

Central Vic Salvos

18th February 2024

I have a confession to make. I have avoided the dentist for almost 15 years after an extremely unpleasant experience that still makes me shiver if I think about it. When I discovered a hole in my back tooth and growing sensitivity for eating anything sweet/ cold, I knew I had to go back. I did my research on local dentists, reached out to one, and told them I was terrified but I needed an appointment ASAP. I went in terrified thinking all sorts of worst case scenarios, but I came out of that stunned by such a grace-filled visit.

From the very first contact, the clinic was kind and gentle with me. Upon entry they recognised my anxiety, and spoke through the processes helping me feel comfortable. The dentist herself was amazing- she found the issues but didn't judge me at all. She spoke about some likely factors, spoke through everything she was doing, and helped me make choices about my dental health. I walked out confident and knowing that I could come back and/ or contact the dentist any time with any issues.

As I was driving home. God challenged me that many people struggle with coming to church like they do to the dentist. They have had one or many bad experiences, where they have been hurt, judged, and that has left them traumatised. They avoid the church like they avoid the dentist- for fear of further hurt and judgement.

And so I had this beautiful picture of the potential of the church where we look after people like I was looked after at the dentist. It sounds weird, but bear with me here! Recognising that some people are genuinely terrified of coming to church, what if:

- What if we from the very first contact, went above and beyond in being kind, graceful and compassionate?
- What if we explained everything, and asked people what they needed to feel welcome?
- What if we showed understanding for the heart issues/ struggles people face? Not ignoring the issues but recognising the journey that may have brought community members to those points in their lives?
- What if we patiently walked alongside people, showing them what Jesus' love looks like by our words, our support, our presence?

I have to get 4 wisdom teeth removed. So I have a lot of dentist visits in my future. But I'm confident to go back now because I trust who I'm seeing. I pray that anyone who enters our churches, or has contact with us, will reassured in coming back. Because they can trust that they will be welcomed, shown kindness, grace, and supported no matter what they are going through. I know how I feel about the dentist now, and I want our community to experience that when they visit the church.

Colossians 3:12-14 TPT - You are always and dearly loved by God! So robe yourself with virtues of God, since you have been divinely chosen to be holy. Be merciful as you endeavour to understand others, and be compassionate, showing kindness toward all. Be gentle and humble, unoffendable in your patience with others.

Captain Amy Jones

Central Vic Salvos Team member, with responsibility for Castlemaine



Spotlight On The Central Vic Salvos





This week saw teams from our local Emergency services team (along with other teams) deployed to assist with a emergency relief centre in Stawell that saw well over 200 people register at the centre.

The fire started in the Grampians on Tuesday and with the conditions being a perfect storm of heat, wind, and dry lightning it wasn't long before people were being evacuated from their homes leaving many with nowhere to go. Our emergency services team were called out around 5PM Tuesday for material aid (beds, bedding etc) but by the time we were onsite it was quickly noted that the numbers were higher than anticipated meaning we were needing to bring in more material aid from a secondary location and an additional request for catering.

Emergency services had teams onsite from today evening until Thursday afternoon providing all that we could for people who had been displaced. If you speak to anyone who has been involved in this kind of work, they will tell you how rewarding it is to be able to not only support but also hear the stories of those who have been displaced.

Call out for emergency services are varied in nature and can happen at all different times of the day and night. We are always looking for more people to join the Emergency services team as the more we have the better chance of a quick response to a site where we are needed. If you would like to join the team, please reach out to me and I will be able to assist in getting you linked up.





IST - 2ND MARCH 2024

SPECIAL GUESTS: COM. MIRIAM GLUYAS & AUX LT ROSY KEANE

Threads of Gold

Last Chance to Register

Eva Burrows College, Ringwood

Friday night starts at 7:00pm, Saturday 9:30am \$50 per person inc. meals (no split cost) Registrations close 23rd February

Limited accommodation available at Eva Burrows College

Pricing is \$125 per night OR \$190 for 2 nights. This is a personal arrangement and expense











"It is written," he said to them "My house will be called a house of prayer" Matt 21:13

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise" James 5:13

Please pray for:

- This week we are praying for central Queensland. This includes major centres like Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg, as well as more remote rural towns like Emerald, Roma and Longreach. The Area Officers responsible for leading mission in this area are Majors Petra and Steven Dorman.
- Those who are unwell physically, emotionally, spiritually, mentally
- For people to start following Jesus as their Lord and Saviour
- For all the corps, programs & services in Central Vic Salvos -Bendigo, Castlemaine, Eaglehawk, Maryborough, Avoca and St. Arnaud.
- Our leaders National, State, Local (Government, Community & Salvo)
- CVS programs & services
- Leasha Valentiner our newest Soldier

Praise God for:

- Answers to prayer
- People making decisions to follow Jesus!
- New faces joining our various CVS programs & services
- For His Holy Spirit



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday March 30

Torchlight Parade



Last Sunday we enrolled a new soldier, Leasha Valentiner at The Salvation Army Bendigo. Please pray for Leasha as she continues her walk with God.



Bendigo Banking Details

Account Name: The Salvation Army BSB: 033-688 Number: 811 119

WEEKLY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

THURSDAY

11.15am - Chapel 12.00pm - Community Meal

SUNDAY

10.00am - Celebration Service

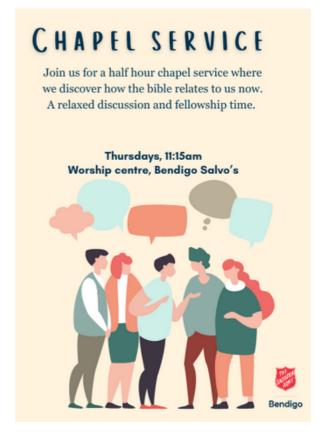
65-71 Mundy St, Bendigo *School terms only

BENDIGO THRIFT SHOP

2B Thistle Street, Golden Square Ph: 03 5441 7608

Open Hours:

9am-4:30pm Monday to Friday 9am-2pm Saturday

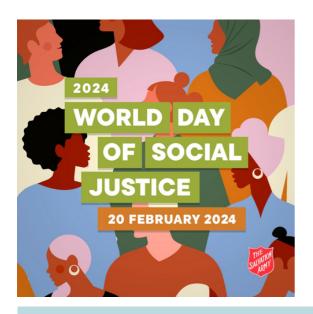




OPEN DAY

Thursday 11 April 10am - 6pm

We are going to invite service group, community groups, people from the community. This will be an opportunity to showcase Eaglehawk Salvo's and for people to come and meet the new Corps Officer.



Eaglehawk Banking Details

Account Name: The Salvation Army BSB: 033-688 Number: 803 234

WEEKLY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SUNDAY

10.00am - Celebration Service

51 Church St, Eaglehawk *School terms only

EAGLEHAWK THRIFT SHOP

4 Marong Rd, Ironbark Ph: 03 5446 7928

Open Hours:

9:30am-5pm Monday to Friday 9:30am-4pm Saturday





COMING SOON TO EAGLEHAWK

Are you interested in craft?

Would you like to learn how to knit?
Are you a creative person?
A Craft group will soon be commencing.
Please register your interest contact
Major Karen



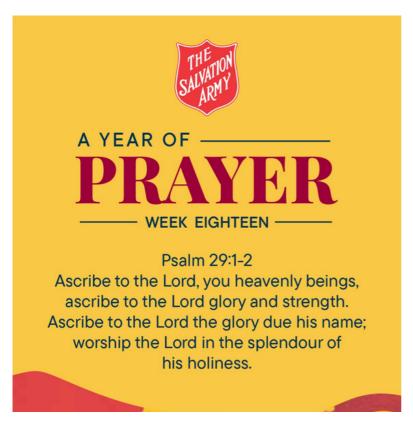


MAINE MINIS PLAYGROUP

Maine Minis Playgroup is Back on Monday mornings 9:30am-11am during school term.

Come along and sing, dance and play.

If you would like to volunteer please see Sharna.



BIBLE STUDY & WORSHIP

SUNDAY FEB 25 AT 10:30

JOIN US AS WE WORSHIP IN SONG AND STUDYING THE SCRIPTURE TOGETHER!







CASTLEMAINE THRIFT SHOP

46 Forest Street, Castlemaine Ph: 03 5470 5636

Open Hours:

10am-4pm Monday to Friday 10am-3pm Saturday

WEEKLY PROGRAMS & SERVICES MONDAY

9.30am - Maine Minis

SUNDAY

9:45am - Band Rehearsal 10:30am - Celebration Service 11.00am - Audio Service | 105.0FM

47 Kennedy St, Castlemaine *School terms only

MARYBOROUGH WEEKLY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

MONDAY

10:30am - Women's Bible Study*

THURSDAY

9:30am - Mainly Babies (0-2years)*
10:30am - Mainly Music (0-5years)*
2.00pm - Indoor Bowls
4.00pm - Kids Club (Primary school)*
5:15pm - Junior Soldiers*

FRIDAY

5.00pm - Youth Life Group (High school)*
6.00pm - Youth (High school)*

SUNDAY

9:15am - Prayer Meeting | M 10.00am - Celebration Service | M (Pancake church 1st sunday, Bible Discussion and corps lunch 3rd Sunday) *School terms only







ST ARNAUD THRIFT SHOP

70-72 Napier Street, St Arnaud Ph: 03 5459 0503

Open Hours:

9:30am - 3:30pm Monday to Friday 10am-2pm Saturday

AVOCA THRIFT SHOP

114 High Street, Avoca Ph: 03 5459 0502

Open Hours:

10:00am - 3:30pm Mon, Wed, Fri

THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRAL VIC SALVOS

BENDIGO

CASTLEMAINE

Corps Officers: Maj. Andrew Walker

Corps Officer: Capt. Amy Jones

Capt. Ashir Morris and Hummera Ashir

47 Kennedy Street, Castlemaine | 03 5470 5389

65 – 71 Mundy Street, Bendigo | 03 5440 8431 corpsofficer.castlemaine@salvationarmy.org.au corpsofficer.bendigo@salvationarmy.org.au

EAGLEHAWK

MARYBOROUGH

Corps Contact: Maj. Karen Armstrong

Corps Officers: Capt. Amy & Ronald Stobie

51 Church Street, Eaglehawk | (03) 5446 8135

27 Wills St, Maryborough | 03 5459 0500

corpsofficer.eaglehawk@salvationarmy.org.au corpsofficer.maryborough@salvationarmy.org.au



Doorways is our Community Support program. It is the entryway through which those experiencing hardship and/or disadvantage can take proactive steps to find the support they need to overcome life's challenges and find long-term solutions. We offer a range of services from emergency relief to case management and more.

If you are experiencing hardship or financial difficulties, please call the Salvos Phone Assistance Line (PAL) on <u>03 8873 5288.</u>

This service operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

Please be aware no assistance interviews will be conducted from our local sites. Community members presenting to any of our Central Vic Salvos sites will be invited to contact Salvos PAL.



The Salvation Army Central Victoria acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples of the Kulin Nation, 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.