

salvos

magazine

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

A voice for generations

Working towards a just, equitable and reconciled Australia



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VIEWPOINT

A place of grace

FAITH TALK

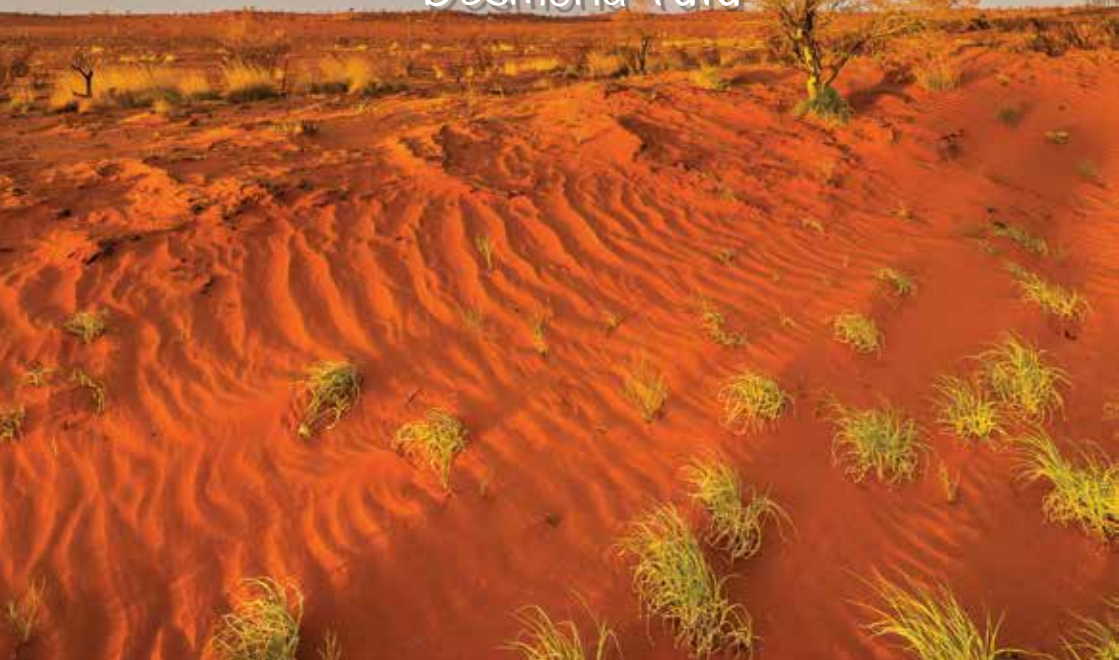
Love one another

MY STORY

A voice for justice

“True reconciliation ... is a risky undertaking, but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring real healing. Superficial reconciliation can only bring superficial healing.”

– Desmond Tutu





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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A voice for justice

Love one another

Australia is currently observing National Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June). The theme this year is 'Be a Voice for Generations'.

This edition looks at just some of the ways Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are working towards a just, equitable and reconciled nation.

Brad Watson shares his experiences from a Walk on Country and a Yarning Circle and how being connected to Country and to each other opens doors for mutual learning, and for calm discussion on challenging and emotive issues.

Tahana Turner, a proud Bundjalung woman, writes about her role with the Salvos and wanting to be part of the reconciliation journey as she combines her culture and her Christian faith through advocacy and support.

As discussions around reconciliation continue on a range of levels, Uncle Ray Minniecon brings it all back into a simple, yet challenging focus – "The heart and soul of reconciliation is to love one another."

Jesus said the same thing when he gave his followers a 'new commandment' – "love one another".

This is a responsibility we can all take seriously.

Simone Worthing **Editor**

National Reconciliation Week 2023

Working towards a just, equitable and reconciled Australia

WHAT IS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK?

National Reconciliation Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of all Australians and encourages every person who calls Australia home to actively contribute towards reconciliation in our country. It is organised by Reconciliation Australia, a not-for-profit organisation and the main body championing reconciliation in Australia.

WHEN IS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK?

Each year, National Reconciliation Week is celebrated from 27 May to 3 June. The dates remain the same each year and align with major milestones in our country's reconciliation journey – the success of the 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision.

WHAT IS THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR?

The theme for National Reconciliation Week in 2023 is 'Be a Voice for Generations', encouraging everyone to actively do what they can to ensure that our country achieves reconciliation.

WHY IS RECONCILIATION WEEK IMPORTANT?

It is important to celebrate National Reconciliation Week each year to encourage a continued awareness of, and ongoing discussion about, our rich histories and achievements. The week highlights different ways in which we can move towards reconciliation in Australia.

Everyone has a role to play when it comes to reconciliation. Ensuring that all people are given equal opportunities is paramount to the future of Australia.

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION WEEK?

Reconciliation Australia encourages the community to hold events, such as those included at [nrw.reconciliation.org.au/calendar](https://www.nrw.reconciliation.org.au/calendar)

Everyone is encouraged to celebrate Reconciliation Week and actively understand the reasons why this important week exists. Every person can be active in their social circle, their school or work life or their neighbourhood to promote and ensure a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.



To enhance your own knowledge about Reconciliation Week, consider these ideas:

- Search online about Indigenous history.
- Find out about the land on which you reside or work – what Indigenous land are you on? Who are the peoples of this land? What language(s) do they speak?
- Learn about National Sorry Day, a day that remembers and honours the Stolen Generation.
- Read about the Voice, Treaty and Truth.

WHAT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROGRAMS DO THE SALVOS RUN?

Salvos programs and partnerships focus on supporting, empowering and encouraging community leaders, and aim to 'Close the Gap' by collaboratively working towards greater equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Various programs include early intervention, youth justice, housing, sports and others.

Learn more by visiting salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-services/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-programs

ARE THE SALVOS COMMITTED TO RECONCILIATION?

The Salvation Army cherishes and nurtures the oldest living culture on Earth. Our respect for the unique cultures, spiritualities, histories and languages of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is documented in our Reconciliation Action Plan.

For more information, go to salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/governance-policy/our-commitment-to-reconciliation



Studio in the park

Innovative Salvos program facilitates homeless Indigenous art

Providing an art studio in the park, positive engagement and access to services has produced transformational outcomes for Indigenous rough sleepers in Darwin, as well as art worthy of exhibition.

To date, the Salvos program has secured accommodation for 30 community members, helped 17 participants Return to Country, and has connected all program participants with health services.

“The purpose is to initially give participants a safe place to paint,” said Jamie-leigh Barnard, Doorways (emergency relief) Northern Territory Regional Manager. “During the process, we build trust, help engagement with other support programs, and facilitate Return to Country for those who want it.”



Program participant, Susie, working on her painting in the park.

Studio off the Street began informally in 2019 when Ross, from remote west Arnhem Land, attended a Salvos hostel open day. He requested a safe space to paint, away from street noise, and became a regular, creating Stories of Country on stray pieces of bark or canvas, and encouraging family and friends to paint with him.



Dino takes Ross back to Country and his niece's welcome.

Two years ago, program coordinators Jamie-leigh and Dino dos Santos, Outreach Case Manager, Street to Home program, secured funding for two years from a Salvation Army community grant. Funding allowed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement program to continue and expand.

Part of that expansion enabled the program to employ Sharon Butcher, born and bred in the remote community of Papunya and an accomplished artist with lived experience of rough sleeping, as a community engagement worker.

Currently about 30 people regularly participate in the program. Every Thursday, workers set up in a local park, providing tables and chairs, canvas and paint, music, hot tea and sandwiches.

Funding for Studio off the Street ends this June, but Jamie-leigh and Dino are hopeful donors can appreciate the positive outcomes and support the current model going forward.

“It will continue in some form because it is so successful,” said Jamie-leigh. “We just hope to gain funding so participants can receive the full benefits.” – **Cliff Worthing**

Reconciliation in action

New mentoring program to support Indigenous families

As Australia celebrates National Reconciliation Week, The Salvation Army Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team is training mentors in the advanced planning stages of the first Indigenous COACH mentoring program in Australia.

COACH – ‘Creating Opportunities and Casting Hope’ – is aimed at strengthening communities through one-to-one mentoring. Crossway Baptist Church in Melbourne designed and manages the program, which currently runs in over 100 communities around Australia.



The COACH program will benefit families with children.

The COACH Indigenous Program – designed in partnership with The Salvation Army Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team – aims to support and empower Indigenous families and individuals with children (initially) in the Townsville region and will involve training a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous mentors. Participants will be offered 12 months of one-to-one mentoring.

PRACTICAL RECONCILIATION

In the spirit of the National Reconciliation Week 2023 theme, ‘Be a Voice for Generations’, mentors will offer friendship, support and voice to help families and individuals to “flourish emotionally, socially, economically and spiritually”.

“

This program will aim to bring deeper unity and understanding between First Nations and non-Indigenous peoples.

”

“COACH has been described by a participant as ‘friendship with purpose’,” the Salvos Indigenous COACH coordinator Jennifer Reuben says.

Jennifer says that the COACH mentoring program is a perfect example of practical reconciliation – bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous mentors with participants, building friendships and understanding and giving a voice to those who may have felt marginalised.

“This program will aim to bring deeper unity and understanding between First Nations and non-Indigenous peoples and build respect as we come together and work together.”

– **Naomi Singlehurst**

A place of grace

Lessons from the Yarning Circle

Major Brad Watson is Head of Community Engagement for The Salvation Army. Earlier this year, Brad joined with other Salvos leaders for a Walk on Country and a Yarning Circle to learn from First Peoples' history and talk about the challenge ahead. Salvos writer Anthony Castle asked him about the experience.

Anthony Castle: A Walk on Country is a way to connect with the environment, each other and raise awareness about First Peoples. How did the Walk on Country work?

Brad Watson: A group of us gathered in Canberra, on Ngunnawal country. We participated in a Walk on Country, then a Yarning Circle. We heard from one of the education officers at the National Arboretum, who talked us through some cultural artefacts of the Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri people.

We visited the butterfly garden, built to reflect a dreaming story of the Ngunnawal people, and a bush tucker

garden as well. It was valuable – this awareness that all this food and medicine was around us. It all has a story behind it, but unless we walk and listen, we will never know about it.

Yarning Circles can be collaborative spaces, a way to communicate and provide a respectful place to be heard and to respond. What did you learn through the process?

There were some real personal connections made, and we discussed what may be proposed to Australia in terms of the referendum regarding an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.



Lucy Davis, Reconciliation Action Plan and Projects Manager for the Salvos, leads the Yarning Circle in reflection and discussion.

There was healthy emotion about the discussion, and we recognised the gift to us that was the Uluru Statement. It's a very generous offering, seeking to articulate a way forward that everyone can get on board with. We recognised that gift and are invited to journey with them towards voice, treaty and truth. The Yarning Circle became a place of grace.

Does being connected to Country and each other change how you see things?

There's the physical component of it. It grounds you – being in the sun, in the fresh air. We felt calmed ... and walked and talked with each other. We had our awareness of the local Aboriginal community elevated. We shared in a time of learning so that when we came to speak about the impending referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, we were really grounded to talk about it.

At its heart, we have a people who have been dispossessed and disadvantaged – and continue to be – who have approached the rest of Australia, and said here's a way forward. So, it's incumbent on us on how we respond ... and how we formulate a personal and corporate response.

How can we balance the personal and the corporate response going forward?

From a corporate response, The Salvation Army's mission statement says that, "Wherever there is hardship and injustice, we will live, love, and fight". There is hardship in what is not healed and what is not spoken about, as well as gaps in experiences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Given our reconciliation action plan, and our promise to fight injustice and our theology that

everyone is made in the image of God, we must respond.

The personal response I think it elicits is the need to be educated and to understand the simplicity of what is being asked. The referendum in 1967 was a simple request, "Please count us". Now the request is "Please hear us". I'm hopeful that non-Indigenous Australians will take the time to be aware of the local community, to educate themselves about local histories, and understand why it's critical that a Voice to Parliament is brought into being.



Salvo leaders created artwork to signify their commitment to the Voice to Parliament.

I know that Tasmania, the state where I live, has a really dark past. It can be hard to educate yourself and process some of the lies we've heard or the things we've been taught. But it's incumbent on us to educate ourselves and take this journey, to find it within ourselves to graciously respond to what's being offered to us in the referendum – to support an Indigenous Voice to Parliament being enshrined in our Constitution.

The heart of reconciliation

Loving one another is the key to living in harmony

WORDS Uncle Ray Minniecon

To me, reconciliation is the most important agenda for all humankind on this planet – reconciling with each other, reconciling with our creation, or with God’s creation really, and reconciling with our Creator.

And according to the Scriptures we have the message of reconciliation, and we have the responsibility of reconciliation.

“

To me, reconciliation is the most important agenda for all humankind on this planet – reconciling with each other, reconciling with our creation, or with God’s creation really, and reconciling with our Creator.

”

That’s a biblical principle and that’s where we need to sink our faith – our issues of justice, our wishes of righteousness. Yes, we might have Reconciliation Action Plans and all those kind of things as a product of the social and political events that have happened in our country, but as Christians, as followers of Jesus, our responsibility is different because our responsibilities are much bigger.

We are to reconcile with each other and that’s the direct command of God. One of the things I’ve challenged myself with this year is asking myself this question, “What happened to loving one another?”

We live in a world where the idea of loving one another* has sort of dissipated, but it’s up to us – those who believe in true reconciliation – to resurrect the whole notion of what it means to love one another, because that is the heart and soul of what reconciliation is all about.

So, we encourage you this National Reconciliation Week to think about your responsibilities as a reconciler.

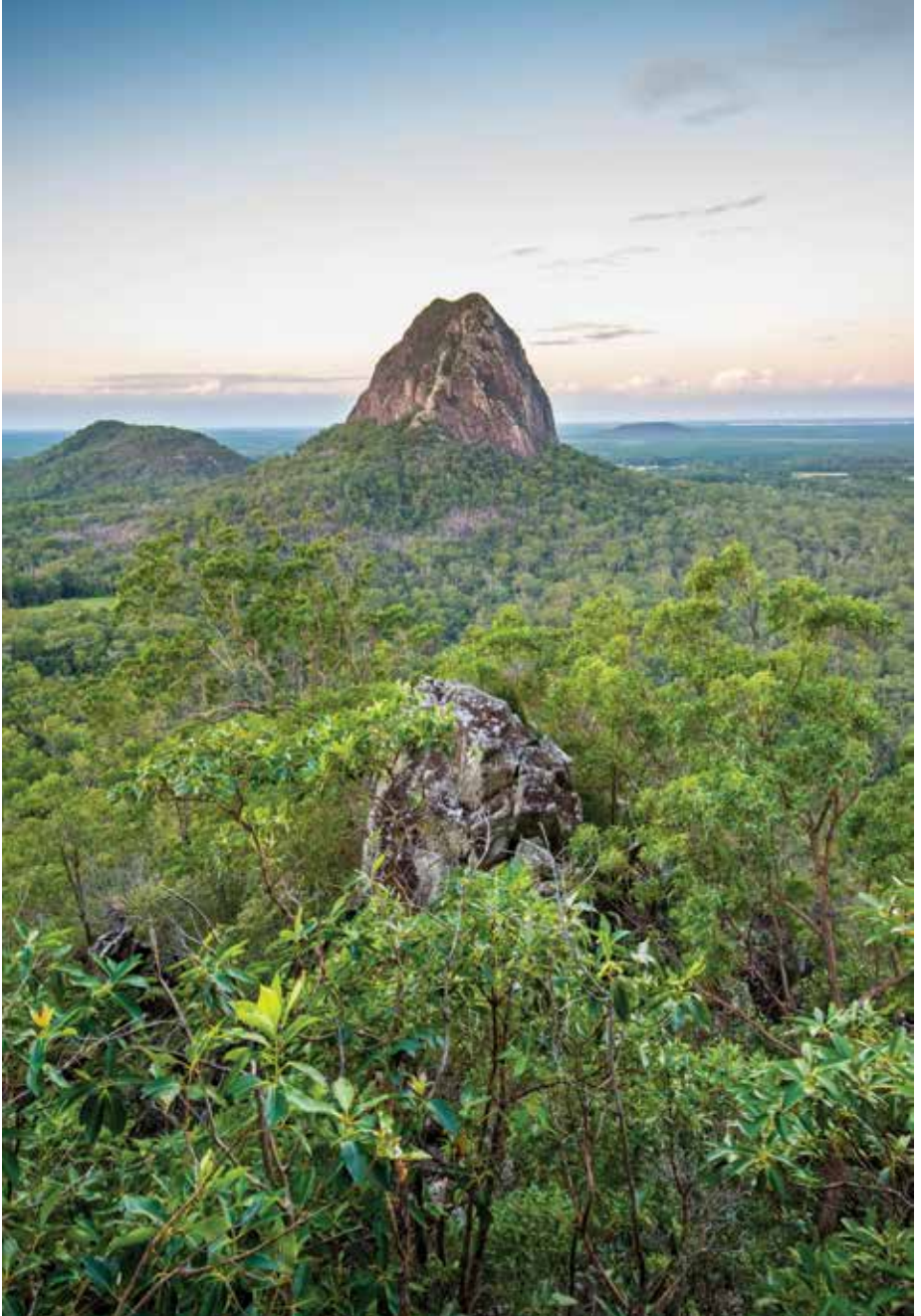
* *“So I give you a new command: Love each other deeply and fully. Remember the ways that I have loved you, and demonstrate your love for others in those same ways.”* – John chapter 13, verse 34 *The Voice Bible translation*

Uncle Pastor Ray Minniecon is an Aboriginal Christian leader and Kabi Kabi, Gurang Gurang and South Sea Islander man.

Pictured right: Mount Tibrogargan in the eastern section of the Glasshouse Mountains is part of Kabi Kabi Country.



Scan here to go to The Salvation Army’s National Reconciliation Week hub.



A voice for justice

Giving support and advocacy across the generations

WORDS Tahana Turner

This year's National Reconciliation Week theme, 'Be a Voice for Generations', urges all Australians to "use their power, their words, and their vote, to create a better, more just Australia for all". Tahana Turner, the Salvos Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Coordinator for South East Queensland, says her role supporting Salvation Army services and faith expressions to create culturally safer environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities is "a great privilege".

There is a verse in the Bible, in the book of Proverbs, chapter 31, verses 8-9, that says, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

I am so privileged to be a part of the great Salvation Army Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team from around Australia. Much of my role is about being a voice – offering support, guidance and advisory work to our frontline workers in the Salvos.

It is an amazing role that involves offering teaching, training, involvement in Yarning Circles and staff recruitment to help our services support and encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their communities and serve them in a culturally safe and sensitive way.

CHALLENGES OF SPEAKING OUT

While roles such as this are important, it is also important that every person – young, middle-aged and old – should be a voice for justice, because the reality is that many in our Aboriginal communities are still broken and hurting.

It's not always easy to speak up for justice – when we speak up there is always opposition, but that can't stop us. If we have a message to bring, I believe that is because someone needs to hear it.

“

It is not always easy to speak up for justice.

”

There are times when I don't feel I have the courage to speak out bravely as I believe God's called me to do, but I say "yes" anyway. In the end I want to be part of a solution. I want to make a difference.

Our team was recently in Victoria, and we met some amazing Elders – Indigenous Christian leaders who had, and have, a deep sense of their culture and their identity in God. What they have achieved in their lives is phenomenal, including Uncle Vince Ross who stepped out in faith and created the Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre.



Tahana wants to be part of a reconciliation solution.
Photo: Grace Murray

I was so honoured and inspired to hear their stories. Their courage has made such a difference in the lives of many Indigenous (and non-Indigenous) people's lives.

I also look at my parents, who are both pastors, and the many challenges they have faced. They have stayed strong and clung to God and to the vision they were given. Together with many other long-serving Indigenous leaders, they have not wavered from their calling and the privilege to make known the importance of the Indigenous voice in Australia and make real reconciliation happen.

FAITH AND CULTURE

National Reconciliation Week started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation. The privilege that we as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to interconnect our culture and faith in Jesus is something that God has intended from the very beginning. It's the perfect match!

I am a Bundjalung woman, from the Coodjinburra Clan, which sits on Booningbah (Fingal Head). There is great power in feeling like you belong and that you are at home within your kinship systems, language systems and ceremonial systems.

“

In the end, I want to be part of a solution.

”

I believe God created me to love him, and he created me as a strong and proud Bundjalung woman. When I go home, I am able to reconnect with nature and listen to what Country is teaching me. It is a place where I correspond with the creator and with creation. The chaos of life leaves and I connect more deeply with God. He created me that way – to have this deep and enduring connection to him and to my Country.



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

Apple crumble



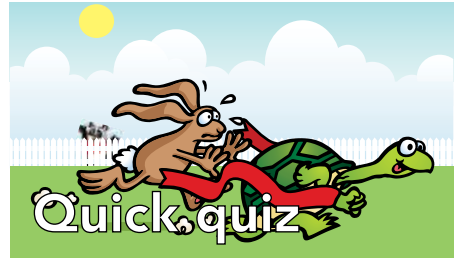
Ingredients

1 kg apples,* ½ cup brown sugar, ½ cup flour, ½ cup sugar, ½ cup oats, ½ cup cornflakes, 100g butter

Method

- Peel and dice the apples.
- Sprinkle brown sugar onto the apples and toss around until covered. Bake at 160°C for 10-15 minutes.
- Mix flour, sugar and oats together in a bowl. Crush cornflakes and add them to the mix.
- Soften butter and rub through the flour mix.
- Top cooked apple with the crumb mix. Bake for a further 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.
- Serve hot with ice cream, cream or custard.

*This recipe can also be repurposed with stone fruit or berries.



1. In what century was Aesop's fable 'The Tortoise and the Hare' published?
2. Approximately how many species of turtles and tortoises are there?
3. How many species are estimated to be endangered?
4. How many bones are in a turtle's shell?
5. What determines a turtle's gender?
6. In the movie *Finding Nemo*, what is the surfer turtle called?

Bible byte

"Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them."

Psalm 69 verse 34
New International Version

Tum-Tum

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



Q S J D X R S P E C I E S A E W G F R C
 Y Y A Z R L R E P T I L E Z B J I I N P
 Q T L L F Y W E S F C J D S W F A S Q Y
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Wordsearch

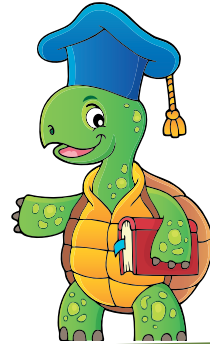
Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| Aquatic | Land |
| Beach | Leatherback |
| Carapace | Marine |
| Caruncle | Neck |
| Eggs | Ocean |
| Endangered | Predator |
| Estuaries | Reptile |
| Fishing | Saltwater |
| Flippers | Shell |
| Freshwater | Species |
| Galapagos | Terrapin |
| Giant | Tortoise |
| Hatchling | Turtle |

HAVE A LAUGH

What did the turtle do when it won the race?
It shellebrated.

I walked into a bookshop last week and asked if they had any books about my favourite animals, turtles. The sales assistant asked, "Hard back?" I replied, "Yes, with small heads."



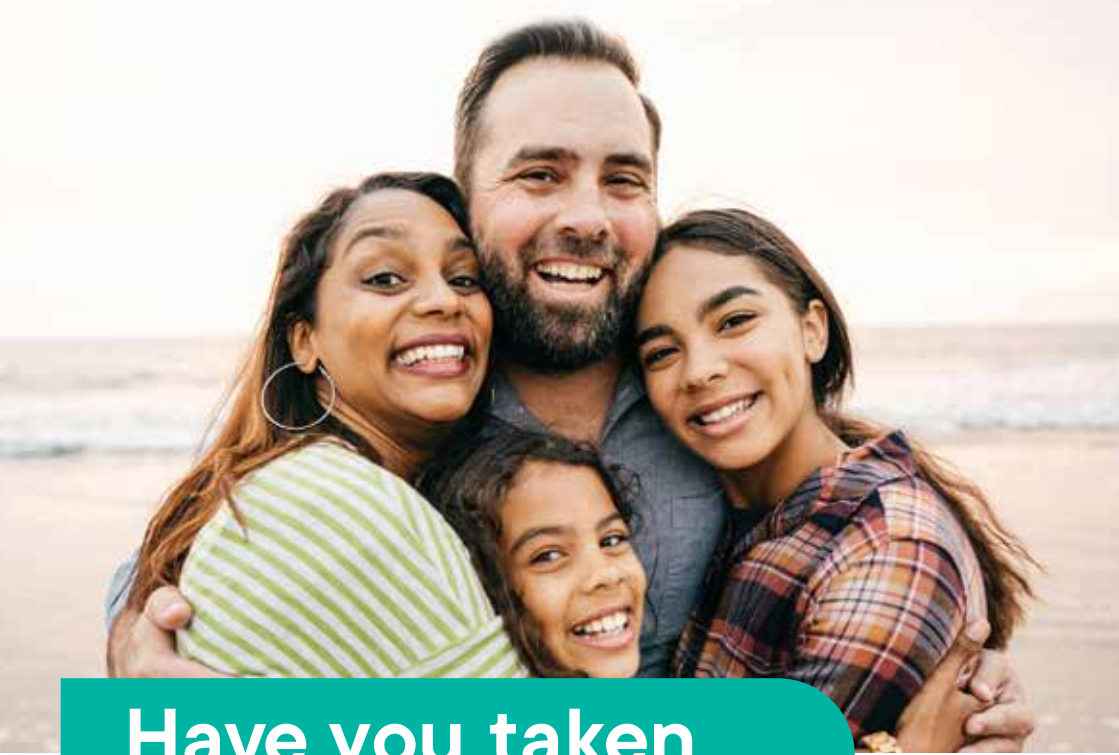
I had a teacher called Mr Turtle.
He tortoise well.

DID YOU KNOW?

World Turtle Day is held on 23 May. Turtles and tortoises are some of the world's most illegally traded animals for their meat, shells and skins.

Turtles sometimes live in the water, while tortoises live only on land.

Quiz answers: 1. 16th century 2. Approximately 350 3. 187 4. 50 5. The temperature of their sandy nest - cool: male, warm: female 6. Crush **Tum-Tum:** is hiding behind the fence on page 14.



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

