

# salvos

magazine

## Planning a colourful Christmas

End-of-year celebrations  
on a budget



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### FAITH TALK

Merry  
(sort of)  
Christmas!

### MY STORY

Just a good  
place to  
come

### NEWS

Christmas  
in July

**“Compassion creates the kind of loving space where anger and judgment cannot live. Just love, joy and beautiful purpose. We might forget it’s there sometimes, but we can always return.”**

**- Nanea Hoffman**





## The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

### What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

### Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

### Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

# Salvos Magazine

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places

## Christmas in July

Celebrating Christmas in July conjures up images of festive winter sweaters, hot roast dinners and steamed fruit puddings – elements increasingly absent from our December celebrations in Australia.

Many in our communities enjoy this additional Christmas 'season' and look forward to gathering with friends and family for a hot meal, complete with Christmas tree and tinsel.

In different parts of the country, Salvos celebrate the occasion for different reasons – from raising funds to ensure social programs continue, to honouring different groups in the community, to just having a party.

The meaning of Christmas, as Mal Davies points out, is still the birth of Jesus and the life-changing impact he continues to have on human lives globally. This can be celebrated at any time of year.

As the cost of living soars, many people are dreading Christmas, fearing they will have very little to spend throughout the festive season. Kristen Hartnett gives some financial tips on how to creatively take action now to make the season special – even if it's different to what we've ever done before!

Simone Worthing **Editor**

# Planning a colourful Christmas

End-of-year celebrations on a budget

**WORDS** Kristen Hartnett

This year, Australians have been hit hard with the reality of the cost-of-living crisis. Food, petrol, electricity, rent and mortgage payments have increased, and continue to go up. These increases impact everyone differently, ranging from inconvenient to damaging – not being able to afford food and shelter.

Given this, how can we end 2023 financially well? During the next six months, going from winter and into summer, you may have cut back on your expenses as much as you can. Does this mean that Christmas is going to be hard as well?

What would happen in your family if you said, “We can’t afford to celebrate Christmas this year; we don’t need presents or scorched almonds”? For me, that feels empty and sad. It feels black and white. Life needs colour. We need joy, connection and celebration, so what can we do to ensure we enjoy these as we end 2023?



We need to be intentional and thoughtful, remembering that the perfect Christmas and summer holiday budget, does not exist, and that our ‘Christmas expenses’ need to cover more than just 25 December.

## *End-of-year celebrations*

Our end-of-year celebrations are a way of enjoying each other’s company, recognising achievements and milestones, and thanking people for what they have done for us. We may exchange gifts, share a meal or attend a special event. These celebrations, while valuable and fun, can sometimes be exhausting and expensive.

Here are a few tips to consider now, when thinking about this hectic time of year:

- You don’t need to go to every event.
- Plan in advance so that the event is affordable and takes into account your values.
- If you exchange gifts and say thank you to people (teachers, colleagues, group leaders and so on), think about how you can do this without placing unnecessary pressure on your time and funds.

## *Christmas Day*

What do you like to do at Christmas-time that makes you feel alive and excited? Plan early and start the conversation now. It’s not too soon, and decisions have to be made at some point.



The more time you have, the more you can plan your spending and how you will celebrate Christmas Day.

Points of discussion could include:

- Each person buying one gift 'Kris Kringle' style, rather than individual gifts.
- Having handmade gifts and decorations only.
- Setting a dollar limit for gifts.
- Preparing enjoyable, budget-friendly food.
- Ensuring the focus is on people rather than things.
- Whether there is one person extra you can invite and include in your Christmas Day celebrations.
- What traditions you have and how you honour your spiritual beliefs and share those with the ones you love.

### *Summer holidays*

You may be choosing to go away for a break, inviting people to stay with you or opting for a 'staycation' at home. Now's the time to start thinking about how to spend your summer holidays.

- What do I (as well as children, family and others) like to do each day that we can afford?
- What is one thing we can do weekly during the holidays that we can afford?
- What is the one treat we can plan for January that we can look forward to? (Perhaps a voucher for this activity could be one of the Christmas gifts.) ▶







### Back to school

Next year seems so far away, but it's helpful to start thinking now of what your kids may need to go back to school. This can include stationery, uniforms, technology and fees.

Know the prices and look out for the sales. Perhaps some of these necessities can be Christmas gifts. Check if there are local groups offering assistance with back-to-school expenses that you could contact now for more information.

Get your buckets (or envelopes, online accounts – whatever works best for you) and put into each of them your thoughts on the occasion or event, including your goals and ideas on how to achieve them, plus some cash to make it happen.

“

**We need joy, connection and celebration, so what can we do to ensure we enjoy these as we end 2023?**

”

Even in the tough times, we can make 2023 and the New Year in 2024 special because of our pre-planning, creativity, thoughtfulness and intent.

*Kristen Hartnett is National Moneycare Manager for The Salvation Army's Moneycare Australia*



Scan here for more on Salvation Army financial services.

## Brunswick Stories gives voice to diversity

The Brunswick Salvation Army in inner-city Melbourne recently celebrated the diversity of the area with a book of personal stories and poetry.

Publishing *Brunswick Stories* was part of the fulfilment of a goal of Salvo corps officer (pastor) Lieutenant Alison Templar to capture the resilience, strength and creativity of the Brunswick Salvos community.

The book, launched on 8 May, was the brainchild of Eva Milman, church volunteer and Diploma of Community Services student placement worker, who saw the potential for recording stories after meeting participants in Sunday services and weekly programs.

Alison says most of the pieces were collected orally to account for those who did not speak English as a first language or had low levels of literacy.

“It was mainly just sitting, listening and letting people share their stories and holding them and crafting them until they were happy with them being included in the book,” she says.

The book also features original poems by members of the Brunswick Salvos.

### AN INCLUSIVE SPACE

Captain Kris Halliday, who led the Brunswick Salvos until a recent transfer, says the book also demonstrates the safe, inclusive space that has been built at the centre, adding that the initiative had given those who contributed to the book a deeper sense of belonging and ownership.



Project coordinator Eva Milman (left) with contributors Elizabeth Calder and John.

Alison says while the church has a small number of members, participants in the programs and services are ethnically and culturally diverse, with some also belonging to the Muslim and Jewish communities.

Kris and Alison hope copies of the book will soon be available at the Brunswick Library, neighbouring cafes, neighbourhood houses and council chambers.

– **Kirrilee Nicolle**

To read Alison’s story from the book, go to page 12.

To download the book, go to [salvationarmy.org.au/brunswick/brunswick-stories](https://salvationarmy.org.au/brunswick/brunswick-stories)

# Christmas in July

**Christmas in July is often thought of as an opportunity to enjoy a traditional British hot roast dinner and fun celebration in the middle of an Australian winter. It's also another reason to get together with friends and family and dust off the Christmas tree and decorations for another airing.**

**Salvos in different parts of Australia are celebrating Christmas in July for all kinds of reasons. Check out a few of them below.**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Christmas in July quiz night, complete with a silent auction, trading table and Father Christmas giving out fun gifts, is one of the many fundraisers the Riverland (SA) Salvos will host this year to continue operating their community outreach programs.

"Funds raised include assisting seasonal workers with food and other necessities when they are between jobs, community meals, Christmas toys and hampers for around 400 families, back-to-school programs, and a ready supply of food on hand in case of emergencies," says Helen Adamczyk, Riverland Salvos officer (pastor).

In response to the rising cost of living and the impact of recent floods, the Salvos are seeing an increase in the number of people coming through their doors. Helen says that her team is looking to open the church in the evenings to provide toasties and hot drinks, as well as fruit, bread and other essentials, for those who can't make it during the day.

"Our main driver is to connect with the community, see what needs are out there and build relationships," Helen says. "Faith is an amazing thing. Something always turns up."



## CULTURAL INSIGHTS

Christmas in July is the theme for an upcoming multicultural event at Calamvale Salvos, south of Brisbane.

"The church hosts two multicultural nights each year to validate people from our community and church from that culture, to show them how valued they are, and to celebrate and learn about their culture," says Major Di Gluyas, Calamvale Salvos officer (pastor).

At the Christmas in July event, guests will be greeted with a glass of the uniquely flavoured dandelion and burdock soft drink. The food will also be English – roast turkey or beef, Yorkshire puddings, vegetables and gravy, with plum pudding and custard for dessert.

"Family and friends are invited to join in the celebrations," says Di. "The hall will be done up like an English home at Christmas, our British friend will dress up like King Charles and do the Christmas speech, there







will be charades, a quiz and we'll learn a dance." Church the next morning will be a Salvos Christmas service."

Last year, the church hosted an Indian and a Tongan night, complete with food, decorations, national dress, games and music. An African cultural celebration is to be held later this year, and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander event is planned for 2024.

The Calamvale area is home to people from around the world, including Africa, China, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines and Taiwan.

**A COMMUNITY PARTY**

The Sunraysia Salvos in north-west Victoria run community lunches and dinners all year round in both Mildura and nearby Red Cliffs, but the Christmas in July meals are extra special.

"It's about celebrating our people and an excuse for a party," says Major Debbie Serojales, Sunraysia Salvos officer (pastor).

"We celebrate Christmas with our growing and diverse communities that include seasonal workers from Vanuatu, locals, and people who just want to share a meal with others.

"We have one older couple who usually eat dinner on their own



at home. They come down and enjoy eating with people who've become their friends. It's about relationships. We've even had a men's group and a craft group form out of the community meals."

Christmas decorations will be put up, music played, bon bons pulled and hats worn for the occasion. Local businesses donate cooked meat, to which the usual trimmings will be added.

"There might even be a little gift," says Debbie. "We're celebrating Christmas over food, with friends, which encourages conversation.



**Our main driver is to connect with the community, see what needs are out there ...**



"Salvos volunteers will be spread across doing and serving and listening and being, so they can join in conversations as well. We also have volunteers from the Red Cliffs Church of Christ.

"Any excuse to celebrate together!" says Debbie.



Scan here for more stories of hope.



# Merry (sort of) Christmas!

Is fa-la-la-la-ing only a once-a-year thing?

**WORDS** Mal Davies

No, your calendar's not wrong and, no, you've not been in a six-month coma – this is indeed a Christmas article in July. Are we early, are we late? Maybe both.

At Christmas the world changes – generally for the better. Sure, you get some Scrooges who go the whole 'Bah, humbug' on you and, yes, you have the annual problem of whether you invite Uncle Terry (who always sneezes on the trifle). However, these are minor and surmountable issues, far outweighed by the good stuff.

I'm not talking about the food and presents; I'm talking about the whole 'tidings of comfort and joy' thing that happens. People seem to be more joyful at Christmas. We sing, whistle and hum more. We're more optimistic, more hopeful, more buoyant, more jovial.

“

**What if we celebrated Jesus every day, what would the world look like then?**

”

In short, we're happier with ourselves and the world. Even when we get to the toy shop and the shelves are empty or we burn the roast turkey on Christmas Day, we still manage to find a solution and a smile, and – if nothing else – it gives us a story to tell next Christmas.

## **CHRISTMAS JOY**

We hear or sing along with songs that talk about joy, love, peace, goodwill, happiness, smiling faces and good news. Even the media outlets find some cheery stories – a community holding its first street party; a charity overwhelmed with generous donations of toys; a couple holding their first child after its birth on Christmas Day; a city park aglow with lights and decorations and tinsel.





Really, can you think of another time like Christmas when the world seems better and brighter? It's quite unique. Sadly.

I mean, why can't we hang on to that feeling a bit longer? In fact, why can't we maintain it all year, like ... even in July?

While I consider myself an introvert, I enjoy Christmas crowds. I'll often go into town on 23 or 24 December even if I don't have to buy any presents. I like the hustle and bustle of the crowd, the music in the air, the various Santas, the smell of food, and the decorations. Most of all, I like that people just seem happier. They smile more. And I can't help but say to myself, "Why aren't people like this more often? Why do we wait until December to be happy?"

### **CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTH**

At the core of Christmas is not a large, elderly man with a white beard and red suit; it's the anniversary celebration of the birth of a baby more than 2000 years ago. A baby who grew to be a man who impacted world history and how humans live more than any person who's ever lived.

His name is Jesus and he taught about love and grace and forgiveness and

truth and a whole range of other things. And he taught and lived them so emphatically that billions of people have tried in the past and today still do try to emulate him. Do all Christians get it right? No, we're not Jesus. But he gives us someone to aspire to – a role model for the ages.

At Christmas we celebrate his birth, and the world is a happier place. So, what if we celebrated Jesus every day, what would the world look like then? What if every day we smiled more and were happier? What if every day we tried to show each other grace and forgiveness? What if every day we championed truth? What if every day we showed love more?

Christmas doesn't have to be a once-a-year thing, it can be an every-day thing. Even today, in July.

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



Scan here for more stories of hope.

## Finding community in unexpected places

Brunswick Salvos is a good place to come when you're feeling sad

**WORDS** Alison Templar

The first time I walked through the doors of the Brunswick Salvation Army, it was to arrange a funeral. My ex-husband had been a part of this community, and the people there had helped him turn his life around.

I didn't really know what happened. All I knew was that he had managed to get help with some of the problems he was experiencing in his life, and that he had some friends there.

Before he died, he had been in hospital for a long time. I got to know his corps officer (Salvos pastor) as we both waited outside his ward for the doctors to let us in to see him. He was in hospital for nearly six months, mostly in the intensive care ward.

The support from that officer was a great help to me at a traumatic time, so when my ex-husband passed away it was comforting to know that his funeral would be led by someone who had known him well.

The funeral was held at the Salvos. I don't remember much about it, but I met some of my ex-husband's friends from there, and I remember driving home thinking how nice they were. It was a comfort to know how much he had meant to his friends.

The Sunday after the funeral, I decided to go to the service at Brunswick Salvos, just once, to say thank you. I sat in the back row of the church, hoping that nobody would notice me there, and I cried.



Alison plays an active role in helping to raise funds for local programs through the Salvos Red Shield Appeal.

At the end of the service, I did as I had planned – I thanked the officer for a lovely funeral, and I left, thinking that I would never come back again. I didn't see why I would return – this had been my ex-husband's community and I wasn't really a part of it.

The next Sunday morning, for some reason I woke up very early. I felt restless and couldn't figure out why. I decided to go back for the church service again.

This time, as I sat in the back row crying, a man came and sat beside me. He was dressed in old, tatty clothes and he was unshaven. After a while, during one of the songs, he leaned over, patted my hand and said, "Don't worry, it will all be okay. This is a good place to come when you're sad. Lots of people cry here."

“

**Over time it became a good place for me to come when I was feeling happy too.**

”

Of course, that made me cry even more. Here was I, with a job, a house and a car, being comforted by a man who was struggling with every part of his life. I had come for emotional help; he had come because he was hungry. He was encouraging and kind and he made me feel welcome.

He was right – this was a good place to come when I was feeling sad.

Over time it became a good place for me to come when I was feeling happy



Alison wants everyone to feel welcome at Brunswick Salvos.

too. From that Sunday on, I found myself going to the Salvos church every Sunday. I got to know people in the Brunswick Salvos community, I enjoyed having lunch with the people there, and they always made me feel welcome.

I never imagined that first day, when I walked through the doors at the Salvos, that I would become a Salvation Army officer – and I certainly never imagined that I would be serving at Brunswick.

The reason I am here is because of the welcome and community I found, and I want to continue to offer that to everyone who walks through our doors today.

*Lieutenant Alison Templar leads the Brunswick Salvos in Melbourne.*



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.



# Golden Dumplings



## Ingredients

### Dumplings

2 cups self-raising flour, pinch salt, 1 dsp butter, 1 egg (beaten), dash of milk

### Syrup

1 cup sugar, 1¼ cups water, 1½ tbsp butter, 1½ tbsp golden syrup

## Method

- Mix dough ingredients together into a soft dough.
- Bring syrup ingredients to the boil in a saucepan.
- Break off pieces of dough and drop them into syrup.
- Turn heat down, put lid on saucepan and simmer gently for 20 minutes.
- Serve dumplings and syrup with custard, cream and or ice cream.

# HAVE A LAUGH



What do you call someone who makes pyjamas?  
**A softwear engineer!**

How do you know when a cat loves you?  
**When it thinks you're its pyjamas!**

Why don't you need to buy new pyjamas very often?  
**You don't wear them out!**

# SIGNING IN



# Sudoku

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

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

# Tum-Tum



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

# Bible byte

"I can lie down and sleep soundly because you, Lord, will keep me safe."

Psalm 4, verse 8

*Contemporary English Version*

**Quiz answers:** 1. Coco Chanel 2. Kigurumi! 3. Onesie  
4. To make it easier to use the toilet 5. Between 5 and 20 minutes.  
Tum-Tum: is hiding behind a column on page 2.



# Quick quiz

1. Who introduced lounging pyjamas in the 1920s, revolutionising clothing for women?
2. What is the name for the Japanese style of pyjamas designed to make wearers look like cute stuffed animals?
3. What is an adult jumpsuit, made of fleece or knit cotton, called?
4. Why was it common for pyjamas to have a drop seat before 1950?
5. How long does it take for the average person to fall asleep?

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**National Pyjama Day will be held on 21 July 2023.**

The day aims to raise awareness and funds for the Pyjama Foundation's 'Love of Learning' program which is offered to children in care - Australia's lowest performing educational group.

The word pyjama comes from the Hindi word 'pae-jama', which means leg clothing.

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

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY SPECIALS!

Place your Christmas resources order during the Publication Department's Christmas in July launch to take advantage of the special price (see online order form) of Christmas *Kidzone* and Christmas *Salvos Magazine*. Complete the online form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/jMiMp6w7qW> or by scanning the QR code below by Friday 28 July 2023.

For further information contact: [christmas.publications@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:christmas.publications@salvationarmy.org.au)



## 28-PAGE CALENDAR –

*“Horizons of hope”*

The 28-page A4 Salvation Army Australia Territory's 2024 calendar *“Horizons of hope”* features photos taken by photographer, **Gareth McGuigan**.

Our prayer is that when you look at each of these beautiful photos and direct your eyes toward the horizon you will see the expanse of God's creation. Allow yourself to imagine

what lies beyond the horizon, and in doing so remind yourself that nothing is hidden from God. God sees more than we can see and knows more than we know. He has great plans for your life. Plans to give you hope and a future! The calendar includes inspirational verses, and spotlights a number of Salvation Army services, stories and contact numbers. **Cost \$3.00 including postage**

## A3 CALENDAR

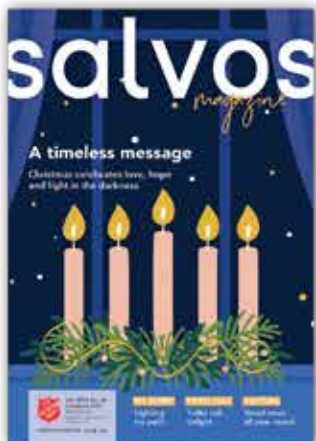
This year the Publications team is providing two options for the single-sheet A3 calendar, featuring images by Gareth McGuigan.

**Option A** includes a William Booth quote and blank space for Salvation Army corps or programs to add their own stamp/information/advertising etc.

**Option B** includes contact phone number for Salvation Army services, web address: [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au).

A minimum of 50 A3 calendars must be ordered.

**Cost \$1.00 including postage**



## 24-PAGE CHRISTMAS SALVOS

The special 24-page Christmas *Salvos Magazine* will be a celebration of the timeless good news of Christmas – the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The magazine will feature thought-provoking stories of hope, joy, peace and comfort – and will include Christmas recipes, craft, puzzles and much more.

**Cost \$1.00 including postage**  
**(\$1.20 after 28 July)**

**Order by 28 July at:**

**<https://forms.office.com/r/fRPL77eqBt>**

