

NEWS

A place for reconciliation and healing

MY STORY

Four million dollar man

FAITH TALK

Changing my cranky pants

Reconciliation takes action

How all Australians can play a part in the process



SALVOS

MAGAZINE





20 years of
Reconciliation
Australia

MORE THAN A WORD



**RECONCILIATION
TAKES ACTION
- 2021 -**

National Reconciliation Week 2021

27 May – 3 June

nrw.reconciliation.org.au

#MoreThanAWord #NRW2021



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

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My Story

Alan retires
after a lifetime
of service

Reconciliation

National Reconciliation Week is observed in Australia from 27 May to 3 June. This week is “a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia,” says Lieutenant-Colonel Winsome Merrett, Chief Secretary for The Salvation Army Australia. “Reconciliation is fundamental to the Christian faith. Jesus, through his death and resurrection, made it possible for humankind to experience reconciliation with God, and calls us to have a ministry of reconciliation with each other.”

In this edition, we take a look at how we can all play an active role in the reconciliation process. Shirli Congoo, Salvos Indigenous leader, gives us some tips on how we can direct our efforts, change our thinking and influence the processes of truth, peace and justice.

Two Queensland women from different cultures talk about their friendship and how they serve their community, and we also look at how a unique partnership in Victoria is leading to the establishment of a safe place for reconciliation and healing.

For these stories and more, go to salvosmagazine.com.au

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Reconciliation takes action

Ways all Australians can play an active role in the process

WORDS SHIRLI CONGOO

The theme for National Reconciliation Week (NRW) this year is 'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action'. Shirli Congoo, Salvos General Manager of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team, shares some ways all Australians can impact the ongoing process of reconciliation and understanding.

UNDERSTAND

The date for National Reconciliation Week remains the same each year – 27 May to 3 June – because it celebrates two significant events in modern Australian history.

The first date, 27 May, marks the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum when more than 90 per cent of Australians voted to allow the Commonwealth to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and include them in the census. At this time, many Australians first began to understand that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lived under assimilationist policies that were completely failing them and denying them their civil rights.

Then, 25 years later, on 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia acknowledged that, in the face of historical facts and modern attitudes to human rights, the common law of Australia could no longer refuse to recognise the native title of the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders of Australia.

These two dates are significant for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our nation as a whole. They form part of our shared history. Both dates bring light to our individual and collective knowledge and

greater understanding of past Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander civil rights breaches and the discrimination faced. They also help us question what still needs to be done to right the terrible wrongs faced by and forced on First Nations peoples.

“

**We can all be influencers
for peace, truth, justice,
and reconciliation ...**

”

READ

My hope is for the truth of Australia's shared history and the ongoing impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be heard and acknowledged so that our nation can continue to move forward into a place of healing, peace and unity.

Reading is one way to hear the voices of wisdom, knowledge, humour, spirituality and hope, and begin to understand and help solve issues such as poverty and injustice, incarceration, child removal, poor health and low



Artwork from The Salvation Army Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan, reflecting strength, truth and working together, with Christ at the centre.

educational outcomes, homelessness and more. As we read, we hear other voices and other viewpoints, and our understanding grows.

Far beyond the topics that spring to mind are many complex and wonderful stories, histories, and fiction written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors.

I am currently reading *Aboriginal Spirituality*, edited by Anne Pattel-Gray. The sub-theme is 'Aboriginal Spirituality: past, present, future'. The book is based on a collection of essays in which Aboriginal people explore their spirituality, particularly Christianity.

What captures my attention and heart is that these leaders were fearless when their voices weren't elevated or valued. Yet, they insisted on the integrity and independence of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expressions of spirituality.

CONNECT

As we begin to understand more as individuals

and as a nation, we must continue to move from being safe to being brave. We need to get out of our comfort zones to listen, learn and then act on our understanding.

Connection is a significant way to create better pathways of understanding, mutual trust and respect. It shows we value the importance of building positive and healthy relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures and futures.

One effective way to put understanding into action is to host or attend an NRW event. We can learn through this connection and move our understanding from simply being *head* knowledge to *heart* knowledge.

The point at which our understanding becomes action is where we put 'boots' on our commitment to reconciliation. It is also a way to say to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities that "we see you and we hear you, and we are invested in walking with you". ▶

SHARE

We can all be influencers for peace, truth, justice, and reconciliation within our families, social circle, workplace and social media.

This is a good week to be intentional about having discussions around the theme of NRW in our areas of influence. There are many activities, television shows, books, music, events, articles, podcasts and videos to share that can act as a starting point.



Also sharing first-hand stories of our experiences and understanding can be very powerful.

Something essential to remember is that in sharing, our words and actions can have a much greater impact for good or for bad than we perhaps always understand. It is worth considering whether we would be proud or ashamed if all the words we spoke or actions we took were there for all to see.

The choices to learn, understand and then share positively are ours alone to make, so let’s all choose to make a positive difference.

PRAY

The Reconciliation Australia website reminds us that NRW started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993, the International Year of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, and

was supported by major faith communities.

“In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia’s first NRW. In 2000, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation. In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of NRW, to show their support for reconciliation.”

So, NRW began in prayer, and I firmly believe that prayer is essential to peace, understanding and healing.

This year’s NRW theme highlights that reconciliation requires action, not just words, and aligns with the Bible. In 1 John chapter 3, verse 18, it is written, “Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions in truth”.

We must ask ourselves the question, “Can we even be truly reconciled while many of our First Nations brothers and sisters continue to live in poverty, injustice and disadvantage?” Our prayer should be based on the biblical principles of being a voice (Proverbs chapter 31, verses 8-9), sharing resources (Matthew chapter 25, verses 35-40) and showing love (Proverbs chapter 14, verse 31).

RECOMMENDED READING AND VIEWING:

For related links to Ted Talks, books and films for children, teenagers and adults, download the Salvos guide at bit.ly/3uO7YfY



Scan here for more on the need for community

'Sisters' in life and service to others

Friendship embraces cultural differences

Rockhampton Salvos Robyn and Sandra love to serve together. Despite their cultural differences, they see themselves as 'sisters' in service and in life.

ROBYN'S STORY

I was born in 1952, in Clermont, Central Queensland. I'm from an Indigenous family of nine children – six girls and three boys. Mum was a single parent, and it was very hard to raise a family alone in those days.



Robyn enjoys helping others and making people laugh.

In the 1960s, I was adopted by Mum's brother and his wife, who had another child. We moved a bit, so I went to different primary schools and I have a grade nine secondary education. I really enjoyed doing crafts and cooking and won prizes for sewing and cooking in country shows.

In 1989, I was blessed with a daughter, who now has two children – a boy and a girl. Sadly, my biological mother died in 2003.

I was employed as a tuckshop convenor in a primary school for about eight years, then as a childcare assistant for five years, but

eventually had to give up the childcare job for medical reasons. I stayed home for a while, but I was very lonely and sad.

I was also very shy and scared of meeting people because of my culture, but finally I decided to go to The Salvos in Rockhampton, for someone to talk to and to get some assistance for food. There I met two ladies and they prayed for my daughter and me. I soon joined craft lessons, started going to church, Bible lessons and Home League [church group], then later became a member of the Salvos.

I had met Sandra 40 years ago, through my family. We lost touch, but seven years ago we found each other, and not long after I started coming to the Salvos. I was pleased when Sandra started coming back to church. She told me I was the sister she never had because she only had brothers. It doesn't make any difference what age or colour we are, we're in the same family in God's kingdom.

I am very blessed that we found each other; we are great sisters. We even think alike. Together with Sandra, I volunteer to help with welfare, and with The Salvation Army Emergency Services when required, collect money for the Red Shield Appeal and help with 'Christmas Under the Stars'. I enjoy volunteering, talking to people, helping people and making people laugh.

SANDRA'S STORY

I have been in Australia since 1959, arriving ►

from England a week before my 14th birthday. It took a while to settle into my new home, but I love Australia as it is home to me now. I had a lot of different jobs but didn't go to church. I met my first husband while working out west [Queensland] where my family had a café, and then we moved back to the city.



Sandra says age, colour and country of origin don't make a difference in relationships.

God gave me a beautiful gift – a baby girl, but sadly she never knew her father as he 'went to glory' when she was only nine months old. Later, I met a nice man. We married and had four boys. All my children went to Sunday school and my daughter joined the Salvos youth group. She loved learning about Jesus and making new friends. She eventually became a leader in SAGALA (The Salvation Army Guarding and Legion Activities), which brought her brothers into the corps [church].

One year, my daughter took me to a Salvation Army congress [conference]. When I returned to Rockhampton, I also joined the corps but, sadly, after a while I lost my way and stopped. My life went on hold. I lost my second husband and became lonely and lost. Then one day, my granddaughter, aged six, asked me to go to church with her. So, I did ... and have been going ever since.

One Sunday, I was asked if I could do some

volunteer work for Welfare Connect, so I went along and learnt to do phone messages and have been doing it now for seven years. Through the church, God gave me a lovely 'sister' in Robyn.

We have known each other for just over 40 years but were not that close until we met again in church. Now we do everything together for our church.

We belong to The Salvation Army Emergency Services where we do meals, food and drinks in bushfires and floods. We also do breakfast for about 50 to 60 people on our 'homeless day', when everyone helps those in need. We also do family sausage sizzles at a local park, cook take-away at 'Christmas Under the Stars', and do the Red Shield Appeal.

When Cyclone Marcia came [in February 2015], we helped hundreds of people, filling out forms for help. There were four of us helping, including Robyn and me. We met a lot of nice people, and we worked for four weeks. Now, we both do welfare Monday and Friday, and it is very rewarding knowing we are working for the Lord.

Knowing you are helping others gives you a wonderful feeling. It's good having Robyn in my life. Robyn and I share a lot, from work to family. My own family think of Robyn as one of the family.

Age, colour, country of origin does not make any difference. We are all God's children, which makes us one in God's eyes.



Scan here for more
on finding meaning.

Creating a safe place for reconciliation and healing

At Bellarine Peninsula Salvos, on Wathaurong Country in Victoria, reconciliation is at the heart of the vision for the local community.

Their vision is focused on establishing an Indigenous space where locals can engage in truth-telling, reconciliation and sharing of life experiences. Healing and learning can then flow back into the community.



Uncle Vince, left, with Nova Peris, centre, Diane Hobbs, centre left, Peter Hobbs, centre right, and staff and students from the local school.

The vision for this centre came from a friendship between Australian Olympian Nova Peris (a Mutti Mutti Elder and founder of Narara Aboriginal Cultural Centre), Uncle Vince Ross (life long Salvo and Convenor of the Army's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group), and Captains Peter and Diane Hobbs (Salvos officers [pastors] on the Bellarine Peninsula).

Bellarine Peninsula Salvos – known as The Ranch – was set up as “a safe and

creative retreat for people to find themselves and explore their destiny and purpose”, explains Peter.

Based on four hectares in Clifton Springs, the property serves the wider community through church gatherings, youth groups, child trauma and family therapy, a homelessness outreach van, art therapy, student mentoring, 12-step groups and more.

With yarning circles at the property already offering a safe space to share and reflect, seven students connected to Bellarine Peninsula Salvos engaged in a partnership last year with Nova, Uncle Vince and Clifton Springs Primary School to help create a more inclusive and educational space around local Indigenous culture and history at The Ranch.

The goal is for the initiative to be community driven, with guidance and support from Nova, Uncle Vince, the Narara Aboriginal Cultural Centre and others.

As the team come together, Peter says they are building from a familiar foundation. “The idea of yarning circles is already basically our community model as it stands. We listen to each other, care for each other and just work out life and faith together,” he says.

For Bellarine Peninsula Salvos, reconciliation in action means “really listening to God, really listening to others and taking the next right step”, says Peter. – **Staff writers**



Scan here for more on the need for community

Changing my cranky pants

The deliberate choice of kindness

WORDS BELINDA DAVIS

We have a saying in our house when someone appears to be a little crankier than normal. It started when the kids were really little and were acting out. I would ask if they were wearing their 'cranky pants' today. When they would reply to the negative, but still with that 'tone', I would continue on, "Are you sure?" I would even offer to help them change out of their cranky pants and put better ones on. Usually by this point, the offender was giggling and it served as a helpful distraction. At the very least, it put them in a better frame of mind to be able to address the cause of their frustration.

Despite our children being much older now, I will still declare when I notice someone is choosing to wear their cranky pants. Sometimes now it can be me wearing the cranky pants, and I have had that pointed out to me as well. I can get cranky over the silliest things.

My cranky pants come on when there are drivers in front of me that can't seem to work out when to enter a roundabout or when people are not abiding by pretty clear and noticeable warning signs. They come on when smokers blow their nicotine-loaded breath in my direction or when tradespeople do not turn up in the time frame they say they will. They come on when I see the same laborious ad for 50th time promoting the reality TV show I am never going to watch or when I have to avoid people walking towards me who can't be off their phones for a single minute to navigate the footpath safely.

I get frustrated when I witness basic human decency and common sense not being abided by, according to my standards. I see the behaviour of others as quite selfish and foolish. They do not seem to consider the flow-on effect of their choices, especially as it impacts me.

“

**And then I stop and realise
that I am cranky because
of my selfishness.**

”

And then I stop and realise that I am cranky because of my selfishness. What does it matter if people are not abiding by the rules? Because it impacts me. It wastes my time. It stops me doing what I want or hope to achieve. How dare they?

It is all too easy to survey the world around me and witness the multiple infractions others are making me suffer through, and not give a moment's thought to the times when I justify my behaviours as necessary despite the inconveniences it may cause another.

When I find myself wearing a particularly cranky pair of pants, I have found it helpful to reflect upon the Bible's words, written in Colossians chapter 3, verse 12: "Therefore, as



PHOTO BY TING ON UNSPLASH

God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

This can help me realise that cranky is not an article of clothing that God calls me to wear. When I replace my cranky pants with any one of the other traits listed, I find my frustration levels reduce and life is generally a more pleasant experience for me, and for those around me.

What pants are you wearing today?

Major Belinda Davis is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in South Australia. She blogs at a-blessed-life.com



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Canberra's \$4m man hangs up collection box

Alan Jessop began collecting for The Salvation Army at the Canberra Centre 32 years ago. Known as the 'Four Million Dollar Man' due to his fundraising efforts, this year he has retired from his post at age 90.

WORDS JESSICA MORRIS



Alan Jessop, left, with Canberra City Salvos officer (pastor), Lieutenant Mitchell Stevens during the 2019 Red Shield Appeal.

Thirty-two years ago, Alan moved from Maitland (NSW) to Canberra. "I went to Canberra City Temple (Salvos) and the officer (pastor) asked what I could do to contribute to the corps (church)," recalls Alan. "[I said] I had a bit of experience with the street outreach, and I had plenty of time!"

After setting up his collection post at the Canberra Centre shopping mall one day a week, Alan quickly inherited two additional days. Over the years he became an icon in the city – the man dressed in his Salvation Army uniform with a friendly smile and a bucket for collecting donations.

And did he collect! Alan has raised more than \$4 million for the Salvos, received the ACT Local Hero of the Year in 2011, and had his portrait painted in 2013 to commemorate Canberra's centenary. But it's the relationships he has forged that keynote the end of his era of collecting.

"I have wonderful memories of all the different people," he said. "And it's also sad – so many people who have died over the years [who I met]."

“

**I have wonderful memories
of all the different people.**

”

A lot has changed in Canberra since Alan arrived there, and he has had a front row seat to it all – moving his stool, and later his walker, to accommodate developments in the mall and to interact with people. He has overcome two heart attacks and manages prostate



Alan is reluctantly hanging up his collection box.

cancer, yet three days every week he would wake at 4.30am, take up his post and collect for the people who needed it the most.

It's fair to say he has given up his post unwillingly – Alan loves serving and working for God. But his legacy of generosity lives on.

"If you have that inclination [for collecting] don't hesitate," says Alan. "It's quite enjoyable as long as you have the time and the patience!"

You're a legend Alan. Thank you for your tireless service and heart of gold.



Scan here for
more on the need
for community

Kangaroo stew



Ingredients

Beef stock cubes; 3½ cups water; 600g kangaroo meat; diced; 3 potatoes, diced; 3 carrots, diced; 1½ large onions, diced; ½ pumpkin; 2 cloves garlic, crushed; 3 tbs salt-reduced tomato sauce; 3 tbs oyster sauce; cornflour, to thicken; plum sauce to sweeten (optional).

Method

Put beef stock cubes in water and mix well.

Put the kangaroo pieces in a pot with the lid on, cook in own juices on moderate heat until the meat is soft (about 45 minutes).

Add potatoes, carrots, onions and pumpkin and garlic. Add tomato sauce, oyster sauce and beef stock. Mix together and add enough water to cover the meat. Simmer for 10-15 minutes.

Mix a little cornflour with water to a paste and add to pot. Cook until meat and vegies are tender.

When serving to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples, ensure they know in advance which meat is being served, in case it is their 'totem'.

Have a laugh



Bible byte

“The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other.”

2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 18
The Message Bible translation

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

Sudoku

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

Tum-Tum

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



Answers: 1. Anangu (pronounced arn-ung-oo) people. 2. 30,000. 3. For its cultural and spiritual significance. 4. Approx. 348 metres. 5. Huge rock slabs that continue for 6km.

Tum-Tum: is hiding behind the frame on page 12.

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

Quick quiz

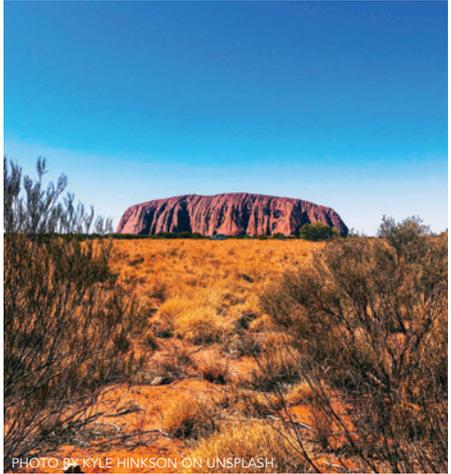


PHOTO BY KYLE HINKSON ON UNSPLASH

1. What do the traditional owners of Uluru call themselves in their own language?
2. Aboriginal people have lived in the area around Uluru for around how many years?
3. Why is Uluru a sacred place for Aboriginal peoples?
4. How high is Uluru?
5. What is underneath Uluru?

Did you know?

- Climate change is causing flowers to change colour.
- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- Kangaroos cannot walk backwards.

Have you taken care of your Will?

Like ripples in a pond, a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army can impact more lives than you could ever imagine

When having your Will made or updated, please consider including a gift to The Salvation Army.

Please contact The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team to find out how you can start or continue your legacy of generosity.

Together, we can give hope where it's needed most long into the future.

For a free copy of our Wills information booklet, contact us on 1800 337 082, email willsandbequests@salvationarmy.org.au or complete and return the coupon.

salvationarmy.org.au/wills



- Send me a FREE copy of your Wills information booklet
- I am interested in leaving a gift to The Salvation Army
- I have included a gift to The Salvation Army in my Will

Name

Address

State Postcode

Email

Phone

Best time to call AM PM

Send to (no stamp required): Wills and Bequests,
The Salvation Army, Reply Paid 85105, Nunawading VIC 3131

PHOTO: SHUTTER

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Kidzone

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Kidzone mag has its own website!

Leaders' Guides | Competitions | Games | Printables | Activities | Comics | Shop | Character Bios | Videos ...

The image features a vibrant background with colorful polka dots and paper lanterns. On the left, a stack of Kidzone magazines is shown, with the top cover featuring a cartoon character and the text 'LOOK UP! BOY!' and 'DRAFT DATE:'. On the right, a screenshot of the Kidzone website is displayed, showing various content categories like 'FREE TO LEARN', 'read now!', and 'All Voice'. The central text 'ONLINE NOW!' is written in a playful, hand-drawn style with a white arrow pointing to the right. Below this, the 'Kidzone' logo is prominently displayed in a large, pink, bubbly font. At the bottom, the website URL 'WWW.KIDZONEMAG.COM.AU' is written in a bold, teal font, followed by the headline 'Kidzone mag has its own website!' and a list of website features: 'Leaders' Guides | Competitions | Games | Printables | Activities | Comics | Shop | Character Bios | Videos ...'.