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March 2025 • Edition 9

Welcome to the 9th Edition of Volunteering At Vinnies - March 2025

As we move into March, we take a moment to celebrate the dedication and generosity of the volunteers of the St Vincent de Paul Society. This edition is packed with inspiring stories of people like yourself and the Good Works volunteering makes possible. Natural to the Australian experience, many of these stories have the feeling of summer and sea, including Sourdough Loaves & Coogee Fishes, Vollies turn the tide at Fred's Place and Celebrating at the Yabun Festival, with an important spread of regional and metropolitan stories. Christmas and Summer are often challengingly quiet for people we assist, when many, though not all services have fewer staff and volunteers. As need continues and grows in the current cost-of-living crisis, the life of Sr Carmel Hanson RSJ is one person whose example can inspire renewal in our dedication, as are the stories of Marie's ongoing quiet selflessness, and 82-year-old Tony's Return & Earn volunteering.

The Pastoral Care volunteering pilot, the Lismore Central Council's strategic planning, and OLC's new initiatives, are all opportunities to put renewed dedication into action.

Thank you for being the at heart of the Society and forefront of meeting community need. We hope you enjoy and gain as much from these stories as we did.

Good News Stories



Sourdough Loaves and Coogee Fishes: Celebrating Marie's Selflessness



Volliers turn the tide at Fred's Place



Generosity always in style at Women's Fashion Pop-Up Colab

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Strategy isn't just for professionals: Lismore Leaders Look Ahead

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Supporting and Celebrating at the Yabun Festival

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Tony 'crushes it' at Return & Earn

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Updates & News



Gosford Comedy Night Raises Spirits and Funds

A combined effort by the teams, members, staff and volunteers from the Gosford and Woy Woy Vinnies Support Centres came to fruition on the evening of Thursday 26 September when a fundraising event "Comedy for a Cause" was held at Drifter's Wharf in Gosford.

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Vale Sister Carmel Hanson RSJ

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW is saddened by the sudden passing of Sister Camel Hanson RSJ on 25 January 2025.

Sr Carmel joined the Society in 1991 and spent decades supporting vulnerable and disadvantage people through the Maitland/Newcastle Central council. She was a towering voice for social justice within the Society and broader community, serving as a state social justice representative and appearing regularly at our Rosalie Rendu Forum.



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Vinnies NSW Disaster Appeal calls for donations to support communities in Northern NSW

The Northern NSW area is being impacted by the destructive weather conditions. The [Vinnies NSW Disaster Appeal](#) is asking for generous donations to assist with the immediate response, as well as long-term recovery.

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St Vincent de Paul Society NSW ABN: 91 161 127 340
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