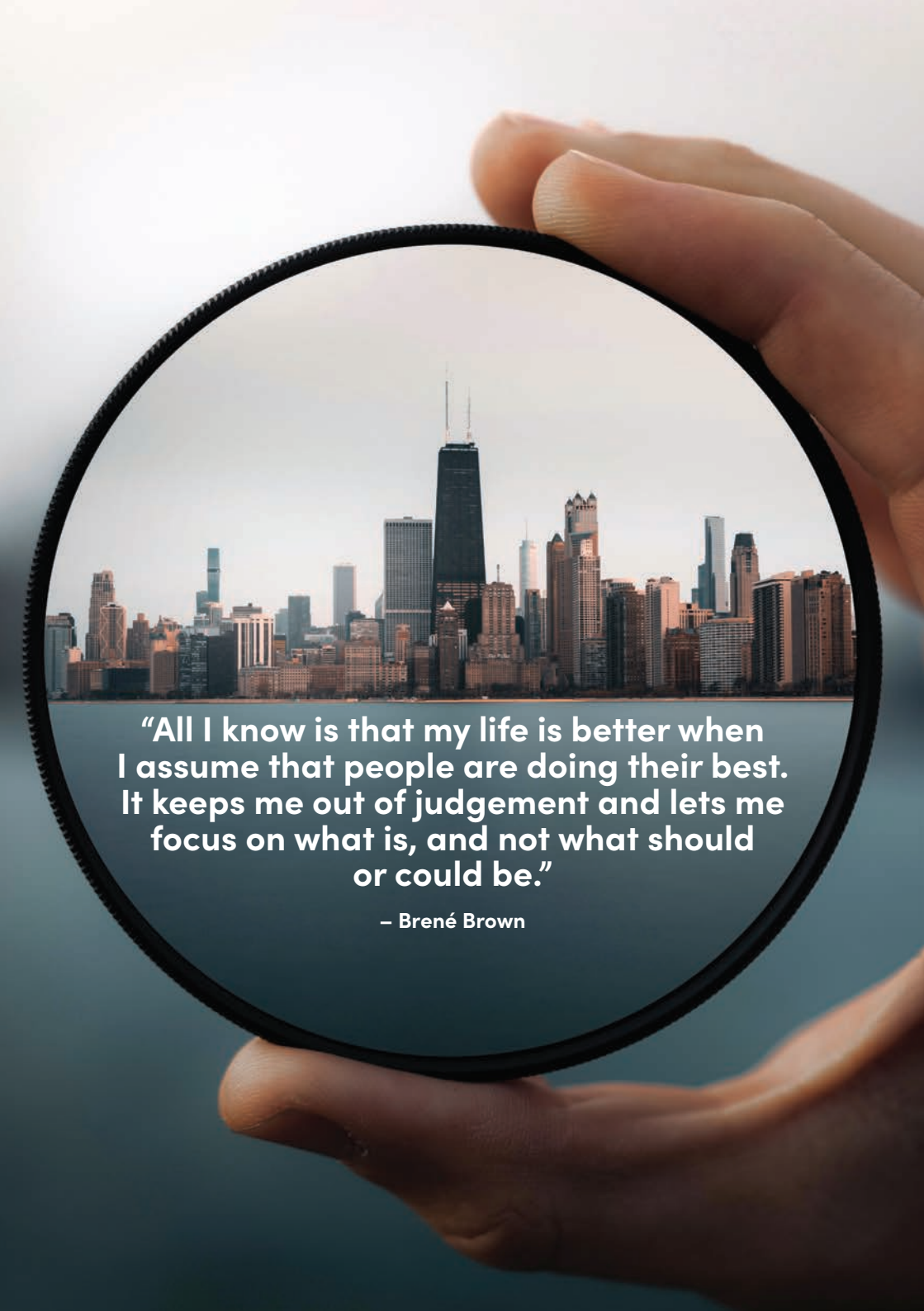
The person
God sees

FAITH TALK

Hope for
this life and
beyond

MY STORY

Why this
atheist loves
church

A hand holds a circular lens that frames a city skyline, likely Chicago, with a quote overlaid on the bottom half of the lens. The quote is in white text on a dark blue background.

“All I know is that my life is better when I assume that people are doing their best. It keeps me out of judgement and lets me focus on what is, and not what should or could be.”

– 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.

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Seeing humanity

For most of us, judging others comes easily. Even unconsciously, we can stereotype and judge those who don't look, speak, think and behave like we do. We don't take the time to get to know people and understand their worlds. We see problems, not people.

This week we focus on judgement – how destructive it can be to other people and to ourselves as well. Alison Templar writes about the need to focus on compassion, love and understanding and how that frees us from judgement, blame and regret.

Karen Masters shares about how easy it is to judge people according to what they look like and what they wear, how God sees the real person, and we can too. The Berwick Salvos in Victoria showcase a new music program that brings together an eclectic group of people who jam together and support each other.

In Faith Talk, Mal Davies wraps up our Easter coverage, focusing on the completed work of Jesus in giving us life. He came to save us, not judge us, and that is what he did.

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

Simone Worthing **Editor**

SMASHING THE STEREOTYPES

Seeing humanity through compassionate eyes

By Alison Templar

My sister and I recently went for an early evening walk. Ahead of us, walking slowly, was a tall, muscular man with heavily tattooed arms who clearly spent a lot of time at the gym. Momentary stereotypes, based only on appearance, flashed through my mind.

As we were about to pass him, I saw that he was carrying a puppy. He smiled at us and said, "She's run out of juice; she just doesn't want to walk anymore." We laughed, and my sister and I started to chat – a puppy is a great ice-breaker, after all!

“

JUDGEMENT BECOMES PARTICULARLY DESTRUCTIVE WHEN IT TURNS INWARD.

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We quickly discovered that he was gentle and intelligent. The momentary judgements I could've made of him would've been entirely wrong.

I have since reflected on this interaction. Thanks to a tired puppy, we enjoyed a pleasant conversation, and I learned more about a stranger. But I had been gently challenged about not making assumptions. What if he hadn't been carrying that puppy? Would I have continued to hold those assumptions

about a stranger based only on his appearance?

DEEPLY DESTRUCTIVE

At its most benign, judgement leads to lost opportunities to connect and learn about people (and missing out on patting a very cute puppy), but at its worst, it leads to exclusion, persecution and isolation.

Judgement is deeply destructive. It stops us from seeing the humanity of the person before us. People who have experienced addiction, homelessness or violence are used to being seen as less than human. They have been shunned, told that they're lazy or useless, and questioned about why they can't just quit, get a job or leave their abuser. Judgement has led to them being seen as a problem rather than a person. And that leaves scars.

Judgement becomes particularly destructive when it turns inward. If someone has been told repeatedly that they are without any worth, unlovable, and unworthy of respect, they begin to believe it. Without self-worth, they lose hope. Without hope, they will never see themselves as God sees them – his beautiful creation, made in his image and likeness.

Jesus cautions us against being judgemental several times in the Bible: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matthew chapter 7, verse 1). He questions why we would look at the 'speck' in someone else's eye yet ignore the 'plank' in our own.

DRIVEN TO JUDGEMENT

Maybe our urge to judge is driven by an awareness of our own shortcomings, and judging someone else gives us a fleeting reprieve from the guilt and shame we feel. Carrying that plank is uncomfortable and painful, stopping us from seeing clearly. If I can point out your tiny speck, for one moment, I can stop thinking about all the ways I'm not perfect.

Whatever drives us to be judgemental, we know it is not God's intention for us. So, how do we work towards becoming non-judgemental? Again, let's look at the Bible. John chapter 3, verse 17 says, "God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." If Jesus was not sent to judge us but to save us, maybe we can stop judging others and, equally importantly, stop judging ourselves.

COMPASSION

The word that comes to mind in all of this is compassion. Can we react with compassion, love and understanding when we see the suffering of others – whatever that might be? Can we be filled with compassion rather than jumping to judgement? Can we be compassionate with ourselves and let go of the guilt and regret we carry?

I suspect that is a challenge for us all. I pray that you can judge yourself with kindness and love, judge others in the same way, and see everyone, including yourself, as God's beautiful creation.

Lieutenant Alison Templar is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria.



Scan here to read more stories of hope.



The person God sees

Do clothes really make us who we are?

By Karen Masters

As a child develops, there are often subtle hints of what they will be like as an adult. Even before she could read, my youngest daughter would lose herself in a book. She has always carried a book with her and loves to read. She also loves to dress up and portray different characters. As she grew, she displayed her love of acting and has continued to collect and wear costumes for performing and, more recently, cosplay. At times my house becomes a wardrobe of clothes, wigs, shoes, hats, coats and accessories.

Cosplay, short for costume play, is an activity and performance art where participants wear costumes to represent a specific character. Cosplay applies to any costumed role-playing in venues apart from the stage. Favourite sources for cosplay include anime, cartoons, comic books, manga, television series, movies and video games.

Kathleen is not the only one who enjoys cosplay. Several times each year, the inner city of Melbourne is overtaken by characters most often seen in books or on screen. Some characters are heroes and some are villains, some are young and others are old. Just like those underneath the costumes.

PEOPLE'S REACTIONS

The reactions to these characters are varied. Children, on seeing their favourite character, speak to them as though they are real, never wondering why their favourite princess or hero is waiting to

catch public transport. Kathleen has found that adults may approach a single person if they are dressed as a recognisable or relatable character. People will avoid the darker, villainous characters portrayed.

Many cosplayers spend months building and fashioning costumes to perfection, showing their artistic skills which result in wearing their sculptured art. Others are happy to wear a representation of the character. A great resource for Kathleen is Salvos Stores, with many of her costumes consisting of bargain parts, even being made from discounted sheets.

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If we look through the outer shell and into their hearts, we will find the real person – the person that God sees.

”

We might ask the question, “Are these cosplayers covering who they are, hiding behind the costume, or are they in fact showing a part of themselves that they can’t express in words?” Children will dress up as a character that they would like to be, such as a hero like Superman, because they want to grow strong and help people, or just fly. Others dress to fit a career they might aspire to when



they grow up, like a firefighter or veterinarian. Does the cosplayer dress as they would like to be or as they really are?

ON THE INSIDE

The Bible tells us in 1 Samuel chapter 16, that when Samuel went to anoint a new king on God’s behalf, he looked at their outward appearance and found tall, strong, handsome men, but God rejected them as he looked at their hearts. Verse 7 says, “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”

It is tempting to be like Samuel and look at the outward appearance of everyone around us and judge them on what we see, but if we look through the outer shell and into their hearts, we will find the real person – the person that God sees.

Major Karen Masters is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Melbourne. Karen and Kathleen attend the Salvos Corps (church) in Waverley.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

Working together in Wagga Wagga



Wagga Corps officers (pastors), Val (left) and David Hopewell (right), with the Nausori Interdenominational Youth Group.

An influx of Pacific Islander workers into south-west NSW rural townships has led to an inter-denominational partnership between the Salvos and the Wagga Fellowship.

The Federal Government's Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme allows eligible Australian businesses to hire workers from nine Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste when not enough local workers are available. This has led to an increase in Pacific Islanders living and working in rural and regional Australia.

In Wagga Wagga, south-west NSW, The Salvation Army was approached by the Wagga Fellowship (a church made up of many Pacific Islanders) about three years ago, requesting to use the Salvos hall for a Wagga Fellowship event. This led to a partnership between the two churches, with regular combined services and events.

The Wagga Fellowship often uses the Salvos building for meetings. Wagga Fellowship pastor, Tom Rokoqica from Fiji, said the connection with the Salvos also provides valuable support for new Pacific Islander families moving to the area.

"Most of them when it comes to the first time coming into Australia, they have their lodging, but the house stuff, The Salvation Army has helped a lot with them," he said.

Wagga Wagga Salvos officer (pastor), Val Hopewell, said partnering with the Wagga Fellowship has been enriching for both churches.

"It's been a great opportunity for our corps (church) to see how people worship differently, but we all have the same common love of God," she said.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

As relationships strengthened between the churches, an idea was born to develop a cultural exchange for young Fijians. Pastor Tom said The Salvation Army's support helped to enable the Nausori Interdenominational Youth Group to travel to Australia and perform a cultural youth tour throughout the Riverina.

The Wagga Fellowship is now looking to partner with The Salvation Army in Albury (90 minutes south), hoping its church will expand as more Pacific Islander workers move to the city.

– **Lauren Martin**



An occasional column on all things books and reading



Getting started

Hmm, where to begin?

Bruce is a great friend of mine and I enjoy his company greatly. But I'm a reader and he's not.

I've loved books since I was a child – a passion that continues to this day. Choosing a new book to buy, while limited sometimes by budget, is a choice I love to make as I consider what I feel like reading next.

Some time ago I gave Bruce a challenge: let me buy a book for you that you will want to read and keep and even read again. He accepted.

To be fair, it wasn't much of a challenge. I know Bruce likes cars and basketball and tractors and watches and travelling and dogs and Lego and Elton John – it was an easy task to accomplish.

I bought him a coffee table book (lots of pictures, not much text) about legendary sports cars. He loved it. Devoured it. Read it.

If you're not a reader, the challenge is firstly to think: what do I really like and have an interest in? Then, go to a big bookshop, find the section that has those books, and see if they have one that interests you. If you're lost, just ask the shop attendant.

There are books for people who like trucks, cats, flowers, football, politics, Japan, history, celebrities, jokes, music and much, much more, including origami or cooking fish.

And if you don't like too many words, all of these books can be found with more pictures and less text.

Note, too, that all good bookshops have a religion section where you can find a Bible and even one with pictures. There's even a whole Bible in comic form!

If you're really stuck and want to read but can't start, try *Where's Wally?* It will get your head in a book with few words but big pictures! – **Mal Davies**

Task? Tick. Done.

Hope for this life and beyond

By Mal Davies

The Bible tells us that Jesus was a busy guy who moved around a lot and spoke to a lot of people, but it was all part of achieving just one thing. He had 'one job to do', we might say. So, did he complete his one job?

When you read through the story of Jesus' life, there is a phrase that sometimes appears, "My hour has not yet come" (as in the Gospel of John, chapter 2, verse 4), or "My time has not yet come" (same book, chapter 7, verse 6), but what time is he talking about?

THE TIME HAD COME

We then get to the event known as 'the last supper', when Jesus shared a meal with his disciples the night before he

was arrested and, eventually, crucified. At that meal (John chapter 17) he prayed to God and, intriguingly, his first words were, "Father, the hour has come." So, whatever he was waiting for, it was time.

In that same prayer he said, "...this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do" (chapter 17, verses three and four).

Jesus had one job on his 'To do list', to make God known, and he'd done that in his preaching and teaching and the way he served people and the way he





loved and cared for people. He had effectively 'shown' God in human form. People could see God in Jesus. He'd made God known.

“

**The cross wasn't a
place of defeat, it was a
place of achievement,
accomplishment and victory!**

”

IT IS COMPLETED

This is why when, on the cross, when Jesus said, "It is finished" (John, chapter 19, verse 30), he wasn't saying, "I give up," or "It's no use," or "That's the end, folks," – he was actually saying, "It is completed," "It is accomplished," "It is achieved."

He had revealed the love and grace of God and he had shown people how to live in relationship and harmony with God and with others. He had one job to do on his 'To do list' and he had done it. The cross wasn't a place of defeat, it was a place of achievement, accomplishment and victory!

Because of what he finished, you and I are never 'finished'. We have hope for this life and for the next. We know that nothing can separate us from God's love and that his grace and forgiveness are freely offered to us. We live in the confidence of Jesus' cry of victory and completion: "It is finished!"

Major Mal Davies is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in South Australia.



Scan here to read more stories of hope.

Why this atheist loves church

Building community through music

By Lerrisse Smith

There's nothing better in life for Andy Parsons than grabbing his sparkly blue and white electric bass guitar and heading out for church each Sunday.

For this self-confessed atheist, being a member of the worship band at Berwick Salvos in Melbourne is a great musical experience.

"It gives me the opportunity to get out of the house and hug my instrument," Andy said. "And it's a chance to give back. Even though I am an atheist, I play in the worship band and attend church to support the wider community in Berwick. I love playing.

"The 'Higher Power' for me is the community from the Salvos. I was a drug addict and alcoholic in my past, and my life was transformed through The Salvation Army."

And now Andy is extending his musical journey as a member of the Timbarra Musos Jam Session held at the church.

"Jam sessions helped me to learn my instrument as a teenager," he said. "They are a useful tool in helping people who have learnt in the bedroom and at school."

The jam sessions are open to people of every age, skill level, and music style.

Andy hopes they will inspire a community spirit and that people in the community will grab their instrument, singing voice, song ideas or anything

else musically inspired and head on down to the church to experience a jam session with a difference.

"It's about helping people light up with what they love doing," said Rob Koch, who initiated the jam session at his church and loves to play his sax.

After thinking about how they could reach the community with a safe and welcoming space as part of the church's vision, Rob conceived the idea of the jam session in the heart of Timbarra with the support of Colin Gould, who is on the church leadership team and Musical Director.

“

It's about helping people light up with what they love doing,

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"The main goal is to develop community, getting people connected, and just seeing the thrill that they get to actually make music with other people rather than solely alone," Rob said.

"For them to get excited that we're able to pull a song together and that they've been able to contribute to that ... I think that's amazing. It's hard to develop as musicians just practising on your own, and not everyone can afford lessons. So, we believe music is a gift best shared."



Andy Parsons, left, and drummer Ron Micallef love being part of the Timbarra Musos Jam Session.

So, what should people expect at the jam sessions?

"It depends on who comes!" Rob said. "We try to tailor the jam sessions to individual needs and suggestions. Understanding people's goals helps. Normally, it will involve someone suggesting a song on the spot, and whoever wants to can chime in with their instrument or voice. We may agree to work on a song at home for those who want to be more prepared.

Homework is not essential, and songs (and their key) can be posted on a group chat. Participants can then interact, answering questions and encouraging one another before giving it a go at the fortnightly jam sessions run every school term.

"I know the key to develop is to play along with other musicians," Rob said.

"I'm thinking about how many other people are out there, frustrated musicians who can't afford lessons, who don't have confidence to sign up for something really serious."

Rob said it was important for those thinking of jamming with others to be encouraging and teachable – and to show patience and respect in a positive learning environment.

"We want to help each other out without being pushy," he said.

"Listening is a skill we never stop practising – it's how beautiful music is made."



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

Flummery



Ingredients

1 x 85g pack flavoured jelly crystals,
300ml cream.

Optional:

Fresh fruit, food colouring

Method

- Dissolve jelly crystals in 250ml boiling water.
- Place in fridge, 1-2 hours, until it becomes a thick syrup.
- Remove from fridge and add cream, beating until it doubles in size.
- Pour into dessert bowls and place in fridge for 1-2 hours.
- Serve with fresh fruit if desired.
- For two colour options, fill only half the bowl. When set, repeat process with a different flavour/ colour and add to original flummery.



Quick quiz

1. What is the name of the professionals who perform brain surgery?
2. Which health professionals take blood from patients?
3. Which part of the body do audiologists specialise in?
4. Which body parts do nephrologists specialise in?
5. Which body parts would an orthotist specialise in?
6. Latrophobia is the fear of what?

Bonus: Which city is shown on page 2 of this week's magazine?

Bible byte

"When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds."

Genesis chapter 9, verse 14
New Living Translation

Tum-Tum

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



Wordsearch

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

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

- Advice Infection
- Allergy Injection
- Appointment Medicine
- Bandage Nurse
- Better Patient
- Chair Pressure
- Charts Relief
- Checkup Results
- Coat Surgery
- Consultation Tablets
- Diet Waiting
- Doctor Xray

HAVE A LAUGH

ON THIS DAY...



How much does a rainbow weigh?
 Not much, they're pretty light.

What weapon does an archer use when the weather is bad?
 A rainbow

Where do bad rainbows go?
 Prism.

31 March, 1889

The Eiffel Tower is opened.

Paris's most iconic landmark was named after Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, whose company designed and built the tower for the 1889 World Fair. The tower is nicknamed "La dame de fer" (Iron Lady) and stands 330 metres high.

1 April, 1976

Apple Inc. is founded.

The computer company, now a multinational corporation, was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne.

4 April, 1975

Stanley Kubrick's

2001: A Space Odyssey premiered.

While today this movie is considered a classic in its genre, when it was released, the epic about human evolution, technology and extraterrestrial life divided audiences and critics.

Quiz answers: 1. Neurosurgeons 2. Phlebotomists 3. Ears 4. Kidneys 5. Feet 6. Doctors **Bonus Question.** Chicago
 Turn-Turn: is hiding behind Kathleen on page 7.



Have you taken care of your Will?

A gift in your Will can help The Salvation Army create a long-lasting impact in the lives of those experiencing hardship.

Find out how you can start or continue your legacy of generosity. Contact The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team and ask for a free Wills booklet.

Together, we can give hope where it's needed most long into the future.



CONTACT US TODAY

1800 337 082 or visit
salvationarmy.org.au/wills

