

salvos

magazine

Eco-friendly shopping

Impacting the environment
and people's lives



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FEATURE

A day
in the
life of ...

FAITH TALK

Worth
singing
about

MY STORY

Just an
ordinary
bloke



**“THE EARTH HAS MUSIC
FOR THOSE WHO LISTEN.”**

– WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



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

Whenever 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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Impacting lives

Doing their bit to save the environment is a top concern and focus for many Aussies.

In this edition of *Salvos Magazine*, Lerrise Smith looks at what Salvos Stores are doing in the recycling space and the impact this is having on their goal of net-zero landfill disposal. The role of Salvos Stores in helping fund the life-changing work and mission of the Salvos is also explored.

As the International Day of People with Disability approaches (3 December), Joseph Pinkard, Salvos Intercultural and Disability Lead, shares what a typical day looks like for him and the importance of understanding the needs, contributions and achievements of people with disabilities.

As Christmas isn't too far away, we share some news of the season – the launch of the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal and a special time of Reflection being held in every Salvos Store nationwide on 10 December.

Major Mal Davies writes about Christmas carols – where they're from, why we sing them and the message of the season behind them. Enjoy the read.

Simone Worthing **Editor**

ECO-FRIENDLY SHOPPING

Salvos Stores aim for net-zero landfill disposal

By Lerrisse Smith

It's a grand shopping adventure that costs just \$2 and is a perfect fit for my soul.

For a few minutes during my lunch break on most Mondays, I head to my local Salvos Store to check out their special \$2 clothing racks for that day, looking to discover a quality gem at an amazing price.

I always have a great time, as visiting Salvos Stores has continually been a fun and delightful adventure for as long as I can remember.

I love exploring their aisles (and online store!) – both to support the missional work of the Salvos and to enjoy the thrill of a treasure hunt.

My exciting escapades have unearthed a vast array of treasured finds over the years, as my family will attest, while simultaneously stirring curiosity about the story that lies behind each of them.

And while I have indeed loved my many grand expeditions to support the Salvos' work – the sale of donated items last financial year translated to the creation of \$39.5 million in surplus to directly support people through the Salvos' critical social missions – the issue of recycling, sustainability and doing my bit to help keep clothes and other items out of landfills has been my main motivating force.

RECYCLING ROLE

With Green Friday now in progress (26 November-2 December) – a movement towards a conscious, eco-friendly future that brings together leading ethical and sustainable brands to showcase their products and stories to a growing community of eco-conscious shoppers – I was keen to discover the Salvos' role in recycling and sustainability.

The statistics are staggering.

In the past financial year, more than 49 million second-hand items were sold through approximately 400 Salvos Stores – 16.6 million items of clothing and 8.9 million of bric-a-brac. More than 4300 tonnes of textiles were recycled,



PHOTO BY NAOIMI GOFF ON UNSPLASH

followed by more than 2.13 tonnes of paper, cardboard and paper products, and 692 tonnes of metals.

“Our target is net-zero landfill disposal,” said Martin Nordstrom, Environment and Sustainability Manager. “We create change for tomorrow by inspiring others to embrace circularity for people and the planet. It is estimated we already have enough clothing in the world to clothe the next six generations.”

Australia imports 1.4 billion new clothing items annually, with 200,000 tonnes going to landfill. About 40 per cent of Australians throw away their clothes after one to two years.

Sarah Keogh, Salvos Stores Customer Campaign Partner, said being a socially good retailer focused on providing quality items at affordable prices is a top priority for the Salvos Stores team, as is giving goods a second life and a second opportunity by keeping them in circulation rather than in landfill.

SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Many of the Salvos Stores have changed over the years to make the shopping experience more consistent with traditional retail.

“We know value for money is a key driver for our customers,” Sarah said, so encouraging quality donations from the public and raising awareness about the social impact of their generosity through supporting the Salvos’ work to help those in need is of great importance too.

“With the rise of fast fashion, we are seeing people pushing back against that and making more sustainable choices. They know that an easy way to do that is by shopping at their local Salvos, or

anyone in that kind of second-hand retailing space. We want to have a positive impact on the communities that we are in – and to educate the general public on making more sustainable choices.”



SALVOS STORES FUN FACTS

- The oldest reported volunteer is aged 99.
- More than 9000 volunteers form part of the Salvos Stores team across Australia.
- A verified Hermes bag, Hans Hansen candelabra, and the tour wardrobe of recording artist, Tones and I, have been among some amazing items donated to the Salvos.



Scan here for more information on Salvos Stores.

A day in the life of ... Joseph Pinkard

Joseph Pinkard leads The Salvation Army's National Disability Inclusion team. As the International Day of People with Disability approaches (3 December), *Salvos Magazine* spoke to Joseph about his role.

Can you give us a snapshot of your role?

I provide national leadership, support and resources to Salvation Army faith communities and mission centres seeking to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

What can a typical week involve for you?

A typical week involves meeting with Salvos and listening to them about how their community is engaging with people with disabilities. I also spend time developing resources and training to support Salvos on the frontline in engaging and including people with disabilities.

What's the most challenging part of your work?

Responding to complex systemic or institutional barriers to disability inclusion. I often learn about these barriers from a person with a disability who is devastated because they are experiencing exclusion from a place where they expect to feel welcome and belonging. This can be challenging because there are often no easy answers.

What's the most rewarding?

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is facilitating an advisory group of Salvos with lived experience of disability who help guide ideas and actions to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities. There is a catchcry in the disability rights movement, "Nothing about us, without us", so working with



this group and co-designing resources and solutions is very rewarding.

What progress do you see in diversity and inclusion in the Australian context?

There is a growing awareness that people from marginalised groups need to be at the centre of creating a more diverse and inclusive community. Listening to the voices of lived experience can help us understand what it is really like to live with a disability, and should also be central in designing, developing and implementing solutions to address issues of exclusion and persecution.



What are some of the major barriers to disability inclusion in our society?

A perception that it is too hard and complex. I advocate alongside people with disability, a diverse and unique cohort of people. Those with disability can often also intersect with other marginalised groups, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds, who have rates of disability similar to the rest of the population (approximately 21 per cent of Australians identify as living with a disability).

What role can the International Day of People with Disability play?

Celebrating International Day of People with Disability is a great way for communities to recognise the contributions and achievements of people with disabilities. The day can also prompt us to listen to people with disabilities about their experiences of inclusion in our communities.

Why does The Salvation Army, as a church, focus on diversity and inclusion?

Our call as a church is grounded in what we read in the Bible and discern through

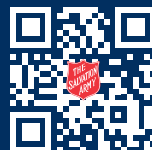
prayer of God's heart for diversity and inclusion. The diversity of humanity is held together in the belief that all people are created in God's image (Genesis chapter 1, verse 27). When it comes to inclusion of people with disabilities in the Church, we are particularly guided by Jesus' teaching about the inclusion of people with disabilities (Luke chapter 14) and the Apostle Paul's teaching about the interdependence of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians chapter 12).

How does your faith impact your role?

I have spent the last 10 years of my life serving in various disability-related organisations and ministries. I feel a sense of God's call to advocate alongside people with disability. I also draw energy and wisdom from my faith and engagement with God through reading Scripture, fellowship, prayer and reflection.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Of the one billion population of people with disabilities, 80% live in developing countries.
- An estimated 46% of older people aged 60 years and over are people with disabilities.
- One in every five women is likely to experience disability in her life, while one in every 10 children has a disability.



Scan here for more information about the International Day of People with Disability.

Five minutes of social justice – Disability discrimination and hardship

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

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 improved.

Approximately one in five Australians live with disability. A person might have an impairment, but this is only a disability when our society makes it one. That means, when our community is organised in such a way, that impairment prevents a person from fully participating in society. Unjust or prejudicial treatment of individuals based on their impairment or perceived impairment amounts to disability discrimination.

One area where people with disabilities are often excluded in Australian society is the workplace. People with disability (60.5%) are less likely to be employed compared to people without a disability (84.9%) - bit.ly/3CtU9Py.

GOT FIVE MINUTES?

Did you know that Disability Access and Inclusion Plans are a way for organisations to encourage, recognise and promote a commitment to including people with disability?

Ask your organisation or community group if they have a plan for ensuring people with disabilities are fully included and able to participate.



WANT TO DIG DEEPER?

Check out these resources (scan QR code below) from the IncludeAbility initiative and consider how your workplace could create more meaningful employment opportunities for Australians with disability.



Scan here for details on the IncludeAbility initiative.

PM launches Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal

The official launch of the 37th annual Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal took place at Parliament House in Canberra on 6 November.

The Salvation Army is Kmart's founding charity partner for this appeal.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese launched the Appeal by placing the first unwrapped gift under the dedicated tree at Parliament House.

"I love this partnership with Kmart and the Salvos," said Commissioner Miriam, who oversees the Salvos in Australia.

"Over the course of 37 years, more than 14 million gifts have been donated for those doing it tough – representing so much hope, so much joy."

The Prime Minister and Commissioner Miriam were joined by leading politicians and the Kmart and Target Chief Executive Officer John Gualtieri.

"The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal is a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas,



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, centre, with, from left: Kmart's John Gualtieri, Commissioner Miriam Gluyas and Colonel Rodney Walters from the Salvos, and Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles.

bringing joy into the lives of others who are doing it tough these holidays," said Anthony Albanese.

"It's when times are tough that we see the best of the Australian spirit. If you can spare it, please give generously, knowing the presents you leave under your nearest Wishing Tree will be treasured on Christmas morning by those most in need."

The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal aims to make Christmas brighter for Aussies facing hardship or crisis through the delivery of gifts to those in need nationwide, including people impacted by the ongoing cost of living challenges.

The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal runs until 24 December.



The pile of donated gifts under the Wishing Tree at Parliament House is beginning to grow.



Scan here for ways to donate to the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

Fa, la, la, la, la!

It's time to sing carols again

By Major Mal Davies

Australians don't sing as much as people in some other countries. In the UK, grown men will sing loudly in public – sure, they'll be at a football match surrounded by other singing men but, nevertheless, they'll sing as if their life depends on it.

People in the Pacific Islands love singing. If you've ever holidayed in Samoa or Tonga or Vanuatu or Fiji, you'll know that people will just sing as they walk along or go about their work. In the evenings if someone pulls out a guitar, it's open request time for a singalong.

The only time of the year many Australians will submit to singing in public is December – the sound of Christmas carols and songs can be heard in shopping centres and supermarkets and many public parks and schools, and we love to join in.

Carols are popular religious songs sung to recall the singing of the angels (as recorded in the Bible, see the book of Luke, chapter two) who sang 'Glory to God in the highest' to give thanks for Jesus' birth.

HISTORY OF CAROLS

Singing at Christmas goes back to the early centuries of Christianity. It is the oldest of innumerable folk customs still alive throughout the world during the Christmas season. The earliest Christmas music compositions are regarded as chants and hymns, but nativity carols were then written and became popular.



Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with bringing carols into the formal worship of the church during a Christmas midnight mass in a cave in Greccio, in the province of Umbria in 1223. It's said that the music sung that night was more akin to what we know as carols than to hymns.

Carols enjoyed further development and popularity through the Middle Ages in Britain. Wandering minstrels travelled from village to village performing carols. In later years, towns had their own bands of carollers. These were originally watchmen who patrolled the streets and byways of the old walled cities, keeping guard against fire and singing out the hours of the night.



Carol singing is part of Salvos' services across the nation during the Christmas season. Photo courtesy William Searle.

Eventually the term was used to describe groups of musicians who sang and played for various civic events during the Christmas season.

“

It's called Christ-mas for a reason, and it's a reason worth singing about!

”

In Britain, since Victorian days, singers and musicians have visited houses at Christmas time. The carollers sing and collect money, which is usually given to charity. The carollers, if they're lucky, are given something to drink and eat to keep their spirits up and in appreciation for their efforts.

WORD MEANINGS

In Australia, many generations have grown up hearing Salvation Army bands playing carols in the streets in December. While this has declined as fewer Salvation

Army brass bands are operating, there are still many suburbs and towns that will hear their joyful tootling this Christmas.

Do you have a favourite carol? For some it's the majesty of *O Holy Night* while others prefer the quiet simplicity of *Silent Night*. *O Come All Ye Faithful* is always popular, as is *Joy to the World*.

Away in a Manger will be sung at many school-nativity plays this Christmas. Although, sadly, some schools won't allow it and will go with *Frosty the Snowman* or *All I Want for Christmas Is You*.

If you get to sing along with some Christmas carols this year, make sure you pay attention to the words. While Santa and snowmen and reindeers and Christmas trees are part of the Christmas story, they're not the main part.

It's called Christ-mas for a reason, and it's a reason worth singing about!



Scan here for more stories of hope.

Just an ordinary bloke

Living with acquired brain injury

By Owen

First of all, I should explain that I'm blind and half-deaf.

I've got an acquired brain injury, and that happened when I was nine years old.

My family was out at a sort of pop-up fun fair, and there was a ride which involved a bungee cord. I was in line to use it.

Unfortunately, shortcuts had happened on the safety side of things. And the bungee cord broke loose, recoiled and collided with my head.

Next thing I knew, I was waking up in hospital six weeks later.

When I was in hospital and the doctors were gathered around my bed, baffled as to how I could survive, instead of panicking or believing that I'd been let down by God, I was telling them that he had saved me and had a plan for me.

“

It's important to be there for other people who need you ...

”



Owen says that the accident has brought him closer to God.

Early on when I went blind, a few people thought it was a good idea to bully the blind guy. Mainly it was at high school, but it made me feel pretty bad. Being targeted simply because I'm different. It was only that I had strong people around me that I got through.

I've been a Christian most of my life and I think it [the accident] has brought me closer to God. I'm a soldier [member] with The Salvation Army. I attend Waverley Temple Salvos and have done for decades now, and I'm very active within it because I want to give back to those who've helped me and supported me.

It's important to be there for other people who need you, and a lot of people do come to me asking for help.

I try involving myself in programs, so I go [to the Salvos] every Monday to help with

kitchen duties and with choosing a prayer topic for the people who are there.

Now that I'm older, I look back and I see that there was a definite hand steering things. The fact that I can also talk to people about my blindness and the accident that caused me to go blind, and they see how strong I am and take a sense of hope from my talking to them, makes me realise that God is there steering things. And it all looks to me like being blind has brought me closer to him, and it's also helped other people.

COMMUNITY

The disabled community has so much to offer. Other people within the church who are disabled are very well-read, also really good at singing, and they can pass that knowledge and those skills on to other people.

A lot of people don't encounter disabled people day-to-day. So, meeting up with them, realising how capable they are, it shows something that I think deals with subconscious prejudice and makes them realise they're just like everybody else. They're like you, they're like me. They're just people and we should treat them as such, and that's a great thing that people can take away from it.

“

The disabled community has so much to offer.

”

I don't see myself as disabled. I'm just a bloke who does what he does and interacts with people around him.



Owen does standup comedy, just to entertain people and help them feel good.

I do standup comedy. I just enjoy entertaining people, so I do that for love, not money. My standup is taking comedy from misery a little bit. I make fun of myself and my disability, basically because I can! It's a niche that other people can't take from me.

I find that there's a lot of stuff in the world that is quite dark at the moment, and a lot of people are afraid of the future.

But I can pray and read the Bible and meditate and find that there are answers always being given for why not to be upset, why to have hope, and wait and see because there is a plan in everything.



Scan here to watch the video of Owen's story.

Christmas biscuits



Ingredients

2 cups self-raising flour; 125g butter, cubed; ½ cup sugar; ½ tsp cinnamon; ½ tsp ginger; 1 egg, beaten; icing sugar

Method

- Preheat oven to 200 °C.
- Place flour in large mixing bowl. Rub flour and butter together to resemble breadcrumbs.
- Add sugar, cinnamon and ginger, mix thoroughly.
- Add beaten egg and mix until dough comes together. Roll into a ball.
- Sprinkle work surface with a little flour. Place dough on top and roll out to about 5mm.
- Use any Christmas-shaped cutters to cut out biscuits and place on a greased baking tray.
- Bake for 10-15 minutes depending on size of biscuits.
- Place on rack to cool.
- Dust with icing sugar.



Quick quiz

1. How many years does it take for glass to break down naturally?
2. What is the largest contributor of waste in Australia?
3. Is aluminium foil recyclable?
4. Are baby wipes recyclable?
5. Are shampoo bottles recyclable?
6. Are batteries recyclable?
7. Are cotton swabs recyclable?
8. What does the term 'reduce' refer to?
9. What does it mean to 'recycle'?

Bible byte

"Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven."

James chapter 1, verse 17
The Message Bible translation

Tum-Tum

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



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

Wordsearch

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

- Choices
- Clean
- Climate
- Diversity
- Emissions
- Ethical
- Footprint
- Future
- Greenhouse
- Healthy
- Impact
- Landfill
- Nature
- Planet
- Planning
- Positive
- Protect
- Recycle
- Reduce
- Reuse
- Safety
- Saving
- Sustainable
- Water

HAVE A LAUGH



What did one lightning bolt say to the other?
You're shocking!

Why did the woman go outdoors with her purse open?
She expected some change in the weather.

Why do bananas have to put on sunscreen before they go to the beach?
They peel.

WHO AM I?

I am a Galilean fisherman, with my brother called Peter.

I am celebrated on 30 November.

I am the Patron Saint of Scotland, fishermen and singing.

Quiz answers: 1. One million years. 2. Plastic bottles. 3. Yes. 4. No. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. 7. No, but they can be added to the compost. 8. Using less of something, creating smaller amounts of waste. 9. Make something into something new.

I am: Saint Andrew

Turn-Turn: is hiding in the donation bin on page 9.



HELP MAKE A NEW BEGINNING POSSIBLE THIS CHRISTMAS

"I'll never forget the first phone call I had with Fran, my Salvos Case Worker. She said, 'Sophie, we're going to help you, for as long as you need. So don't worry, you're going to be okay.'"
– Sophie*

*Names changed to protect privacy

As more families face hardship in the lead-up to Christmas, The Salvation Army is committed to walking alongside them, providing vital support and hope not just for Christmas, but for the months ahead.

Together, as a generous Salvos community, you can help create new beginnings this Christmas.



DONATE TODAY

salvationarmy.org.au/sophie



**Christmas
Appeal**