



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Sydney Archdiocese NEWSLETTER

Sydney Archdiocese Central Council

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

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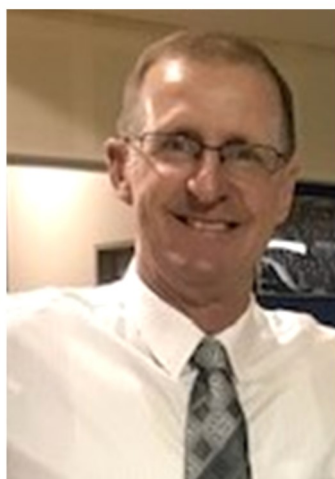
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APRIL 2021

MESSAGE FROM SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE CENTRAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT - TONY CRANNEY



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would all agree that 2020 was a very tough year. Surviving the challenges of each new day presented many struggles - social isolations and new and abnormal rules around normal parts of life and retaining hope that we could return to some type of 'normal'. We remember those who sadly didn't make it and those who had not yet recovered from the set backs that 2020 brought.

One good thing to come out of 2020 was a reminder to me that many of our companions who call upon St Vincent de Paul Society for help are in fact "just trying to survive". Many are not in a position to develop a 5 year plan or apply budget counselling and the like, but rather, they NEED us to get through this month, this week and in some cases this day, just to make tomorrow a better day with fewer worries.

We are constantly called to be aware and understanding of this...and we use our passion for compassion to work out what our role is in their well being, which in fact COULD make the difference.

Remember when all hope is lost there is NOTHING.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL members, staff and volunteers for not only their support of me but more importantly our dear companions who in many case are just trying to get by.

Finally I encourage your continued prayers for ALL who suffer, along with thanksgiving prayers for all our blessings.

MESSAGE FROM METRO REGIONAL DIRECTOR - GAYL PURCHASE

We have certainly begun a strong comeback for 2021 with the realisation that despite all the issues we encountered last year we are forging ahead to continue our support of those most vulnerable in our community. Through our combined efforts we have been able to support to over 1936 people in Sydney Archdiocese seeking assistance in the months of January and February.

All these impositions and changes to our familiar routine have made us resilient. We are working together to commence home visits and Conference and Regional meetings are continuing, both in person and some still virtually. Besides home visits, many Conferences have already implemented other ways of serving the community, for example through aged care visits. Our Community Engagement team are exploring additional opportunities for engagement within our local communities and will present these ideas at our Central Council meeting to Regional Presidents as opportunities arise for indications of interest for members. Our regional team has also visited with each of the Regional Presidents and staff at our Vinnies Support Centres to discuss operations for the year ahead. These visits have been a great opportunity to bear witness to the commitment and I extend my thanks again to the hard working staff, volunteers and members as we work together as One Society.





SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Sutherland/SACC - Festival Mass

The year of COVID was brought to a close with fresh hope and community recovery and healing, as Sutherland Regional Council hosted the Central Council Festival Mass. The theme focussed on all who continued to call upon the Society for assistance and how we can continue to support all as Members especially live the Society's Mission of helping to shape a more just and compassionate society, even in the most challenging of times.



Liverpool Regional Council Festival Mass



Regional President, Arthur Doumit and Parish Priest, joined Liverpool Region Council's Conference Members to celebrate and give thanks for each Member and for all they do as Vincentians who continue to support the local community in living out the Society's Mission.

CONFERENCE NEWS

A Wonderful Outcome due to a great Co-operative Effort

The American inventor, Thomas Edison, once said that success in any venture was based on 1 percent Inspiration and 99 percent Perspiration. I would like to adjust that when it comes to doing good works in the St Vincent de Paul Society; it should be 1 percent Inspiration and 99 percent Co-operation! Let me explain why I assert that.

We, in the Western Suburbs Region of the Sydney Archdiocese, have assisted the Wilcannia-Forbes Region with Christmas presents for the children of the drought-affected farming families in that region in the last 2 years.

In November 2019, St Therese's Catholic Primary School Community organised a special Appeal, "Farmers, We Still Care" for farmers who were suffering the devastating effects of drought and then bushfires. This was instigated by Teresa Hughes, Family Educator at the School, strongly supported by the Principal, Kelley Conlan, who is also the Concord Conference President. The families and teachers at the School kindly donated many Christmas gifts for farming families ranging from babies to 12-year-old children. The students and teachers nicely wrapped 367 gifts, each labelled (e.g., boy 8 or girl 10) with great care and love. Members of Mortlake Conference picked

up all the gifts and transported them to Auburn, where the Society organised a courier to deliver them to Parkes. These were then sorted by Conference members in Parkes for distribution to the various areas of need in that huge region.

With the COVID-19 restrictions this year, St Therese's School Community understood that drought-affected farming communities were still suffering and recovery would be difficult and perhaps not even possible for some. They still wanted to help, in providing wrapped Christmas gifts for the affected families, and decided that their Christmas Appeal this year would be called, "Farmers not Forgotten".



CONFERENCE NEWS ...CONTD

Kelly Morgan, Director of the Wilcannia Forbes region kindly sent me a list of Christmas gifts required for children supported by Balranald, Hay, Parkes and Peak Hill Conferences. I forwarded that information to Teresa Hughes, who quickly organised the School into action and all 140 Christmas gifts were wrapped, labelled and boxed up, ready for pick-up on Monday 7th December. My wife, Marg, and I drove to St Therese's School and while loading the car with the wrapped gifts, one of the four Year -5 students (Noa) helping us said he used \$100 of his birthday money to buy gifts and contribute to the appeal! The commitment by this young student and indeed the way all our young helpers carefully and lovingly loaded the car with all the wrapped gifts was truly inspirational.

Loading Christmas gifts at ST Therese's School



Teresa Hughes, Four helping students and Gil Vella

The gifts, which just fitted in our SUV, were taken to our Burwood Welfare Centre, where they were unloaded and stored in an area, ready to be transported to Parkes.

In the previous week, we had tried to organise a Vinnies truck to take the gifts to Parkes, however, it had to leave on Friday 4th December, which was too early for us. The School Community was so determined to send these Christmas gifts to the farming families, Maggie Moa, our Community Support Officer, enquired about cost of using a private courier service and I checked the possibility of using Australia Post. It turned out that the costs would have been prohibitive and more than the gifts were worth. Our Central Council President, Tony Cranney, was aware of our dilemma and

came to our aid by generously offering to drive his large ute, loaded with all the Christmas gifts and others donated by Haberfield Conference, to Parkes! This was remarkably generous, as Tony refused to be compensated for the cost of his petrol! Early on Friday morning (11th December), Tony and his wife Maggie, drove to the Burwood Welfare Centre, where Maggie Moa and Sacha Chetwynd (our efficient Admin Assistant) helped Tony and me load all the Christmas gifts.

In amongst all the gifts at the Burwood Centre



Tony Cranney, Gil Vella and Maggie Moa

All gifts packed and almost ready to go to Parkes!



Gil Vella, Sacha Chetwynd, Maggie Moa and Tony Cranney

Tony left Sydney early on Saturday (12th December) around 5 am and arrived in Parkes Vinnies Office (88 Clarinda Street) at 9.30 am! Arrangements had been made so that a Parkes Staff member, Jackie Towns, who lived near the office was happy to meet Tony there and help transferring the gifts to the office. Tony then drove all the way back to Sydney!



Jackie Towns with the boxes

The gifts were then separated by the staff and volunteers, at the Parkes Centre, to be distributed to children of the drought-affected farming communities. This story shows how the inspiration came about from Teresa Hughes and the St Therese Catholic Primary School Community who really wanted to let drought-affected farming communities know they were not forgotten. This instigated a massive co-operative effect, where many Vinnies staff and volunteers, St Therese's School staff, students and parents worked together to achieve such a wonderful outcome. Clearly, this only came about with the miraculous co-operation of so many people determined and focused on that inspiring thought of love! Let me conclude with the lovely words of thanks by Kelly Morgan, 'It was so heart-warming to once again receive the support of St Theresa's School Lakemba in the donation of so many beautiful gifts for distribution to families within the Wilcannia Forbes Central Council at Christmas time. I extend a warm thank you to Teresa Hughes, the Family Educator and Kelley Conlan, School Principal at St Theresa's for their organising of and commitment to this project. I also thank Gil Vella and Tony Cranney who were instrumental in arranging the gifts to be transported to us. It is wonderful to continue this relationship between Central Councils and communities and to know that those in our remote communities, continue to be supported during times of need. We were so amazed by how beautiful the gifts were and know how much joy they will bring to so many children.'

Gil Vella, Regional President, Western Suburbs)



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CONFERENCE NEWS

A WONDERFUL DAY

The GyMEA St Vincent de Paul Conference recently came together to recognise and celebrate the services of 3 long standing Conference Members. The acknowledgement to Jim Gothard, Tony Day and John Noonan was quite fitting and well received. Overall, the 3 members have served the needy in the community for a total of 87 years.

Jim Gothard joined St Vincent de Paul in the early "1980's and in that time served 2 terms as President. Tony Day joined the Society in 1995 at the Parish of the Sacred Heart, North Albury. When Tony later moved to Sydney he joined the night conference at GyMEA. John Noonan joined St Vincent de Paul in 1994 following a recruitment talk at Mass by our present Regional and Archdiocese President, Tony Cranney.

John took on the extra role in 2007 as President of Mount St Vincent Village Woollooware for a number of years. John has been Conference Treasurer of the conference for over 10 years.

A Certificate Of Appreciation and a special St Vincent de Paul Booklet were each presented to the 3 members on the day.



Jim Gothard, John Noonan and Tony Day pictured with Frank Tierney GyMEA President and Tony Cranney



Conference members and partners enjoying the special occasion

GRATEFUL

BEFORE



Let's at least pause before we complain.....

One of our dear companions in Sutherland (let's call her Jane) has multiple serious health problems including 3x5hours a week on a dialysis machine at hospital. While Jane was at hospital today, the lawn fairy came 🙏

🙏 St Vinnies does more than ensure there is food on the table 🙏🙏🙏

AFTER



CONFERENCE NEWS

Berala Conference

Christmas is all about community and the Members of the St Vincent de Paul Conference in Berala saw this in abundance over Christmas 2020. After the isolation of COVID-19, the Conference saw a need for helping people to connect. For this reason they organised a Christmas toy drive. With a fantastic range of donations from St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary school and the generosity of the St Peter Chanel and St Joseph Parish, the Conference invited clients to visit and choose Christmas presents for their family. The plan was to give clients the ability to choose gifts based on the interests of



their children rather than having gifts chosen for them but the day turned out to be so much

more. As people visited, the sense of community grew and families began to make connections with each other. The Conference is looking forward to expanding this initiative across other Conferences in the Liberty Plains Regional Council to further build our community.

"There will be two of you for the work, our Lord and you, and with Him you can do all things." - St Vincent de Paul

Amanda Gahan, Co-President



North Ryde Conference and Local Schools Collaborate

WELL DONE to Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School community for the wonderful initiative and awesome result in fundraising for the Vinnies, in time for Christmas in this year of the pandemic.

School Principal, Jo Fox and Finance Secretary, Jo-Ann Jones, representing the School community, handed over a total of \$4,211.50 (\$3,761.50 in cash and \$450 in vouchers) to Vinnies North Ryde Conference.

"We know our local Vinnies spends the donations wisely so we're very happy to support. We know the work that they do", commented School Principal Jo Fox. Conference President Lorenzo Escalante led the Vinnies delegation, while Treasurer, Peter McConnell accepted the donation and issued the corresponding receipt. Also with the Vinnies representation were Members, Bob Holland and Irma Escalante.

The Conference thanked the School community for their outstanding effort that will enable the Vinnies to help provide a better Christmas for the poor.



L-R: Vinnies North Ryde Conference President Lorenzo Escalante, Irma Escalante, Bob Holland, School Principal Jo Fox, Conference Treasurer Peter McConnell, Finance Secretary Jo-Ann Jones



CONFERENCE NEWS

COVID Christmas Appeal Creates Local Pandemic of Giving

2020 was a year that tested and challenged people all over the world and the community of St Patrick's, Sutherland was no exception. When the St Pat's Outreach Conference met via Zoom throughout most of 2020, Members knew they would need to think creatively about how to initiate a 'COVID safe' Christmas Appeal.



The St Pat's Outreach Conference supports the important work of the local Sutherland St Vincent de Paul Conference and Members include parents, teachers and parishioners.

In previous years the Conference has led the 'Family2Family' Christmas Appeal where classes and staff K-12, neighbouring Southern Cross Nursing Home residents and parishioners have purchased Christmas Hamper gifts specifically for individual families and clients of the local community in need.

The Conference knew that this year's appeal would need to be a little different and came up with 'Cards & Coins 4 Christmas', using the same Family 2 Family model but instead of calling for specific items for families in need they requested coin or gift card donations.

The Conference prepared for a 'quieter' response, aware that many of the St Patrick's Community had also suffered losses of employment and other challenges due to the pandemic. That prediction was completely off the mark!

When a smaller, 'COVID safe' group of Conference Members gathered to package up the gift cards into the Christmas gift bags created by the students from both the Primary School and College, they were blown away by the total amount calculated with over **\$13 466** donated in both gift cards and cash, creating a brighter Christmas for 77 families in the local area.

Through all the challenges that 2020 delivered the community of St Patrick's Sutherland spread kindness through the St Pat's Outreach Conference and the powerful partnership between Primary School, College and Parish, becoming agents of change in improving the lives of our most vulnerable neighbours.



Christmas Support from Holy Cross College and St Charles Primary School

Fabulous Christmas support from Holy Cross College and St Charles Primary School:

- Holy Cross donated 16 baskets of toiletries, 32 baskets of Christmas food and general food, and \$400 in gift cards (estimated value \$8,000).
- St Charles donated 35 baskets of Christmas food and \$500 in gift cards (estimated value \$4,000).

Ryde Conference President and Regional Council President, John Lumley said that without their support our Christmas hampers would be only half of what they are. Holy Cross and St Charles have been supporting us for many years and their support is critical. They are wonderfully generous schools.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I love my second job

“Today I had the great pleasure of picking up a donated motor scooter from a lovely gentleman in St Ives (thanks Burt) and delivering it to a beautiful local lady who is doing it tough with multiple health issues.

Tears of joy and surprise came just before words such as, “I am so grateful and this will change my world.”

How wonderful someone giving a gift such as this to a complete stranger. What’s also nice is our Society working together as I had initially received an email from our Broken Bay colleagues (thanks Barry) saying the motor scooter was available to a good home... so from St Ives to Jannali with love, the spirit of Christmas was alive and well.

Tony Cranney

Community Support at Caringbah Bunnings

There is nothing better way to promote the Society’s good and great works, than having the faces and hearts of our Members on show. Sutherland Region Conference Members and family came together as the faces of the good works undertaken by over 900 Conference Members across Sydney Archdiocese Central Council.



Sutherland Conference members and family



**VINNIES NSW
FLOOD APPEAL**

Your donation can
help rebuild lives





SHOPS/RETAIL

RECYCLE MORE !

That's the loud message from our two fabulous Maroubra Shop volunteers, Hildur and Eddie who have given years to Vinnies, helping out in our bric-a-brac and electrics departments. They are both invaluable. Hildur joined Vinnies approx 12 years ago, prompted when she saw an image of a young girl who couldn't afford a school uniform. She rightly believes that all children deserve an education and a school uniform. So she came into Maroubra to help us generate funding for all of our good causes. She has just one dislike- mess! She is often faced with a mountain of bric-a-brac although we would prefer to call it a 'gathering' of interesting goodies. She ploughs through this mountain, providing David and Axel with a busy day of pricing. All three, get on famously along with Eddie who shares the same room, another trouper who happily gets stuck into his mountain of electrical items in preparation for tagging.

He told me that you can't make an omelette without cracking an egg. Days are never boring in this sorting room. We love their chatter around all their work! Kings and Queens of recycling, this team is very recycling-conscious, concerned about the next generation. Their newest member of staff, Axel, is one of those next generation, they work together as a family, so cool. Here's to many more years with our fab volunteers! I must mention Judy too - couldn't do without her. Richard too, who's invaluable in our leisure dept. And Kaye, our new head of haberdashery.

We also wish Debbie well who is still recovering from a little accident, also so valued. Thankyou to Tony and Catherine, two other volunteers we couldn't do without. Tony is an indispensable part of our team, so hardworking, cheerful and doesn't mind hoovering! And Catherine our gemologist extraordinaire who has so much patience with bartering with customers and a good eye for hidden treasures.

Maroubra Volunteers, we appreciate your ongoing help. It is a delight having you around.



"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."
Halford Luccock

Back left to right: Axel (new casual helping David on Bric-a-brac), Eddie (volunteer) and David (long standing staff member) with Hildur in front (long standing volunteer)

Liverpool Shop

The Liverpool Commonwealth Bank of Australia presented a \$500 donation to St Vincent de Paul to the Liverpool Store Manager, Egidio Giuliani who along with staff, gratefully accepted the cheque.



Happy Memories with the Help of Lane Cove Shop

A lovely customer named Olga came into the Lane Cove Store in early 2019 to see if we had any wool for sale.

Olga was shown a couple of large bags full of different types of wool that might have been suitable for her. Olga said her mother had recently passed away and that she needed something to keep her mind occupied.

Olga came back numerous times purchasing most of our wool. It was nice to help Olga as we could see how happy she was day after day looking at the wool and imagining what she could make for her family.

In August last year, Olga came back into the store again with some photos and a note addressed to me.

Theresa Hughes
Lane Cove Store Manager



REGIONAL SUPPORT/VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRES

NEW REDFERN CENTRE VOLUNTEERS



15 wonderful new volunteers have been recently interviewed and trained, all now active and fantastic and happy in their roles at Redfern.

Redfern Support Centre Community Collaborations

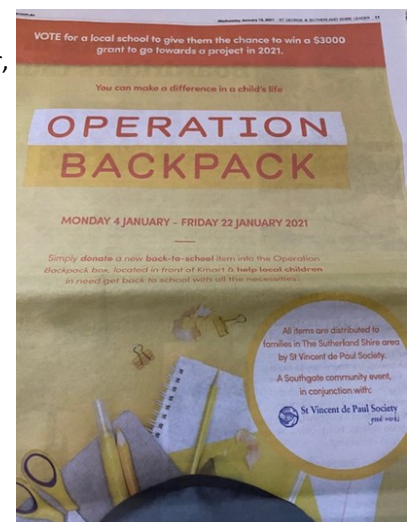
The Redfern VSC had an urgent request come through yesterday from the Vinnies Assist Line. A man was staying in hotel quarantine but struggling with food because of the user-pay system currently in place for quarantine stays. I contacted the Waterloo Conference President Jenny Cunningham who was eager to help. Jenny came in the following morning and we pack two boxes of food for the man, as well as some puzzles to keep his mind active during the stay. The responsiveness, and generosity of time that Vinnies members show never ceases to amaze me. Jenny did not want to be pictured, but all credit to her for her dedication to Vincentian values. #waterlooconference #christmas #quarantine



Operations Backpack

The regional Sutherland and St George newspaper, The Leader, promoted and supported our appeal to support families of children returning to school. Hurstville and Sutherland Vinnies Support Centres were fortunate to receive donations from Operation Backpack through Southgate Shopping Centre, Sylvania.

Operation Backpack is an initiative to support those in need within our community during the back-to-school period. Many local shoppers generously



donated new stationary and school supplies in the collection bins around the shopping centre. All donated school supplies were distributed to local families across the Sutherland and St George Regional Councils.

Sue Vit, St George Regional President who packed the backpacks



MINI VINNIES NEW ADDITIONS



Christine Grady (left), Family Educator of McAuley Catholic Primary School, Rose Bay, and Mary Sriskandarajah (right), Rose Bay Conference President, with newly appointed Mini Vinnies members

2021 has seen the addition of many new Mini Vinnies members across Sydney and the initiation of several new Mini Vinnies groups. Throughout 2020, schools across Sydney Central Council exhibited great generosity by offering their time, resources and companionship to those experiencing hardship. This year, many of those schools have decided to engage with Vinnies in a more formalised manner and have opted to initiate Mini Vinnies groups in their school communities.

McAuley Catholic Primary School, Rose Bay, was the first new Mini Vinnies school in 2021. On Friday, 12th February, 31 Mini Vinnies members were commissioned in the presence of their local Conference President, Mary Sriskandarajah. Members pledged to put their faith in to action and follow in the footsteps of Blessed Frederic Ozanam by serving those in need. The

group has already hit the ground running by working on cards of hope and snack packs for Vinnies Vans Services. St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Drummoyne, also re-established their Mini Vinnies group in 2021, having commissioned 17 members. They too have already made a big difference having prepared, promoted and held the school's most successful ever Shrove Tuesday stall! Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School, North Strathfield, and St Patrick's Primary School, Mortlake, are among others who are currently in the process of launching Mini Vinnies in their school communities. We cannot wait to see all the wonderful initiatives from our new and existing Mini Vinnies in 2021!

Vinnies Youth @ University Orientation Weeks!

Sydney Uni Young Vinnies

That time of year again where all the foot traffic is directed to Camperdown. What's all the fuss? That's right, it's Welcome Week at USYD. New and old students come to join as many clubs and societies as possible, collect ALL the freebies that are there to be offered and meet some new, extraordinary people. At the end of the day, we might have a bunch of tote bags spilling with freebies and an email inbox saturated with welcome emails and the inability to differentiate and filter through all of them.

Except for one.....

That is the Sydney Uni Young Vinnies Society that offers USYD students an opportunity to make a difference in their community through Vinnies volunteer programs. Our executive team helped run the stall to sign up new and keen volunteers to get started once programs resume again this year. We were able to educate people about Vinnies and provide information on how they could help too. We also saw some awesome people who signed up last year but couldn't participate in any of our programs due to COVID-19.





SCHOOLS/YOUTH UPDATE

Vinnies Youth @ University Orientation Weeks (Contd.....)

Enthusiastic individuals came ready to immerse themselves into University life, and influence change in their community.

We also met some people who already volunteered with Vinnies either in high school, or in another city, and were eager to continue the Vincentian mission whilst studying at USYD and offer “a hand up” to people in need. We’re so excited to meet all our new recruits and really make this year one to remember.



Damien Ha, Sydney Uni Young Vinnies Member & Spiritual Advisor

University of NSW Vinnies Society

Between 9–11 February, the UNSW Vinnies Society held an O-Week Stall at UNSW to introduce new students to the work that Vinnies conducts to help those experiencing disadvantage in society and how students can get involved in the multitude of volunteering opportunities provided by Vinnies. In preparation for O-Week, the UNSW Vinnies team liaised extensively with Marissa Papaspiros (Sydney Central Council Youth Representative and Kate Conroy (Metro Youth staff), both of whom provided highly useful and detailed advice on how best to run the O-Week Stall. They helped provide us with Vinnies registration and plenty of Vinnies flyers and stationery (such as pens, notepads, bookmarks, and stickers) to hand out to new students. Over the course of three days, more than 200 students signed up to join UNSW Vinnies.

Following O-Week, UNSW Vinnies held a Meet and Greet on Sunday 7 March at Prince Alfred Park to welcome new and existing members to our Society. At the Meet and Greet, members had a day of fun filled with games and pizza. It was so great to see so many new members excited to volunteer with Vinnies and help make a difference in the community. We are extremely grateful for the support and advice we have received without which we would not have been able to have such a successful O-Week and Meet and Greet Event.

Darius & Sarah



Image: Eileen Li, Sharon Joseph & Sarah Dadgostar

SCHOOLS/YOUTH UPDATE

University of Notre Dame Vinnies Society

The ND Vinnies Society enjoyed meeting new students both in person and online at their O Week events this year. They had the opportunity to run a stall at the orientation day, as well as an online zoom session for anyone interested in volunteering with Vinnies at Notre Dame University.

The focus of the ND Vinnies group is Buddies Days and their annual Vinnies Sleepout.

Vinnies Youth also participated at the following university orientation events in 2021;

- University of Technology
- Macquarie University
- Australian Catholic University (Strathfield, North Sydney & Blacktown)



Marina Mavroudis & Claire Tien

RE:VINNIES – Vinnies Metro Youth Online Series

Image: Participants of the online session

RE:VINNIES is an online series of Zoom gatherings to reconnect and reinvigorate both existing and new Vinnies Metro Youth volunteers & members with each other but also with the wider Vinnies' community. The objective of the online gatherings is to encourage all our young adult volunteers & members, especially those who have not connected with Vinnies in the past 12 months due to COVID restrictions on our regular youth programs, to reconnect with one another, to feel part of the Metro Youth community and to grow their personal engagement and formation with Vinnies. The online gatherings are hosted by the Metro Youth Representatives.



The online series launched on Monday 8th March, International Women's Day, with a session celebrating some of the amazing Vinnies women. We heard incredible stories from women who inspire, lead and are committed to making a difference every day. Marissa Papaspiros, Vinnies Sydney Youth Representative, lead the wonderful panel of women in an insightful and meaningful discussion. Thank you to our panelists: Anne O'Driscoll, Kathleen Thickett & Michelle Chahine and to everyone who joined us online. We look forward to the next session!

State Youth Team Retreat

Youth Representatives from around the state gathered in March in the Blue Mountains to hold their long-awaited State Youth Team Retreat. It was the first time the State Youth Team has had the opportunity to meet in person in a long time, and everyone was very excited to connect and spend time together. The group spent the weekend upskilling on communication, marketing and self-care skills, and they spent the afternoon with Members from the State Council, who shared their Vinnies' stories. These youth leaders represent the passion, creativity and unique voices of the young adults of the Society.





SOCIAL JUSTICE

Recent meetings of the Sydney Arch Central Council Social Justice Network, attended by each Regional Council's Social Justice Reps, SACC's Social Justice Reps, SACC staff and State Social Justice staff, addressed the following:

- the Society's *Build Homes, Build Hope* petition, tabled at State Parliament House for debate
- identified local actions and issues around the stigma of social housing within the community
- isolation and loneliness

NSW Social Justice Network NEWS

To get all the latest updates on Vinnies Social Justice, sign up to the newsletter: <https://socialjustice.vinnies.org.au/join/>

Vinnies, Social Justice and Community Engagement

For suggestions on additions to Parish Bulletins or a speaking notes after Mass about upcoming Social Justice events and the work Vinnies does to address Social Justice, visit the Social Justice page <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social-justice/> and look for 'Social Justice Diary – Resource for Members'.

MAVS site

Have you seen the updated Member and Volunteer Support website?

This site exists to share resources, news, contacts, and events with our members and volunteers. We want to provide members and volunteers with the tools, information and resources that will assist you in your service. <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/home/>

We really want to know what you like and want in the Member and Volunteer online resources platform. Sydney Central Council has its own page: <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/conferences/sydney-central-council/>

For requested updates, please email Paul.Longobardi@vinnies.org.au

Looking for a way to let your Community or Parish know more about Vinnies? For suggestions on additions to Parish Bulletins or a speaking notes for a few minutes after Mass about upcoming Social Justice events and the work Vinnies does to address Social Justice, please visit the Social Justice page <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social-justice/> and look for 'Social Justice Diary 2020 – Resource for Members'.

There are also lots of other updates happening on MAVS which you can check in on anytime here: <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/mavs-latest-updates/>

The membership video has been updated following feedback from Mission and Spirituality – please see links to the new version below.

Full video: <https://vimeo.com/458894920/9b534356c9>

Shorter video: <https://vimeo.com/458903919/5c65a07fc8>

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS NEWS

Community Fundraising and Events News

After the success of last year's Family Winter Sleepout, which raised over \$70,000 for Vinnies NSW, we are excited to announce that the event will be back in 2021!

If there are schools in your area planning their Vinnies fundraising activity for the upcoming months, now is a great time to remind them that this year's event will be bigger and better than last year and we would love to have them involved. Remember, schools can choose to have the funds they raise dedicated to their local conference.

Stay tuned for further details and if you would like further information or have any questions, please send them through to olivia.andrews@vinnies.org.au

We are excited to announce the return of the Family Winter Sleepout @Home in 2021!

On Friday 30th July, students and their families will gather in their own homes to raise funds and awareness for those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage in our community.

Schools can register now at the following link <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/family-winter-sleepout-home-1> and any questions can be directed to olivia.andrews@vinnies.org.au