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2025



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page 4

kid zone



STORY:



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PUZZLES * QUIZZES * STORIES * RECIPES * PRIZES

k z THIS Week...

We've got tales to tell and messages to send in this week's *Kidzone*.

We check out *Tales From Outer Suburbia*, a new series on ABC Family and iview.

Traveller and her nan have the 'write' idea in this week's awesome story. Cheffy's making puff pastry envelopes and Oliver has a cool two-in-one letter template to try. Who will you write to? Don't miss Bookworm where we're giving away some super-fun colouring books. Plus there's the colouring comp and puzzles galore! Happy reading!



CREATURE FEATURE



WATER BUFFALO

STATS:

Scientific name: *Bubalus bubalis*

Size: 1.3m tall

Weight: 700 to 1200kg

Lifespan: 20 to 25 years

Diet: herbivore

Conservation status: not evaluated



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• The water buffalo is a powerful animal native to India and southeast Asia. They are the largest members of the Bovini family which also includes yak, bison, African buffalo and other species of wild cattle.

• Domesticated water buffalo can be found around the world in including Africa, Europe, Australia and North and South America.

• Wild water buffalo can be found in parts of Asia but their numbers are very low and are considered endangered.

• Males have enormous, curving, crescent-shaped horns that can be 150cm long. The horns have deep ridges on their surface.

• Females are much smaller in size than males. They also have horns but these are also smaller.

• Water buffalo spend most of the day submerged in muddy waters in tropical and subtropical forest habitats.

• They have wide-splayed hooved feet that keep them from sinking too deeply in the mud and allow them to walk in swamps and wetlands.

• Water buffalo will graze on aquatic plants in marshes, but they prefer to graze in grasslands on grass and herbs.

EATS

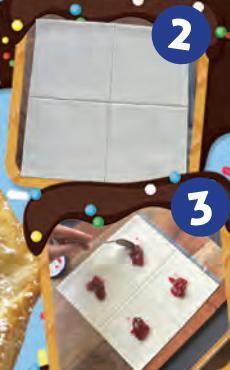
PAstry envelopes

what you need:

an adult's help,
a sheet of puff
pastry (thawed),
jam, 1 egg, icing
sugar, cream or
ice-cream (to
serve)

directions:

- 1 Ask an adult to help you preheat oven to 180°C. Line a baking tray with baking paper and set aside.
- 2 Cut the thawed sheet of puff pastry into 4 even squares.
- 3 Place a heaped teaspoon of jam in the centre of each square.
- 4 Rotate a square of pastry 90 degrees so that it's a diamond shape. Lightly brush the bottom edges with water.
- 5 Fold the left and right sides to meet in the centre. Then fold the bottom up to create an envelope shape, pressing the bottom flap gently into the left and right flaps to seal. Leave the upper flap open.
- 6 If you like, you can use a knife to make some scoring marks to add detail to the 'envelope'.
- 7 Repeat steps 4 to 6 with remaining squares of pastry and then place the envelopes onto the prepared tray. Brush the pastry with lightly beaten egg.
- 8 Bake in the oven for 12 to 15 minutes until puffed and lightly browned.
- 9 Dust with icing sugar and serve warm with cream or ice-cream.



2

3

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lk

03

THE WRITE IDEA

By Faye Michelson

Traveller opened the front door and slipped her backpack off her shoulders.

“Nan! I’m here!”

“I’m in the kitchen, darling!”

Her grandmother was sitting at the bench, busily writing. A shoe box full of papers and photographs was next to her.

“What are you doing?” Traveller asked.

“I’m writing a letter to my friend Marita,” Nan replied. “I received a lovely letter from her yesterday, so I’m writing one back to her. I was so glad to hear from her! We’ve been writing to each other for 40 years since we met on a trip studying the Amazon River in Brazil. Here’s a photo of us taken then – it’s my favourite picture of us!”

Traveller looked closely at the faded photograph of two young women laughing. In the photo Nan had long red hair and looked just like Traveller’s mum.

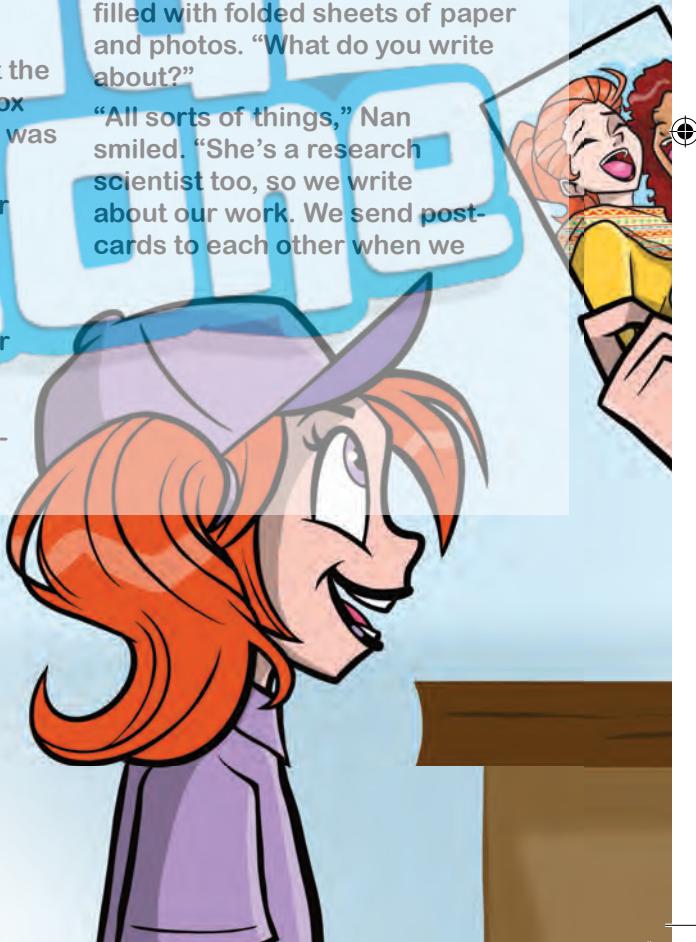
Nan smiled. “We had such a great time and became such good friends that we decided to write to each other after I came back to Australia and Marita went home to Brazil.”

“Why write? Why didn’t you just phone or video call her?” asked Traveller.

Nan laughed. “Forty years ago we couldn’t! There were no smartphones then. We sometimes phone now, but the reception where she lives in the mountains is not very good. Over the years we’ve written hundreds of letters to each other – I’ve kept them all in this box.”

Traveller looked at the shoe box filled with folded sheets of paper and photos. “What do you write about?”

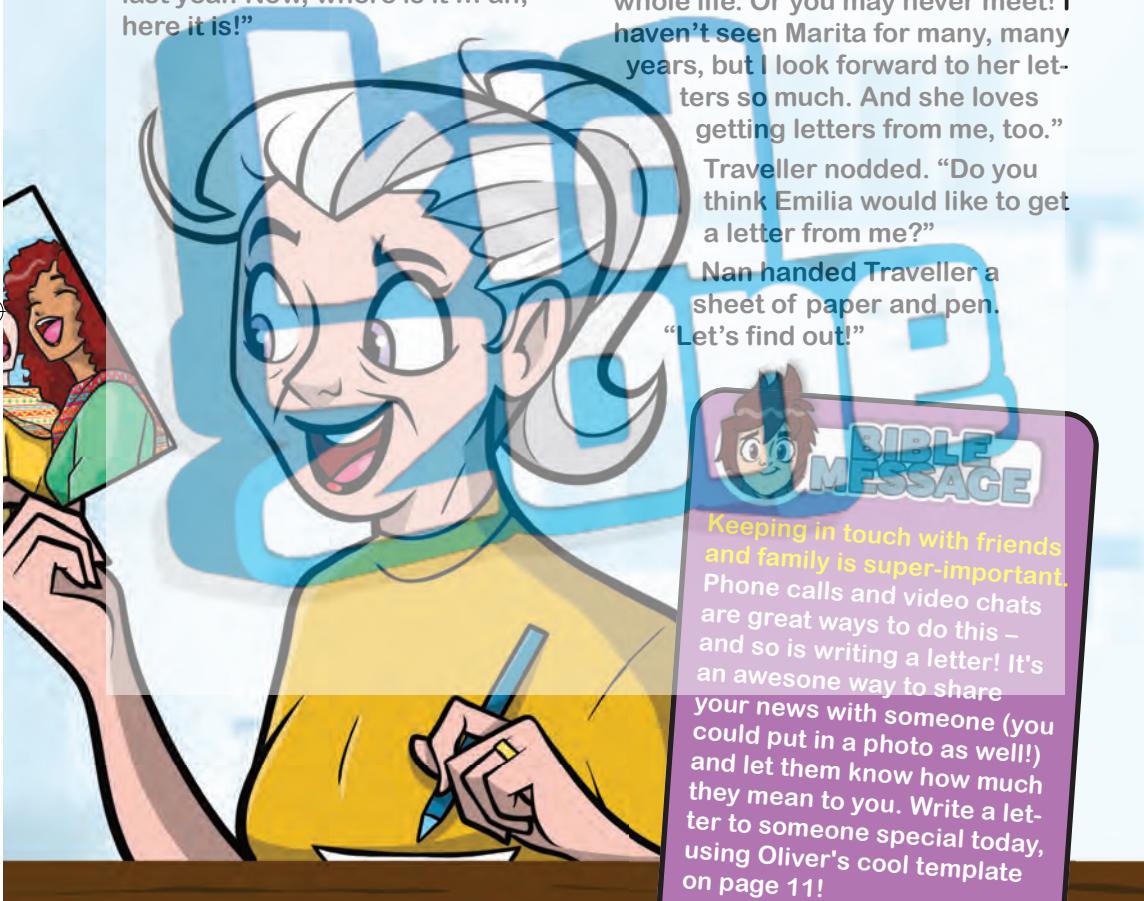
“All sorts of things,” Nan smiled. “She’s a research scientist too, so we write about our work. We send post-cards to each other when we



travel and, of course, best of all we tell each other about our families. In fact, in her last letter, she wrote about the awesome trip she and her granddaughter went on together to study insects in the Amazon rainforest."

"That's so cool!" Traveller said. "How old is her granddaughter?"

"Emilia is about your age," Nan replied, looking through the shoe box. "Marita sent me a photo of her last year. Now, where is it ... ah, here it is!"



She handed Traveller a photo of a girl with a big smile and long curly black hair sitting on a riverbank.

"Maybe you and Emilia could be pen pals, like Marita and I am," Nan suggested.

"Pen pals?"

"Becoming friends through letters and photos," Nan explained.

"You can be friends, even though you might only meet each other in person once or twice in your whole life. Or you may never meet! I haven't seen Marita for many, many years, but I look forward to her letters so much. And she loves getting letters from me, too."

Traveller nodded. "Do you think Emilia would like to get a letter from me?"

Nan handed Traveller a sheet of paper and pen.
"Let's find out!"



CK'S TREEHOUSE

Dear Kidzoners, Thanks for all your letters, photos and drawings – I love collecting them, so keep sending them to me so I can hang them up in my tree house. I can't wait to hear from you!

–Cousin Koala (CK)

Send your letters to:
Cousin Koala, 95-99 Railway Rd,
Blackburn Vic. 3130

MESSAGE: Kidzonemag.com.au/kidtreehouse

Dear Kidzone,
With my colouring I tried to be creative and try something new. I thought that smudging the colours together would bring a cool effect. It took me all morning but looked pretty good in the end! You should have seen my fingers afterwards! I really wanted to get to win this comp because I really, really want to see *Bad Guys 2* in the holidays. I love watching movies in the cinemas. I hope you like it, Mayah.

G'day Mayah,
You are very creative! Isn't it cool to try new ways of colouring in? Did it take you long to clean your fingers? I'm glad you had so much fun doing it. I love going to the movies at the cinemas, too, and hope you got to see *Bad Guys 2*. Write again soon! – CK



Dear Cousin Koala,
Can you pretty please put my name on the birthday list?
Thank you so much 😊
From Rosalie

06

EMAIL

Hello there Rosalie!
Your name is now on my list!
Your birthday has a lot of eights in it and you turn eight next year! That is a little special! I hope you have a fabulous 8th birthday and look forward to seeing your name in the mag! Bear hugs! – CK

I love to play hide-and-seek.
Can you find me on one of this week's Kidzone pages?

Hello CK,
My name is Ariella and I love your mags!! I really like the comics, too 😊
What is your favourite lolly? Mine is a musk stick.

From Ariella

Hey Ariella,
Thank you! You're so kind!
I like Chomps and red frogs. Spearmint leaves are cool too, but they don't taste like real leaves! Ha ha!
Do you like different colour musk sticks or just the pink ones? I like the pink ones the most.
Bear hugs! – CK

G'day CK
Hi, my name is Ollie and I am 11 years old. I hope you liked the stamp. By the way, what was the mag. The Young Soldier like? Can you put my birthday on the birthday list? Bear hugs, Ollie.



G'day to you Ollie,
I really, really like the really cool wax seal you put on the back of your envelope.
What an awesome design of leaves and flowers!
I think it's the first letter with a wax seal I've ever received. The Young Soldier magazine was The Salvation Army kids' magazine before kidzone started 26 years ago. It was more like a newspaper and was a bigger size than our mags. And it wasn't in colour like kidzone – it was printed in black and white, with just one colour used for a special effect. How different is that? I've added your name on the birthday list. Keep an eye out for your name in February! Bear hugs! – CK

Dear CK,

I collect most of your mags and enter some colouring comps. I would love to be in the mag this week! My family and I are travelling around Australia. We are from Perth and settling in Queensland. I have been to Canberra, Tasmania, and many more places! I don't do the craft or cooking pages in the mags (because I either don't have the materials or we don't have enough space 😊).

I am 11 and my bday is 11 June! My fave food is sushi and my fave colour is pink.

I have messaged my friends about your awesome mags and ask them to get it! I also do homeschooling and I live in a caravan. Right now I am in Newcastle but maybe we will be somewhere else when you get this message.

I like watching Veggie Tales, Torchlighters and Bluey and also Looney Tunes. Have you seen them before? My sister Hope says hi to you and everyone.

Thanks for the mags and please respond soon! (Sorry maybe next time I will send you a pic 😊)

BYE! FROM ESTHER!!!

G'day Esther!

My favourite colour is gumleaf green. I also like blue and pink. Do you like pale pink or hot pink more?

I would like to try sushi. What kind of sushi do you recommend?

Please don't apologise - I loved reading your email! It has so much information. That makes it an awesome letter!

How cool that you are travelling so much!

Have you seen any amazing animals on your way around Australia? We are lucky to have some super cool creatures in Aus.

Craft and cooking would be tricky in a caravan. I understand! We like to include a variety of content to suit all our readers. What are your favourite pages?

Veggie Tales is so funny! I have heard there are plans for a new LarryBoy movie in 2026. I have both paws crossed that this is true!

Please say a big g'day to Hope for me!

Keep smiling, CK

Hi CK,

My name is Blake and I am six years old. I like your magazines. Can you please put my name on the birthday list? I'm turning seven on 14 October.
From Blake

Hey Blake,

By my calculations you must be seven now! Gosh! I'm sorry it's taken a little while to respond - I am getting so many letters these days! Do you want to know some exciting news? I am getting so many

letters that beginning 2026 I will have a permanent double page! So please write in again! Did you have a good 7th birthday? Did you have any cake? I love mudcake. What's your favourite flavour cake? Bear hugs! - CK

EMAIL

COUSIN KOALA



tales from Outer Suburbia

Klara and her little brother Pim move to the suburbs with their mum Lucy. While they're all struggling to settle into their new lives, they also face bizarre encounters, exciting adventures and wondrous experiences.

It's hard enough being a kid trying to make friends, missing your dad, exploring a new home, navigating your relationship with your mum, and striving to express yourself as an artist.

But Klara also struggles to make sense of her intriguing new neighbours, including two very different cat-like girls, and a third girl who seems to spend all her time sleeping in the strange, dark house across the road. The girl's story is a mystery, and Klara longs to get to the bottom of it.

Meanwhile, Pim encounters a wise but mysterious water buffalo, helps a lost deep-sea diver, brings a chaotic junk dinosaur to life, befriends a tiny leaf man, catches a moonfish from the sky, and finds a dugong stranded on the front lawn.

As they navigate these enchanting and disorienting adventures, the kids must learn to support each other as a family, embrace a new chapter in their lives, and discover where they belong in this amazing, ever-changing world.

Pim
is spirited,
courageous and
brimming with energy.
He sees everything in life
as a game. Pim's sense of
fun and boundless imagi-
nation helps his family
to find joy despite the
challenges they are
going through.



Tales From Outer Suburbia
premieres Thursday 1 January
at 6.00 a.m. on ABC iview
and then Sundays at 7.30 p.m.
on ABC Family.

Grandma & Grandpa

Grandma and Grandpa are two very different people, who happen to be married. Grandpa is very chatty and very neat and tidy. He is kind and very present in Lucy's and the kids' lives. Grandma is a more puzzling figure who is sometimes away on strange expeditions and has a dry oddball wit.

Lucy

Lucy is over-worked. She feels constant guilt about not doing enough, especially for her kids. But she is loving and capable of being very playful and imaginative.

Klara

Klara desperately wants to be an artist, but she is self-conscious about her work. She finds solace in her art and in the bond she shares with her brother Pim.



BIBLE MESSAGE

Everyone's got a tale to tell. You might have a story about something funny that happened at school. Or maybe it's a sad story about the time your goldfish died. You might even have a story about a time something a bit weird or strange happened.

The people who wrote the poems, songs, stories and letters that make up the Bible had amazing stories to tell – all about how much God loves you and me. Now that's a tale worth telling! "And we will not forget it. Our people will be telling this story to the last generation. We will all praise the Lord and tell about the amazing things he did" (Psalm 78, verse four=).



09

BOOK WORM

Kawaii Koala Beach Babes & Candy Pop — illustrated by Michi Mochi

What it's about:
Iconic Australian animals meet adorable Japanese-style illustrations in this fun colouring book for all ages. Join Kawaii Koala and friends as they head to the beach in this adorable colouring book for all ages!

What we love: The Kawaii Koala series combines Michi Mochi's unique Japanese-style illustrations with iconic (and adorable) Aussie animals. In each book, there is 40 unique illustrations on single pages to prevent bleed-through when colouring.

With thanks to Pan Macmillan Australia, Kidzone has a copy of *Kawaii Koala Beach Babes* and *Candy Pop* to give away!

For your chance to win, head to www.kidzonemag.com.au/competition and tell us which Aussie animal is your favourite and why.

Competition title: Kawaii Koala
Entries close: 30 January 2026



For Kidzooers of all ages.

LETTER TEMPLATE



Hey Crafty Crew,

With all this talk about the letters, CK wants you to be a part of the action!

On the next page is a letter and envelope all in one so now it's super easy for you to write CK a letter or to write a friendly note to put a smile on someone's face — they'll be rapt to know you're thinking of them!

Just cut out the template on the next page around the dotted line, then fold and glue where it's shown.

When you're done just put a stamp on it and post it!



God wants us to think about others and how we can look after them. The Bible tells us to make sure we're not only interested in what's happening in our own lives, but also to care about the lives of others, too (Philippians chapter 2, verse 4). So write a letter today — you don't even need an envelope because it's included in the template!

WIN!



Dear Santa, I hope you're well. I wish I had green hair instead of brown.

Do you get to spend a lot of time with other kids?

I'm really looking forward to school holidays. I want to do a lot of bike riding, swimming, and playing. Can you ride a bike? I don't even know what a bike is.

Keep you all a Christmas, I hope you have a great year!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

SAT 27
Alexis Carr (13),
Frankie Barnes (7)
SUN 28
Anastasia
Balaganskaya,
Lucas Blunt
MON 29
Lennox Riseley (11)
TUE 30
Ava Charis Wassmann (8),
Ahana Chand (11),
Noah Leigh (8)

WED 31
Chase Pahl (7),
Michelle Liu (12),
Jaxon Hastings (8)

JANUARY

THU 01
Diesel Riseley (13),
Kemmy Nguyen (12),
Polly Mather (8),
Ayana Bhatia (10)
FRI 02
Roxanne Stapleton-
Keller
SAT 03
Pippa Loberto (13),
Oscar Lecciones (6)
MON 05
Antonio Antoniou (9),
Jana Maxwell (11)

WED 07

Thalia Watkins (14),
Kathryn Cox (13),
Oliver Phillips-
Wright (10)
Eleanor Mackenzie (8),
George Sweeney (11),
Neikodah Bell (11)

FRI 09

Schyler Francisco,
Sofia Sandoval Acuna (8)

SAT 10

Adrianus White (3)
SUN 11
Mason Powell (10),
Dimitrios Rattas (10)

TUE 13

Dominic Blunt,
Ethan Horton (10),
Risara Lekamge (11)

FRI 16

Thomas Sweeney (6)

SUN 18

Evie McKay (13),
Ginger-Lillie (14),
Ezrah Talisau (3)

TUE 20

Mirabella Thomas (14),
Lucas (10),
Eva Dekker (12),
Eden Russell (9)

WED 21

Amber Muir (14),
Jasmine Winfield (13),



Millie Hulme (14)

THU 22

Violet Dylan (4)

FRI 23

Alexander Butcher (13),
Nathan Mattschoss-
Preiss (11)

SUN 25

Hugo Pegg (13),
Declan Sweeney (10),
Sophia Lorenser (14)

MON 26

Elijah Bullock (11)

TUE 27

Rachel Ngwa (10)

WED 28

Penelope Cotton (7),
Toby Clark (7),
Harmony Fuller (14)

THU 29

Jasmine Scherer (13),
Olivia Laino (14),
Toby Clark (7)

SAT 31

Beatrice Young (9)

FEBRUARY

SUN 01

Benedict Leang (14),
Audrey Goldring (8),
Eilo Ebsary (13)

MON 02

Timothy Vincent (14),
Jonathon Whelan (7)

TUE 03

Zelda Hopkins (10)

FRI 06

Harley Murray (13),
Bethany Carter (13)

BIRTHDAY LIST

Full Name

Age Now Birth Date / /

Parent's signature

If you are aged between five and 14 and would like your
birthday printed in Kidzone, fill in the coupon and send it to:
Cousin Koala®, 95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn 3130
or head to <https://www.kidzonemag.com.au/cktreehouse>

Include a letter in your own handwriting and permission
(signature) from your parent to have it printed.



Entries will be judged on artistic merit.



Colouring Competition

Kidzone has three
BFF Letter Writing Kits
to give away!



SEND YOUR ENTRY (BY FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026) TO:

Kidzone's Colouring Competition, 95-99 Railway Road, Blackburn VIC, 3130
OR HEAD TO kidzonemag.com.au/competition TO UPLOAD YOUR ENTRY.

Full Name

Age

Address

Postcode

Parent's signature

13

SAMUEL'S MEGA BIBLE PUZZLE!

Do you like writing letters?

I do, and I also love going to my letterbox to find a letter addressed to me! People have been writing and receiving mail for thousands of years. They even wrote letters when Jesus was on Earth! The New Testament of the Bible (the half at the back) has letters written almost 2,000 years ago by followers of Jesus to encourage and teach others who wanted to live their lives for God. Someone who wrote a lot of these was called Paul. His letters are now books of the Bible called Romans, Galatians, Philippians, Thessalonians, Corinthians and Philemon. In his letter to the people who followed Jesus in a town called Philippi, Paul started by writing, **I thank God every time I remember you. And I always pray for all of you with joy,** (Philippians chapter one, verses three to four). How encouraging is that, and how cool to think we can read his letters today in the Bible!



JESUS LOVES YOU! & wants to be your friend!

Name: Age:

Address: Postcode:

Parent's Permission:
95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn 3130 or email: kidzone@salvationarmy.org.au



Word search: Sam's Mega Puzzle:
4-15, 5-4, 6-1. Shadows: A.
Pages: 1-13, 2-3, 3-10.
Squares: envelopes.
Grid: 7: 4x4, 8x8.
CK: page 8.
ANSWERS
ANSWER

Competition winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



YOU HAVE WON ...
... a Sleep
Masks Design
Set and copy of
Sleepover BFFs:
Big Dreams

NEXT
WEEK
in kidzone

2026
POSTER
EDITION



WWW.KIDZONEMAG.COM.AU

kid Zone LEADERS guide

Run a Kidzone kids church. We've made it super easy!

Our leaders' guides break down each current Kidzone magazine

into different zones with activities, teachings, prayers and small group questions.

Head to kidzonemag.com.au/kidzone-leaders-guide to download and begin!



PUZZLES * QUIZZES * STORIES * RECIPES



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The Salvation Army in Australia

International Headquarters:

101 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4EH. General Lyndon Buckingham.

Australia Territory: 95-99 Railway Road, Blackburn 3130. Commissioner Miriam Gluyas, Territorial Commander.

Want to get in touch?

We'd love to hear from you...

- ✉ The Editor, Kidzone, 95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn, Vic., 3130
- ☎ (03) 8541 4562
- ✉ kidzone@salvationarmy.org.au
- ✉ facebook.com/kidzonemagazine
- ✉ www.kidzonemag.com.au

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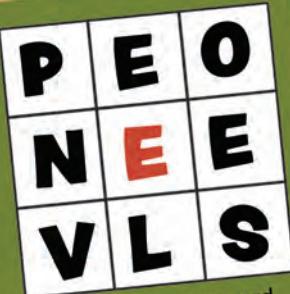
Founders: William and Catherine Booth
Publications manager: Cheryl Tinker
Editor (and design): Kelly Powell
Writers: Andrea Redford, Faye Michelson
Senior illustrator: Rod Allen
Contributors: Ryan Harrison, Kirralea Bridges

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word square

How many words of three letters or more can you make from the letters in the square?



Each letter may be used only once per word and each word must contain the middle letter. There is one nine-letter word. Clue: stamps go on the front of _____.

pages

Can you find where each of these pictures came from in this week's Kidzone?



word search

Can you find all the listed words in the word search below?

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

● ADDRESS

● MAILBOX

● POSTIE

● DELIVERY

● PACKAGE

● READ

● ENVELOPE

● PARCEL

● SEND

● LETTER

● POSTAGE

● STAMP

● MAIL

● POSTCARD

● WRITE

grid it

Can you work out the coordinates of the small squares which are taken from the big picture?



shadows

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

