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**“Even the smallest
one can change
the world.”**

– Beatrix Potter



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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Founders: William and Catherine Booth

Salvation Army World Leaders: General Lyndon and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham

Territorial Leader: Commissioner Miriam Gluyas

Secretary for Communications and Editor-In-Chief: Colonel Rodney Walters

Publications Manager: Cheryl Tinker

Editor: Simone Worthing

Graphic Designer: Ryan Harrison

Enquiry email: publications@salvationarmy.org.au

All other Salvation Army enquiries 13 72 58

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Chocolate of choice

It's been hard to miss Easter eggs in the shops recently. These colourful and highly tempting chocolate displays have taken front row on supermarket shelves, ranging from eggs of all sizes to rabbits to novelty delights.

As Easter approaches, many of us will be buying some of these goodies in preparation for the season – with Good Friday and Easter Sunday falling on 18 and 20 April respectively.

Tragically, many of the Easter eggs we eat come from sources of cacao that involve child labour and modern slavery. In this edition, Fay Foster writes about how to recognise ethically sourced Easter treats, where to find them and how our choices can help change lives.

We also feature a story on Bandit, a therapy dog for the Salvos in Victoria, whose sensitive and gentle nature helps everyone relax, feel cared for, and smile. His presence has changed lives.

Easter is all about what Jesus has done to change the world for everyone – a timely message for us all.

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

Simone Worthing
Editor

HAPPY ETHICAL EASTER

by Fay Foster

It's an interesting fact that the great majority of cocoa beans, used to make chocolate, are grown in developing countries. From July 2020 to June 2024, the countries producing the most cocoa beans were Cote D'Ivoire (way out in front!), Ghana, Ecuador, Cameroon, Nigeria, Indonesia, Brazil and Papua New Guinea ([statista.com](https://www.statista.com)).

Sadly, chocolate is a food that carries a high risk of slavery and exploitation occurring somewhere along the supply chain. That's why eating Fairtrade certified chocolate is so important, and why it can literally save the lives of those who grow it.

The international Fairtrade organisation has been working for years to help farmers earn a living by pushing up the minimum prices for cocoa beans that can be paid by Western chocolate producers, ending the exploitation that sees wealthy



companies keep workers trapped in a poverty cycle ([fairtradeanz.org](https://www.fairtradeanz.org)).

So ... how can we help to end this exploitation and ensure that cocoa farmers and their families can do more than survive? One thing is to commit to only eat Fairtrade chocolate. By using our consumer power we'll be helping to show big producers that supply chain ethics are important.

Easy access

More and more chocolate (and other) companies around the world are committing to using only ethically sourced ingredients. In Australia, some Fairtrade goods can only be ordered online (thefairtraderstore.com.au), while others are available in our regular supermarkets. These brands include:

- Bennetto (Woolworths, Coles and Aldi)
- Green & Blacks (Coles)
- Just Organic (Aldi)
- Moser Roth (Aldi)
- Pico (Woolworths, Coles, Big W, Harris Farm)

If you can't find Easter eggs and bunnies made by these companies, other brands certified by one of the primary certification bodies available in Australia (Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, and Cocoa Horizons) include Aldi's Dairy Fine; Choceur; Chocolatier Australia; Darrell Lea; Ferrero; Haigh's; Koko Black; Loving Earth; Whittaker's and Woolworths Homebrand.

Let's make this Easter a happier one for producers as well as for our families.



EASTER CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Wacky but mostly meaningful

by Fay Foster

If you're living in Australia, you will know that Easter brings church services, public holidays, hat parades, chocolate eggs and hot cross buns. It often involves family barbecues or picnics, trips to the beach or playing cricket in the backyard or the local park.

Around the world, however, Easter is celebrated in many different ways. Check out some of the more extreme traditions below.

Since 1973, members of the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Giant Omelette have gathered in Bessières, France, to cook an omelette made from 15,000 eggs in a 4m-wide pan. Around 100 volunteers, dressed in yellow and white, prepare the omelette and serve it onto paper plates for around 2000 locals and visitors. The aim is simply to practise their value of sharing.

On Holy Thursday in the medieval town of Verges, Spain, from midnight to 3pm, people dress as skeletons for the traditional *dansa de la mort*, or 'death dance', in which they reenact scenes from the last week of the life of Jesus, and his death and burial. The procession ends with the skeletons carrying boxes of ashes.

Exploding carts

In Florence, Italy, Easter is celebrated with the *Scoppio del Carro*, or 'Explosion of the

Cart'. On the morning of Easter Sunday, two oxen pull a three-storey high wagon through the streets to the front of the cathedral, accompanied by drummers, flag throwers and people in historical costumes. The cart is then filled with fireworks. During Easter mass the Archbishop of Florence lights a fuse that sends a dove-shaped rocket down a wire to the cart, setting off a brilliant display of fireworks.

Cobblestone roads in Antigua, Guatemala, are transformed into colourful carpets with stencilled illustrations covering traditional and religious themes, made using coloured sawdust, vegetables and flowers. The Good Friday procession over the carpets is followed by a clean-up team that sweeps up all remains of the art.

At Easter in Bermuda, people gather to fly homemade kites. The bright, geometric designs in the sky symbolise Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Water fights and bonfires

Water fights are an Easter tradition in Poland, symbolising the cleansing of sins and the arrival of spring. Traditionally, boys will soak the girls on Monday, with the girls seeking their revenge the following day.

In Germany, people celebrate with *Osterfeuer*, or Easter bonfires, burning away the darkness of winter and bringing light and new life. They also like to throw



↑↑ Dyed sawdust Lent carpet in Antigua, Guatemala.

↗ The 'Explosion of the Cart' Easter tradition in Florence, Italy.

↑ Happy Easter is painted on brightly coloured eggs in Germany.

→ Red clay pots for Easter in Corfu, Greece.

hard-boiled decorated eggs as far as they can, with prizes for those who throw the farthest. The broken eggs are left for birds to feast on.

When the clock strikes 11 on the morning of Easter Saturday, residents of the Greek island of Corfu throw clay pots from their balconies onto the street. This noisy and therapeutic custom is performed to symbolise the earthquake that followed the resurrection of Jesus.

In the town of Vrontados on the Greek island of Chios, the two churches of St. Mark's and Panaghia Ereithiani are built on hilltops 400m apart. In perhaps the wackiest Easter custom of all, tens of

thousands of homemade rockets are fired by each church, with the goal of hitting the opposing church's bell tower. The churches and nearby buildings are extensively boarded up and protected with metal sheets and mesh for the occasion. Direct hits on the belfries are counted the next day to determine the winner, but each parish invariably claims victory – so both parishes agree to settle the score the following Easter.

And so the traditions continue. Wherever and however you celebrate this year, we wish you a very happy Easter as we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who died to give us real life.

Salvos Stores showcases diversity

Do you have a Japanese kimono hidden in your closet, a Chinese vase collecting dust, or a Mexican sombrero awaiting a new lease of life?

Then Salvos Stores would love to hear from you!

A groundbreaking initiative encouraging the public to donate multicultural items has been officially unveiled, with the new Salvos Stores Multicultural Showcase launched at Melbourne's Noble Park store.

Splashes of bright, colourful cultural outfits were the order of the day, coupled with a vast array of donated heritage and historical items testament to craftsmanship, stories and multinational traditions carried through many generations and bygone eras.

"The launch was a beautiful celebration of diversity," said Leanne Wong, Relationship Manager of the Salvos Multicultural Community, who played a key role in initiating the recent launch.

"Every culture carries a unique story. Attendees



↑ Salvation Army leaders cut the ribbon to launch the Salvos Stores Multicultural Showcase at the Noble Park store.

joyfully shared their unique traditions, stories and contributions. This fostered a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere that was both educational and uplifting. It served as a powerful engagement platform, as people from diverse cultural backgrounds came together to celebrate their heritage while gaining a deeper understanding of how their donations can bring hope to those in the community."

The event drew about 120 attendees from 17 different cultures, marking the beginning of the

initiative made possible through a collaboration between Salvos Stores and Salvos Community Fundraising team.

With plans for expansion to other stores, donations of goods sought for the multicultural showcases include clothing, accessories, footwear, handbags, hats, toys, tea sets, books, magazines, kitchenware, stationery, collectables, CDs and DVDs, artwork and furniture.

For donation details, go to **bit.ly/3DCdXRF**
– Lerrisse Smith

Salvos assist in Cyclone Alfred

Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) teams were in full swing in South East Queensland last month as the densely populated area from Double Island Point to Coolangatta experienced winds of up to 105km/h and hundreds of millimetres of rain in the aftermath of Cyclone Alfred.

More than 230,000 households and businesses lost power, some for several days, and flash flooding alerts were issued for coastal areas clustered around the Brisbane, Gold Coast, Logan and Ipswich council areas.

Dedicated SAES teams prepared and served meals in evacuation centres in Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast and Pine Rivers in Brisbane, and provided encouragement and emotional support to community members in the centres. Meals were also distributed to smaller centres in the area. Salvos Stores provided clothing as needed.

NSW response

Across northern NSW, more than 4000 meals were served in 18 evacuation centres from Kempsey in



- ↑↑ A team quickly rallied to prepare meals for cyclone-impacted residents in Pine Rivers, Brisbane.
- ↑ Norm Archer, who oversees the SAES in NSW, on site in Ballina organising logistics for the northern part of the state.

the south to Tweed Heads in the north. Communities have rallied to assist the Salvos to serve, with chefs from local clubs, and a catering team from Southern Cross University assisting at evacuation centres in Lismore.

In other places, Salvation Army personnel weren't on site but provided food and coordinated the response, working with other not-for-profit organisations or agencies.

"In Lismore, there is a huge

sense of relief that the river didn't peak," said Major Phil Sutcliffe, Lismore Corps Officer (Salvos pastor). "Our biggest issue is that this has brought up a whole fresh sense of trauma from 2022 and that will be our continued ongoing work after the evacuation centres close – to support communities to get back to normality."

The Salvation Army Emergency Services teams are now in the recovery phase of disaster response.

SWIMMING BETWEEN THE FLAGS

Finding refuge amid the troubles and turmoil of life

by Dean Simpson

Someone was yelling for help. I could just hear it above the din of the surf and the excited chatter of a group of swimmers around me.

My son and I had swum out to a sandbar about 80 metres offshore at a patrolled beach in Queensland. To reach it, we had to swim across a deep-water channel.

Revelling in the satisfaction of conquering the little offshore island, I once again caught the sound of a desperate plea in the wind: "Help ... HELP!"

Scanning the area, I suddenly saw three bobbing heads in the channel: a man and his two children. The man was struggling to keep his head above water. As he flailed, he became separated from his children, who were now drifting away. They were all obviously in trouble.

Surf rescue

Time passed in a blur as an idyllic holiday swim became a rescue situation.

I raised my arm and signalled to patrolling surf lifesavers on the beach. A fellow swimmer near me did the same. Two others swam over to the children and guided them to the safety of the sandbar. Another swam to the panicking man, who, in his stricken state, clambered onto his would-be rescuer and alarmingly began dragging him down as well.

It was then that I noticed my son encouraging a young girl with a boogie board to paddle over to the men. Reaching them, the boogie board offered a fragile lifeline as the men grabbed hold of it with the girl still aboard.

I continued to signal, and then, to everyone's relief, a surf lifesaver

“Are you swimming between God's flags?”



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEAN SIMPSON

on a sturdy 3m yellow rescue board arrived. The lifesaver hoisted the struggling man onto his craft and transported him back to shore. Relieved, the other man swam back to the sandbar. A surf rescue jet-ski was next, picking up the two children and reuniting them with their father back onshore.

And it was all over in a couple of minutes. Tragedy averted.

A different outcome?

But I couldn't help thinking, 'What if?'.



What if no one had been around when the man and his two children got into trouble? What if there had been no girl nearby on a boogie board? What if there had been no surf lifesavers on shore to signal? What if the scene had played out on a remote beach? What if ...

Safe channel

And then it hit me: Thank goodness for the flags – the traditional red and yellow flags that we are encouraged to swim between. Along a wide stretch of beach full of hidden dangers like rips,

channels, and random undercurrents, the flags are a narrow ‘gate’ signalling that it is safe to swim here ... because you are being watched over. And if you get into trouble, there are others to help you, to lift you up and return you to safety.

My mind then drifted to the spiritual life, which is also like an unpredictable beach, with its stresses, troubles and vices that pull us down.

But God offers us a narrow channel. Flags on a beach, so to speak, where we not

only find the promise of eternal life but a place where, amid the troubles and turmoil of daily living, we can find support and safety in the arms of Jesus.

When you place your trust in Jesus, he promises to watch over you just as a surf lifesaver watches over swimmers. As Isaiah chapter 43, verse 2 states: “When you’re in over your head, I’ll be there with you. When you’re in rough waters, you will not go down” (*The Message Bible translation*).

Are you swimming between God’s flags?

Bandit changes the atmosphere

The calming presence of a therapy dog

by Lerrisse Smith

He is affectionately named Bandit – and is one chilled dude.

He's well known for being a calming presence at hospitals, a silent comfort at funerals, and a crowd favourite at The Salvation Army's annual Red Shield Appeal.

Bandit is a two-foot-tall, black-and-white, six-year-old Border Collie therapy dog with an uncanny ability to connect with people from all walks of life. At Geelong's SalvoConnect in Barwon, he's making a significant impact on the lives of others by helping to calm fears, soothe daily stressors, and be a faithful companion through tough times.

And his owner could not be prouder.

"He is really special, intelligent, placid and devoted, one out of the box!" says Anne Cotsell, Community Chaplain at SalvoConnect. "He is not a licky dog. He just walks into a room, circles around, sums things up and then sits with the people."

Anne has been with the Salvos for more than 30 years, transitioning to her current chaplaincy role at SalvoConnect eight years ago. She and fellow chaplain Colin Eldridge (who also has a Border Collie) support programs aiding those facing life challenges. After COVID, they found tensions increased among some vulnerable individuals, and there was a need to ease the stress in the building's reception areas.

"We had some awful periods where we were calling the police quite regularly," Anne reflects.

"We had to have a security guard here. If you've got women who have come from family violence, and you have this big guard here, it's not a good look. So, I just sort of thought there must be a way you can tone things down a little bit."

And that's when Bandit came into the picture in April last year.

A calming presence

Anne's sister, who breeds Border Collies, gave Anne a beautiful black and white one who was being retired as a breeding dog. His calm, gentle and laid-back demeanour quickly caught Anne's attention, especially as she's always had Border Collies.

"I thought he might make a nice therapy dog," Anne explains. "He's pretty chilled by Collie standards."

After a six-month probation with Colin and Anne in the office, Bandit passed with flying colours (despite not being good with lifts!) and went on to complete his professional dog therapy training course. Since then, he has become a vital part of their work with staff and clients and those experiencing difficult and challenging life issues.



↑ *Bandit is much loved by staff and clients and brings comfort, calm and joy wherever he goes.*

Bandit proudly wears a special little coat with The Salvation Army shield and 'Therapy Dog' easily visible. Anne recalled how Doorways clients first noticed the Collie sitting underneath her desk in the initial six months of his new role.

"They would reach down and pat him," she said. "And you could feel or see their body relax. It was just incredible."

Everyone's favourite

Since that time, he has become a much-loved member of the team.

Bandit accompanies Anne, who is also a Justice of the Peace, to visit people in hospitals and aged care homes. The patients and residents love him

and find the beloved Collie a source of great comfort. As soon as Bandit enters a hospital, the nurses smile and their demeanour changes. Often, the interaction with patients will lead to people talking about their own pets and sharing personal stories.

And the therapeutic benefits of Anne and Bandit's presence have touched many lives.

While Bandit is dearly loved in the office, Anne takes him home each lunchtime and is dedicated to his ongoing care, which includes pricey dental visits. "It was my commitment," she said. "And to those around me. I am sure the Lord put Bandit in my way."



Baked fish fillets



Ingredients

500g fish fillets, ½ tsp salt, pepper to taste, 1 tbsp lemon juice, 2 tsp melted butter, 1 tsp minced onion, steamed vegetables or salad

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C.

Place fish in baking dish, season with salt and pepper.

Mix lemon juice, butter and onion in small bowl and pour over fish.

Bake in oven 30 minutes until fish flakes easily.

Serve with steamed vegetables or salad.



Quiz



1. Who was the lead singer of Nirvana?
2. *Wuthering Heights* was the first UK number one for which artist?
3. Which group had the most UK number one singles in the 1960s?
4. What colour was the Little Rooster according to the title of a Rolling Stones hit?
5. Gordon Sumner is the real name of which musician?



Tum-Tum



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



Believe in Good: Tips

7 April – Walk to Work Day

Walking can help to clear the mind, burn calories and get your heart pumping.



On this day



7 April 1724

Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion is premiered at Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church in Leipzig, Germany. This is the earliest of Bach's surviving passions.

8 April 1977

The Clash release their debut album. The British combo with lead vocalist Joe Strummer is considered one of the most influential early punk rock bands.



Answers

Quiz: 1. Kurt Cobain 2. Kate Bush 3. The Beatles 4. Red 5. Sting
Turn-Turn: is hiding behind Bandit's front leg on page 13.

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



Sudoku

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

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



Have a laugh

I never knew how hard it was to captain a submarine...

It must be all the pressure!

What do you call a dog serving on a submarine?

A subwoofer.

Why are submarines more dangerous than regular ships?

They're built with sub-standard materials!

I've just got a job at a factory making periscopes.

Things are looking up!



Bible byte

"Since God cares for you, let Him carry all your burdens and worries."

1 Peter chapter 5, verse 7 *The Voice* translation



BE HOPE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

*"If it wasn't for The Salvation Army, I'd still be homeless with two kids. I feel absolute gratitude. For the first time in so many years, I can heal, I can breathe, and I can work to create a better future for myself and my children." – Naomi**

*Names changed to protect privacy.

The Salvation Army operates a network of tailored support services and community programs that support people experiencing homelessness, hardship or crisis at their point of need. Your Red Shield Appeal gift can be the hope people like Naomi need to overcome crisis and move forward.



Donate today.

salvationarmy.org.au/naomi



**RED
SHIELD
APPEAL**