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The ongoing journey of reconciliation

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Kila brings hope one cuppa at a time



Editorial 26 July 2025

#### 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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#### Keep talking

Recently, Australia has celebrated National Reconciliation, Refugee and NAIDOC Weeks. National Homelessness and Mental Health Awareness Weeks are coming soon. We are also part of global observances for the environment, violence against women and much more.

These observances play an important role in raising awareness and prompting discussions exploring many different issues that impact our communities and planet, and can help motivate us to respond.

There are so many issues in our modern world that desperately need attention. While we can't solve every problem, we can commit to continuing conversations around some of them and working towards positive change.

Our responses could range from volunteering for different causes, spending time with a lonely person each week, encouraging young (or older!) people seeking employment, switching to Fairtrade coffee and chocolate, learning about specific cultures, or calling out misogynistic or racist iokes. The list is endless.

We can't do everything, but we can do something. What might that be for you?

Simone Worthing Editor

### Take the time for a yarn

by Commissioner Miriam Gluyas

Llove Uncle Vince and Auntie Enid.

They are always up for a yarn. It might be a Collingwood/Geelong yarn. It might be a 'how he found God and the Salvos yarn'; it might be about the adventures along the way yarn; it's often the passion of their hearts for their mob yarn, and it's always a good yarn.

They are people of grace, passion, depth, beauty and heart. They know what it is to do things tough. They know what it's like to have insults hurled at them. At times they know the weariness of the battle. They know discrimination and racism. And, they know how to walk in grace, heads held high.

They always come through with a most beautiful spirit. They use humour, they use story, they do relationships beautifully, they love people, they love God, and they can say the hardest things to hear, without offence.

I learn from them constantly – about culture, about mob, about what matters, about equity, about justice, about grace.

I meet up with them along the way and often in unexpected places. What are they up to? Well, they have just pulled up in their caravan, engaged with the campers around them, struck up conversations, had a yarn, played the guitar, shared some deep and meaningful songs, and made a mark in a beautiful way.

Everyone has a story. They have quite a story to tell. I want to know them more.





↑ Uncle Vince and Auntie Enid.

I love them easily. It started with a yarn. The yarn continues. And I'm a better person for Uncle Vince and Auntie Enid being part of my life.

Have a yarn. There are some stunning people in this mob.

Commissioner Miriam Gluyas oversees The Salvation Army Australia. Feature 26 July 2025

## Reconciliation – Let's keep talking

Reconciliation goes beyond National Reconciliation and NAIDOC Weeks. It must be a daily commitment to honour and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. histories and contributions. Guided by the Salvos' values of justice and integrity, we are called to walk alongside First Nations peoples through deep listening, learning and advocacy for systemic change.

True reconciliation is not

symbolic – it requires cultural safety, truth-telling, equity and shared leadership to be part of everyday practice, strategic planning and public accountability. It involves ongoing education, responsive services and amplifying Indigenous voices at all levels.

Mutual respect and acceptance are essential, both within and outside Indigenous communities. Reconciliation is a continuous journey of



healing and transformation demanding humility, courage and commitment every day.

#### - Chris Waixel

Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Coordinator



I would like to acknowledge any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who may be reading this and extend these respects to Elders past, present and future. I am a proud Dhungatti Gamilaroi woman, living and working on Ngunnawal Country.

NAIDOC and Reconciliation Weeks are much more than just weeks of celebrations. They are the acknowledgement and empowerments for positive change to support our future generations in understanding our history and keeping our culture alive.

Reconciliation is a

sustained commitment that is continuous, so it's important to recognise that we need to understand our history and culture all year round. This also promotes the fostering of unity and strong cultural identities as we pass down our stories, songs, language and art to our emerging generations.

- Caitlin O'Connor Site Manager, Salvation Army Employment Plus, Capital Region

# New Stretch RAP continues the healing journey

The Salvation Army officially launched its Stretch RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) recently, a commitment to deepening its engagement with First Nations stakeholders and making reconciliation-aligned practices commonplace across the organisation.

In doing so, The Salvation Army joined a small number of Australian non-profit organisations with Reconciliation Action Plans that have progressed to implementing such an initiative.

"The Salvation Army has called Australia home for over 144 years, and we acknowledge that part of our history has contributed to the profound grief and loss experienced by First Nations people," said Major Stuart Glover, a Bundjalung man and Salvos Assistant Chief Secretary for Business.

"We are committed to working alongside First Nations peoples to pursue justice, reconciliation and mutual flourishing."

#### Stretch RAP

According to Reconciliation Australia, a Stretch RAP is best suited to organisations that already demonstrate strong, meaningful engagement with internal and external Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.

The Stretch RAP requires organisations to embed reconciliation initiatives into business strategies, so they become 'business as usual'.

This process is expected to span a three-year period and is focused on high-impact commitments based on defined measurable targets and goals.

In preparing to launch the Stretch RAP, The Salvation Army hosted a series of yarning circles to discuss communal issues and find a pathway to collaborative solutions.

#### **Artwork**

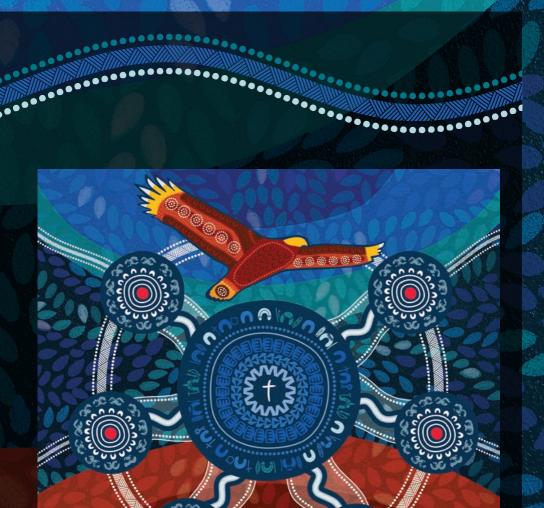
As part of The Salvation Army's Reconciliation Plan 2025, a beautiful artwork has been created by Salvos Indigenous artists Sue Hodges, Glenn Westwood and James Algeo.

The artwork describes the journey across Country. Through yarning circles, healing symbolism, and shared storytelling, The Salvation Army reaffirms its commitment to reconciliation, healing and unity.

The new Reconciliation Action Plan prioritises cultural understanding, including support for Sorry Business, and invites all to walk together in truth, justice, and the love of Jesus.

- Kirralee Nicolle

Feature 26 July 2025





Scan here for the animated video explaining the Indigenous artwork behind the Reconciliation Action Plan.

## Coffee, conversations and confidence

Coffeetunity – a mobile barista training program – started around three years ago in South East Tasmania.

"It's a free, one-on-one training program," explains Captain Jessica Ffrost-Boyd, South East Tasmania Salvos corps officer (pastor). "We then offer volunteer work experience for those who would like to improve their skills, gain confidence and competence, and build their resumes to hopefully get into employment.

"A key part of the program has been collaborating with the community, and we have met with Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST), who helped identify participants for us to run the training.

"They also allow us to come and park our coffee trailer, as well as championing the project."

Emma Churchill, Team Leader, BEST, says that "the benefit of working on-site is that our career coaches can engage with the participants to then support them through



what is next and help keep that confidence going."

#### Wraparound support

Keeping the conversations going throughout the training is a key focus.

"When they come in, they have those 45 minutes with us, and then 15-30 minutes with the BEST team as well, talking about interview skills, what jobs are coming up," says Captain Craig Boyd, South East Tasmania Salvos officer.

"They help them write their resumes, find a job, so it is a full wraparound support."

Mayor Janet Gatehouse, Sorrell Council, says that she has seen "children go through this program and absolutely blossom. You see the recognition that 'I can do something. I'm valuable.'

"This is so important for young people, because if they think they can do this, they might just then go on and try something more."

To watch the video, go to **youtube.com/** watch?v=xb\_y\_xQYzGk News 26 July 2025

## Balga Salvos – a place for everyone

In the heart of the Balga community, north of Perth's central business district, a welcoming and open door leads to something much deeper than just a building – a safe place for all. Known as Balga Salvos, it began humbly with a Sunday school in a garage and has since grown into a vibrant hub.

Led by Majors Leanne and Ken Smith, the centre serves a diverse community, with members experiencing a range of life's challenges. What draws people in is not just the support, but the sense of acceptance and belonging.

Each morning, the community café opens its doors, offering free coffee. More importantly, it provides connection. "We may be the only person they get to speak to that day," says Leanne. "We sit and do life with people, and it's the best part of the day!"

The services offered at the centre extend to young families, with playgroups, pregnancy support, and early learning for children up to six. "It's a holistic package," explains



Jo Ineson, Operations Coordinator.

For new parents, the challenges can be overwhelming. Child health nurse Kim Stewart sees how Balga Salvos eases that burden. "It helps take away that overwhelm and brings them back to where they want to be," she shares.

Thursday evenings bring people together over meals and faith. M&M (meal and message) Church – a blend of food and message – invites everyone to hear about Jesus in an open, welcoming space.

For community members like Kye and Nikki, it's more than services – it's hope. "It feels like home," Nikki says. "They pay attention to who you are."

In the end, as Major Ken reflects, it's not the programs but the relationships that matter most. "Why do we do this? Because God loves people. And we want them to know that love too."

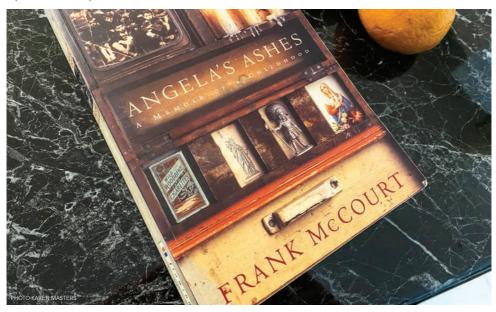
To watch the video, go to youtube.com/ watch?v=r9Pu8TC1R6E



An occasional column on all things books and reading

## Reading between the lines

Anthony Hunt and Mal Davies each discuss a book that has had a spiritual impact on them.\*



#### The heart of the Gospel

The one that springs to mind is Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. His memoir about growing up in crushing poverty in Ireland during the Great Depression paints such a vivid, often heartbreaking picture of hopelessness – yet somehow, Frank manages to carry a sense of hope through it all.

You see how poverty, addiction, abandonment and exploitation shaped him. And while he doesn't always make great choices, you can't help but feel for him – that he still deserves a chance at something better.

For me, it echoes the heart of the Gospel. Even when we mess up, cut corners, or completely derail our lives, God still chooses to step in. Through Jesus, he offers us grace – a chance at a better, God-centred life, not because we've earned it, but because he loves us. That's the beauty of the Good News: redemption, even in the mess.

#### - Captain Anthony Hunt

Anthony is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Queensland Faith Talk 26 July 2025

#### Keep up with God

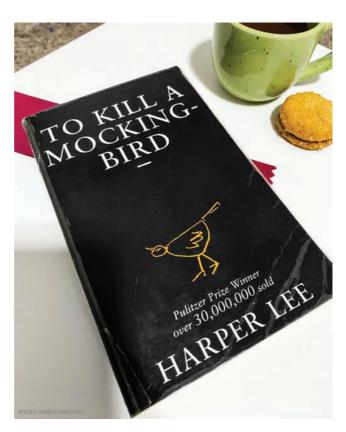
I've long thought that the best novel I've ever read is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

The book is set in 1930's Southern USA and tells of small-town lawyer Atticus Finch and his courtroom defence of Tom Robinson, an African American wrongly accused of raping a white teenage girl.

In chapter 24, some of the Christian ladies of the town gather at a home to hear stories from a missionary, J.J. Grimes Everett, who has returned from working with the Mruna people in Africa. They speak of how he entered their "sin and squalor" to take God to the poor natives, and how those people would be lost without Everett doing so.

I remember reading this chapter and thinking: 'Isn't God already there?' Do we really 'take' God with us – he goes only where we go? That didn't seem right.

Lee's writing highlights the fake Christian morality of the ladies who see



themselves as a class or two above the 'poor Mruna'. They speak of the need to love such poor, lost souls, while showing that they have no desire at all to do so.

This episode reminds me that I need to keep up with God and his work, not him with me

#### - Major Mal Davies

Mal is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) and oversees The Salvation Army in Victoria

\*To read more, check out the new Salvos Online series, Three Books, at salvosonline.org.au/ three-books

## THE ART OF A GOOD COFFEE

#### Kila brings hope to locals, one cup at a time

by Lauren Martin

Kila Haoda remembers brewing his first 'proper' coffee when he was about 11.

His parents owned Billy's Coffee, one of the first cafes in Cairns that focused solely on coffee, "and in those days, people didn't often go out for coffee like they do regularly now," he says.

Despite being counter-cultural, Billy's Coffee built up a huge clientele, which Kila attests to the 'homely' feeling of the place.

"It was set up to be very welcoming and accessible," he says. "I'm from Papua New Guinea, and whenever you have a guest in your house, there is certain hospitality that you provide. The café was just an extension of our house, so we treated it the same way."

#### **Diverse clientele**

People from all walks of life made the café a regular part of their week. Lawyers and judges from the nearby courthouse would caffeinate between sessions, alongside a men's homeless group that met regularly in the space.

It was this atmosphere that captivated Shire Salvos Mission Leader Mark Soper when he stopped in Cairns on a six-month road trip around Australia with his wife, Lauren, and their children in 2020.

"He said to my dad, 'You're doing church in your coffee shop," Kila remembers. He also remembers being surprised when Mark offered him a job to manage the yet unbuilt Salvation Army café that Mark believed



Kila brings small-town hospitality to Sydney

God was instilling a vision for at Shire Salvos Panania, in south-west Sydney.

"He offered me the job when it was still in its conception," Kila laughs, "and I shot him down every time."

Fast forward five years, and when Kila saw Mark's number flash up on his phone earlier this year, he just "knew" it was the right time.

"It felt like the end of a season ... little things were contributing to me wanting to look for more and have my own experiences." My Story 26 July 2025



1 Lieutenant-Colonel Sandra Godkin and Kila Haoda run 'The Village' café at Shire Salvos.

#### **Extension of home**

Having grown up in The Salvation Army, with a rich family line of Salvation Army officers (pastors) from both Australia and Papua New Guinea, Kila has a heart for God and a heart for people. "The Salvos, they're known for being in the world and for fighting the good fight," he says. "I love how practical the Salvos are."

So, when he felt it was the right time to accept Mark's offer to become the new café manager of The Village café in Panania (operated by Shire Salvos), Kila left balmy Cairns and moved to Sydney in the middle of a cold, wet winter. The temperature might have been cold, but the reception was warm when he started at The Village.

The Village is a Salvation Army café, run mostly with volunteers, that operates on the same site as the Panania Salvos Store. Customers are known by name, cared for like family, and small groups

such as Bible studies and book clubs have started meeting on its sunny deck. Kila says he felt at home straight away.

"It's a really special community," he says.
"We make people feel welcomed and
seen and listened to, things that I think
should be standard but ... there's so
many people that don't have that, that
need that."

He works alongside Panania Salvos Mission Leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Sandra Godkin, whom he says is the ultimate 'people-person'. "She loves to be out front chatting with everyone. We make a really great team."

And while Kila is behind the coffee machine, it's through the art of a good coffee that he shows love and hospitality to people, his biggest passion. He's excited to be part of the Shire Salvos team, bringing hope to the locals of Panania, one cup at a time.

Taste of Life Salvos Magazine





#### Ingredients

60g butter; 1 onion, diced; 4 rashers bacon, diced (or 1 cup cooked chicken); 1 cup finely chopped vegetables; 1 cup rice; 2 cups chicken stock; ½ cup Parmesan cheese (optional)

#### Method

Melt butter in frypan over medium-high heat.

Cook onion and bacon for 2 minutes. Add vegetables and rice and mix well, then add chicken stock.

Bring to the boil then reduce to medium-low heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. All liquid should be absorbed.

Remove from heat and stand for 5 minutes.

Stir through Parmesan cheese and serve.



#### Believe in Good: Tips

#### 30 July - International Day of Friendship

"They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

#### - Carl Buechner

This week look for ways to say thank you to your friends, and ways to make new friends.



#### Quiz



- The scientific study of plant life is known as?
- 2. What does the Latin word 'arboretum' mean?
- 3. The arabica coffee tree is native to which continent?
- 4. What is a bonsai tree?
- 5. The Japanese word 'sakura' means the blossoming of what kind of tree?
- 6. The love apple is the original name for what?



week's Salvos Magazine is Tum-Tum hiding?

Take Five 26 July 2025

#### ? Did you know?

David Bowie's first public performance was at a Scout camp (Isle of Wight) in 1958, aged 11. He played ukulele and sang, with his friend George Underwood on washtub bass.

31 million people are active in Scouting across the world.

The first World Scout Jamboree in 1920 was attended by 8000 Scouts from 34 countries, as well as an alligator from Florida, a crocodile from Jamaica, a lion cub from Rhodesia, monkeys from South Africa, an elephant calf and a camel



#### Answers

Tum-Tum: is hiding the shelf behind Sandra and Kila on page 13.

Quiz: 1. Botany 2. Place with trees 3. Africa 4. A miniature tree in a container 5. Cherry tree 6. Tomato

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#### 즜 Have a laugh

Why can't you be friends with a squirrel?

Because they drive everyone nuts.

Why don't eggs tell each other jokes?

Recause they crack each other up.

Why can't you trust a burrito?

Because they tend to spill the beans.

What do you call a musical insect?

.gudmun A



#### Bible byte

"Live in harmony with each other." Romans chapter 12, verse 16 New Living Translation





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