



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

# ParraMattas CONFERENCE

## Parramatta Central Council

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

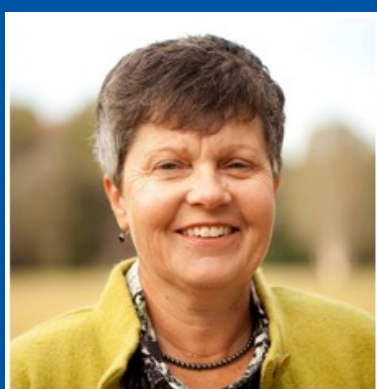
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## MESSAGE FROM PARRAMATTA CENTRAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNE STANFIELD



### Parramatta's July 2020

I'm writing this about 4 months into our strange Covid 19 world, I hope members are well and have been able to work out to live safely, and not feel too isolated from loved ones and your community activities.

Members have been quick to use emails, phone calls and zoom to keep in touch when conferences were unable to meet. It has certainly reminded us of the close relationships and friendships we have with our members. While we are able to attend Mass now, there are restrictions on numbers. Its likely these will continue making it difficult to plan Masses together, particularly for the Feast of St Vincent de Paul on 27<sup>th</sup> September, I encourage conferences to talk about sharing Mass together when they feel the time is right for members. Unfortunately we are not able to visit people in their homes yet but most conferences have kept in touch or delivered food, ordered furniture etc.

Vinnies Support Centres have

reopened with strict Covid 19 safety protocols in place.

The staffing restructure to support the implementation of the Society's NSW Strategic Plan is almost complete. One staff team lead by Gayl Purchase, Regional Director Metro will support Vincentian work and services in Parramatta, Broken Bay and Sydney Arch central council areas. The teams will be introduced in this newsletter.

The Rule calls members to adapt to a changing world.....change can be both challenging and liberating. The Society is always in a state of evolution and change, responding to the challenges in our communities as well as creating structures to ensure good governance, social advocacy and sustainability. As the impact of Covid 19 on our communities evolves we will be challenged to respond to the needs of our communities.

Jody McDonnell a member of Stanhope Gardens Conference has joined the

## THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Regional Director's Message

Spiritual Reflection

Social Justice Rep's Message

Membership/Vinnies Support Centres

Membership/Conference

Schools/Youth Update

SVdP Housing

Shops

Twinning/Fundraising

Membership Support

State Advisory Committee for Members and Youth. Jody was the participant in the Reflect and act day in February and has some great energy to represent members in this committee.

My term as Central Council President ends in early September so this will be my last report as President. When my term ceases I will also no longer be eligible to be a member of the SVDP (NSW) board so will step down from the board. The role is to support members to develop spirituality and do their Vincentian work – it has been a privilege to work with so many members during the last 4 years. I would like to thank the members of the central council for their contributions and good counsel, and all the staff who have always been willing to work with me and members, particularly our go to Membership Support Officer Lauraine Steward. God bless and take care !

**Anne Stanfield**

**Parramatta Central Council  
President**

## MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR METROPOLITAN - GAYL PURCHASE

Our staff and Members have enthusiastically taken to the new methods of delivery of service as a response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Their generosity of time, talent and willingness to adapt to new practices demonstrate our shared commitment to the Vincentian Mission and Vision in the service of those we partner with and is an inspiration and source of motivation for us all.

While Regional Offices and Vinnies Shops have closed, our Vinnies Services Centres remain open across Metro region, continuing to support Members, do phone visits, food drops and other services, with some staff supporting members from home and this system seems to be working well. All locations still open operate with social distancing measures to ensure all safety measures and practices reduce risk as much as possible.

There is a need more than ever for us all to remain connected and to assist with this we have updated COVID-19 advice on the MAVS site at <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au> to ensure members are kept up-to-date on current services and our new ways of delivering assistance.



As I joined Vinnies just a short time ago, and we have travelled through these extraordinary times, I have been humbled to witness the true Vincentian spirit demonstrated as we have encountered crisis after crisis – drought, bushfires, floods and now a pandemic. I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to staff and members for their support during my first six months with the Society.

### Gayl Purchase, Regional Director Metropolitan

#### METROPOLITAN TEAM

- |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Regional Director Metropolitan</b><br/>Gayl Purchase</li></ul>                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Philanthropy and Development Coordinator</b><br/>Maryann Novakovic</li></ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Manager Schools and Youth Engagement</b><br/>Mary Musolino</li></ul>        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Regional Manager Vinnies Support Centre</b><br/>David Murphy</li></ul>                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Work Health and Safety sMetropolitan</b><br/>Marc Corbridge</li></ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Youth Engagement Officer-Metro</b><br/>Kate Conroy</li></ul>                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vinnies Support Centre Team Leader</b><br/>Bhavika Patel</li></ul>                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Manager- Member and Community Engagement</b><br/>Janice Stokes</li></ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Schools Engagement Officer-(Parramatta)</b><br/>Roydon Ng</li></ul>         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Operations Support Officer Metropolitan (Sydney Central Council)</b><br/>Kerry Quarantino</li></ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Parramatta (Tues to Thurs)</b><br/>Lauraine Steward</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Schools Engagement Officer (Sydney)</b><br/>Christina Gilio</li></ul>       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Operations Support Officer Metropolitan (Parramatta Central Council and Chatswood Central Council)</b><br/>Neeru Pradhanang</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Member and Community Engagement Coordinator (Sydney)</b><br/>Paul Longobardi</li></ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Schools Engagement Officer (Broken Bay)</b><br/>Chantelle Smit</li></ul>    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Regional Support Co-ordinator Finance</b><br/>Cynthia Jayasooriya</li></ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Accounts Officer (Parramatta)</b><br/>Laura Esber</li></ul>                 |

Please refer to the updated Parramatta Directory for information on Metropolitan staff

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

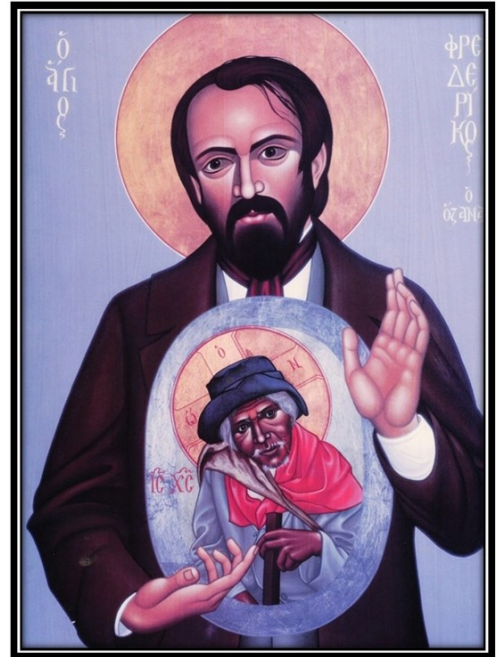
### Quotes from Frederic Ozanam to reflect upon

"You are our masters, and we will be your servants. You are for us the sacred images of that God whom we do not see, and not knowing how to love Him otherwise shall we now love Him in your persons."

"There are two reasons why we join together ... Number one is, that by drawing closer to the poor, we draw closer to God ... My second reason is, that our membership in such a union will bear silent and humble witness to the faith that is in us..."

"What counts in the end, plainly, is not only the quality of the service to the person in need, but the personal and self-giving component of that service."

*From Love and Politics: The Revolutionary Frederic Ozanam by John Honner*



#### For sharing:

- Which of the above quotes speak to you most strongly today?
- What do you see when you look at this icon of Frederic? What does it evoke?
- What does it evoke?

### PRAYER

Keep us, good Lord  
Under the shadow of your mercy  
In this time of uncertainty and distress  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful  
And lift up all who brought low;  
That we may rejoice in your comfort  
Knowing that nothing can separate us  
In Christ Jesus our Lord  
Amen.



**DURING THIS TIME WHEN WE CANNOT PHYSICALLY WRAP OUR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER, LET US FIND WAYS TO LOVE AND CARE.....!**

The Social Justice representatives of the various conferences in the Parramatta Central Council area have been meeting by ZOOM during the COVID 19 period.

Discussions have included "meetings", ie communications, with our state MPs regarding **our Build Homes, Build Hope campaign**. Pru Car, the state member for the Londonderry electorate, in the Nepean Regional Area of the Society, is so supportive of the campaign for more social housing, that she spoke directly to it in State parliament, citing the communications she has had with the St Marys conference. This is an encouragement for all of us to continue to speak to our local MPs about the need for more social housing, especially now that the government is seeking to stimulate the economy post COVID. "Build homes, Build Hope"!

**The Raise the Rate (of JobSeeker for GOOD!) campaign** is to be supported by a survey of the people we assist. They are asked how the CoronaVirus supplement has affected their lives. All conferences

should have received the survey from their president and it would be very helpful to the campaign if conferences carry out the survey. JobSeeker is due to cease by September.

Members continue to support the Jesuit Refugee Centre at Westmead with food supplies. The demand is great; at one point 750 people per week were being supplied with food.

Any Vinnies person, member, volunteer or staff, is welcome to become a part of our SJ network. Let me know if you would like to join us in our meetings and/or receive our correspondence; a Social Justice newsletter is produced by State Council every month. You can access it on the MAVS site.

If your conference does not have a SJ representative, do join us and help to keep social justice on the agenda of your meetings.

*Caterina Tribbia*  
*ctribbia@bigpond.net.au*



**Build Homes, Build Hope**

### Sydney Alliance local community discussions

Vinnies is involved in the Sydney Alliance initiative of holding local community discussions. The purpose of these meetings was not a consultation or a survey, but rather the beginning of a community organising process, whereby local leaders identify their concerns, share stories and come together to take action for the common good. During the "crisis" period of Covid-19 these relational conversations have an important role in connecting diverse leaders and providing insight, reflection and distance from the 'front line'. Of the 13 conversations happening across Sydney, Vinnies is involved in 10 of those.



## MEMBERSHIP - VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRES



Pictured from left to right Gayl Purchase, Conference member Deidre, Volunteer Amani, Conference member Peter and Conference President George Eberl

*The Emerton Hub has recently had a risk assessment done to have a safe opening for people seeking assistance, members and volunteers.*

*Anne Stanfield, Parramatta Central Council President*

### VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRES

Within the newly formed Metro Region, we have twenty Vinnies Support Centres (previously known as Hubs or Community Support Centres) staffed by employees and two Conference spaces staffed with Volunteers and Members. Our Vinnies Support Centres are located from Sutherland, out to Penrith, and all the way up to Wyong. They cross all three of the old Broken Bay, Parramatta and Sydney Diocese.

In an average year Vinnies Support Centres receive 24,000 requests for support from the community, we arrange and link into Conferences 16,000 of those people for a minimum of 1 home visit. Between The Vinnies Support Centres and our Conference Members, The Metro Region averages 70,000 instances of support in the community per year.

Besides our focus of linking more people in with Conferences, Vinnies Support staff also support

Conference Members with complex client issues and advocacy in the community. We also provide Conferences Members who may not like doing visits at night, are mobile impaired, or may just want a safe space in which to do their good works, a place to work from.

Moving into 2021, I would like to see our Vinnies Support Centres working even more closely with Members, increasing our referrals into Conferences and providing engagement opportunities for new people to the Society. I am also looking forward to Support centre being a more comprehensive support point for both our Members and the people we all assist through internal partnerships with the likes of Vinnies Services and with local community partners.

*David Murphy*  
*Regional Manager, Vinnies Support Centre*

## CONFERENCE-MEMBERSHIP



**Ron Horne, Cumberland Regional President presenting the award to Barbara Caris**



### **Lifetime Membership Awarded to Barbara Caris**

Barbara commenced with Vinnies on 1/1/1980 and was involved in the following:

- Most recently a member of the Westmead Sacred Heart Conference
- The establishment and operation of Our Lady of the Way Womens Centre (1994 – 2008)
- Has been a member of Blacktown Conference (2013 – 2016)
- Volunteered at Blacktown (2016 – 2017) & Woodcroft (2019) shops
- Was regional treasurer for Cumberland (2010 – 2011) & Parramatta Councils (2009 – 2010)
- Was a conference president of Westmead

## Membership Award



**Reno Abela (Prospect Regional President) presenting to Joy Doyle**



**Sam Cassar, Joe Doyle and Reno Abela**

### Extending LOVE & KINDNESS towards a families in need of emotional support during times of stress and sadness in life

Members of Stanhope Gardens St John XXIII St Vincent De Paul Conference, Sydney have taken up the invitation of Pope Francis's recent words asking us to build *"a more just, more equitable, more Christian society, not in name, but in reality, and action"*

In March this year conference members visited an Iranian refugee family of three children aged 2, 3 & 15 living in Rouse Hill - western suburb of Sydney, who have been financially impacted since the husband lost his job due to COVID-19. The family's immigration status is pending. As a result, they are not receiving financial assistance from the government, nor are they eligible for any Centrelink payments due to the visa class they are on.

The circumstances of this family have been very unlucky, with no income and no way to get out of this situation. They have no money to pay rent and has received an eviction notice from the rental tribunal.

The family has approached many charity organisations who kindly offered a one-off support but did not want to do anything further such as listening to the circumstances of the family and working together to address issues and uplift their lives. To add to this family's trouble, their car was involved in an accident and needed repairs. The repair bill was \$3,500, money that they didn't have.

One of the members took the initiative and launched an email campaign among family and friends to collect funds to support this family which raised close to \$5,000.

The email campaign also made the local community aware of the situation who visited this family and gave them hope and encouragement. From the 3 local churches it was only one priest who came forward and immediately visited this family and checked on their wellbeing providing support and comfort which the family valued very much.

The family was introduced to Toongabbie Legal Centre who provides free support and advice to refugees which has been very beneficial to progress in uplifting this family's situation. Currently a lawyer from this centre has personally offered to support the husband to renew his bus permit and assist in job placement.

This family is finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel since a conference member's guidance and support. Families who are facing hardships are demoralised and its not helpful when charity organisations only provide web links asking them to follow up. These families have already been exposed to being attacked and harmed, either physically or emotionally so they were overjoyed when a member took the initiative to walk the journey with the family. As a result, the family is now receiving support with food and other essential needs from the community and a few charity organisations.

The family is very grateful towards the community who have come forward to support and treating them with compassion showing them there is light at this very dark tunnel which

they were in couple of weeks ago.

  
**KINDNESS**  
*Pass it on!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Client, partner

3 children 3,5 and 7 years old

The parents used to work prior to the lodgement of their refugee visas. But ever since the applications were lodged, the family is no longer allowed to work as it is a breach of their visa condition. But due to the Covid-19, the family found it harder to cope as other family members and friends who were financially assisting them can no longer assist.

We have reached out to JRS, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Money Care, Local Migrant Resource, Anglicare, House of Welcome, Department of Housing and Syd West. I have called all these organisations to assist with their rental arrears. But because of their status, no one can assist except for House of Welcome. Ruth of House of Welcome managed to help with a one-off \$400 and dental care for the family after a 2-week consistent follow-ups. We at our conference have helped with food assistance and EAPA.

I have explained to the landlord that we are seeking rental assistance, so he won't harass the family. I also managed assisting them to get a CRN from Centrelink even though no  
*(continued on next page)*



## CONFERENCE /MEMBERSHIP

*(Continued.....)*

no financial benefits can be given to them. This was a pure luck because they are not allowed to get one due to their visa status, but they were given on the day of application. As it happens, it is one of the requirements in House of Welcome to get assistance. I also took the parents with me to a cash-job one weekend and they got paid \$210 for a 3-hr job. I know it is a not allowed because of the visa conditions but it is the only way for them to earn money. Other friends have donated fresh meat, fish and vegies.

Another charity who assisted was the Sahara Turkish Street Food (lovely people) in The Ponds who did not hesitate to donate a hot dinner for the whole family. I only told them how many members in the family, and they advised what time to pick up. These two instances highlight the needs of our community in these trying times. It pays to work with, them, for them and look outside the obvious.

**Regards**  
**Stanhope Gardens Conference**

## Winter Appeal Donations

Wednesday 2nd July saw five members of the Stanhope Gardens conference attend a gathering of the iHelp group from Holy Cross Primary school Glenwood. This school has been a constant source of donations for us supporting our winter appeal and Christmas hamper collections. The 60 or so volunteers from the iHelp group, ranging from year 3 to year 6 students at the school have worked hard post Covid19 shutdown to design posters and chase up donations for Vinnies. These donations will go a far way in helping us support the clients of our conference and keep many of them warm as well. Several hours went into organising our food bank in the basement of the church to make it a safe and useful area for which all our members can go and pack a food hamper for our clients

**Regards,**  
**Bernard Louis, Stanhope Gardens Conference**



## Thank You for your donations!

On behalf of the St Clair conference of the society of St Vincent De Paul we'd like to extend our great appreciation and thanks to the all students and teachers of Emmaus Catholic College, Kemps Creek for the 2020 winter appeal donations.

Emmaus has been supporting Vinnie's winter appeal and Christmas appeal for many years now, and their dedication to people in need within our local community has been nothing short of outstanding. Emmaus was unable to host the winter sleep out due to Covid 19 restrictions. Yet under the guidance of Emmaus Religious co-ordinator Ms Pia Waring and other staff they still managed to raise over \$845 as well donated soup tins, clothing, blankets, beanies, and scarves which will be distributed to people in need within our community.



**St Clair Conference**



### DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY AT HOLY SPIRIT ST CLAIR CONFERENCE

COVID-19 has not stopped our conference from meeting weekly, we have just had to learn how to do things a little differently.

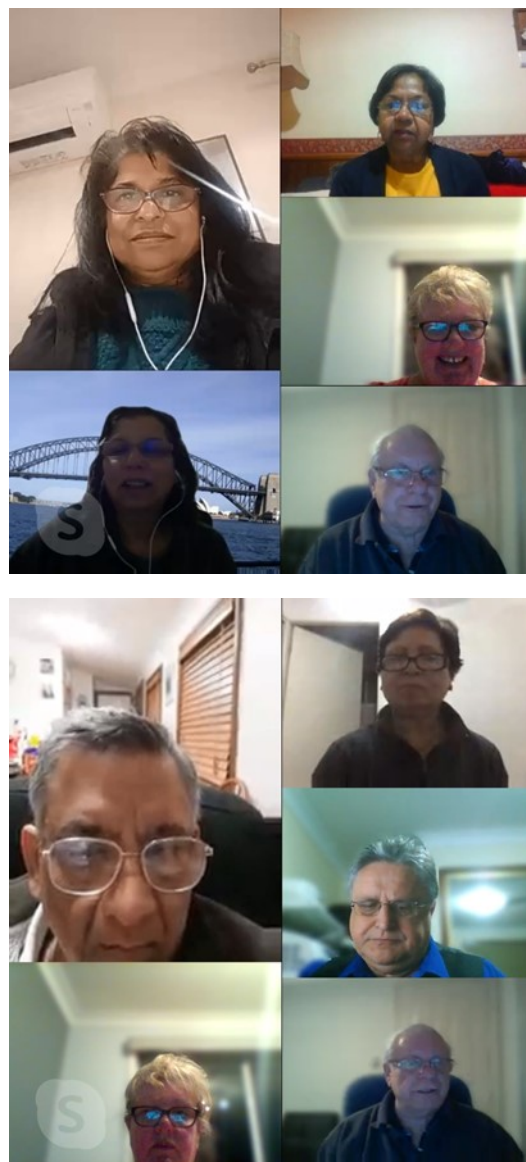
We meet via Skype every week and follow our normal meeting format. It is hard not to see each other face to face and to share our usual kisses and hugs. We still manage to share laughs and stories so it is better than not connecting at all.

I am sure lots of conferences are now meeting this way for the safety of our volunteers. Many of us would have embraced new technology and found that there are some positives such as, not heading out at night in the chilly cold of winter or even joining a meeting whilst away from home, (last week I was in Old Bar near Taree, and still managed to connect and join our weekly conference meeting).

I am so proud of how we have thought creatively and embraced change whilst keeping safe and healthy, and most importantly, continuing to assist those in need.

God Bless all Vinnies wonderful conference members and volunteers.

#### ***St Clair Conference***



## SCHOOLS UPDATE

### Metropolitan Schools Newsletter

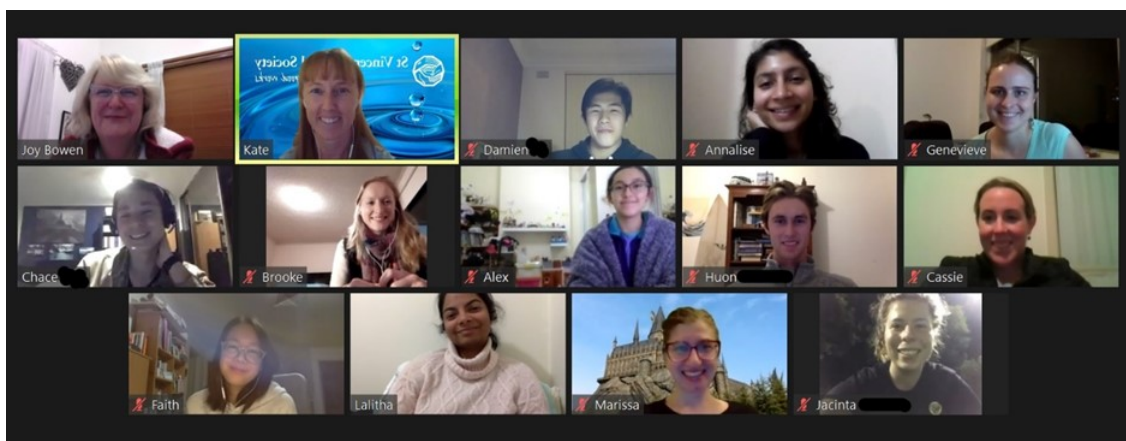
The Metropolitan Schools Engagement team remains active during the COVID crisis in adapting the way we deliver our outreach. We are continuing to offer spirituality days, resources and meetings with schools through Zoom video conferencing. The team have also been working hard to launch the new Mini Vinnies Formation Program. Please see the Schools Newsletter for Term 3 at this link for more information.

[bit.ly/VinniesMetroSchoolsNewsletter2020Term3](https://bit.ly/VinniesMetroSchoolsNewsletter2020Term3)

### Vinnies Youth Conference Connect

Over the past few months, Vinnies Metro Youth have responded to the changing needs of those we support and the work done by Conferences, by participating in the Vinnies Youth Conference Connect Project. It is an initiative developed by the Vinnies State Youth Team, which facilitates the matching of willing young volunteers and members to support Conferences in continuing their work during these challenging and uncertain times.

As part of the project, Conferences have been able to ask for Vinnies youth volunteers and members to be involved with their Conference work by being a youth volunteer 'Helping Hand' or 'Listening Ear'. The Helping Hands Volunteers have been helping to pack hampers and drop off food vouchers. The Listening Ear Volunteers have been working with Conferences to make social phone calls to people to help address the loneliness and uncertainty that these times bring, the social phone calls complements the work being by Conference Members.



As part of the project, youth volunteers participated in an online training course, facilitated by Joy Bowden – Vinnies Mission, Spirituality and Pastoral Care Partner. Volunteers were able to develop and gain new skills in the areas of pastoral care, listening, boundaries and self care.

Vinnies Youth Helping Hand and Listening Ear Volunteers are available and ready to be matched up with new ways of serving our Conferences. We are excited about this great opportunity to bring our younger volunteers together with experienced Members, with the potential to lead to ongoing and deeper relationships with Conferences. For any questions regarding the Conference Connect Project, please contact Kate Conroy – Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer [kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au)



### Why do Vinnies love what they do?

[Click here](#) to view a short clip of Vinnies Youth NSW volunteers and members, sharing why they give their time to support people in their local communities, and what these opportunities mean for them. If you have any enquires about Vinnies Metro Youth, please contact Kate Conroy – Metro Youth Engagement Officer at [kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au).

## SAFH Units in Katoomba

**The 26 SAFH units at Waratah St Katoomba are almost complete!**



Pamela Nash Regional President Blue Mountains



**Residents will be mainly people over 55, in 1 and 2 bedroom units, and expected to start moving in early August. Pamela Nash Blue Mountains Regional President with members from Katoomba and Blackheath Conferences are looking forward to helping residents build a community in their new homes.**



**Vinnies**  
good works

**We're on Facebook!**

'Like' or 'Follow' us to keep up-to-date on what's happening across the Vinnies Parramatta Central Council region – from Parramatta to the Blue Mountains, and Richmond to Warragamba

**f** [FB.com/vinnieswesternsydney](https://www.facebook.com/vinnieswesternsydney)

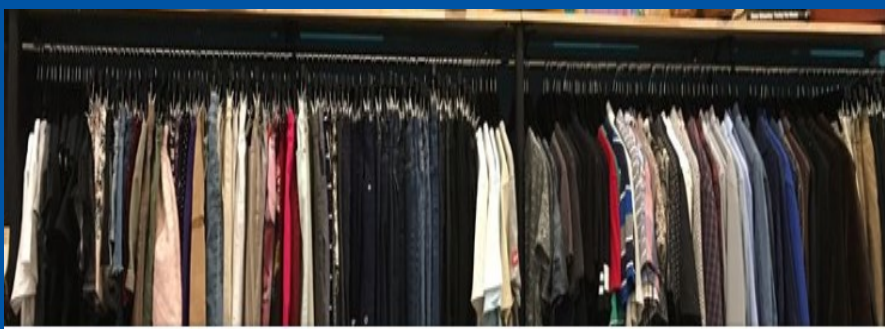
**Have your say!**

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of ParraMattas Conference, email us at [lauraine.steward@vinnies.org.au](mailto:lauraine.steward@vinnies.org.au)



## RETAIL (AS AT 04.08.2020)

	Baulkham Hills	9A/B Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills 2153	9686 4159	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Blacktown	23 David Lane, Blacktown 2148	9622 6088	
	Blacktown Mega Centre*	Shop C04, Blacktown Mega Centre, 14 St Martins Crescent Blacktown 2148	9621 3423	
	Blaxland*	132A Great Western Highway, Blaxland 2774	4739 8402	
	Carlingford	285 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford 2118	9871 2649	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Castle Hill –Vic	5/19 Victoria Avenue, Castle Hill 2154	0407 077 242	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
Donation Station	Greystanes	433 Great Western Highway Greystanes	9688 5406	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Jordan Springs	Shop 6-7 56-66 Lakeside Parade, Jordan Springs 2747	4730 7154	
	Katoomba*	65 Waratah St, Katoomba 2780	4782 1068	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Kingswood*	74 Cox Ave, Kingswood 2747	4731 5900 4751 7292 fax	
	Mt Druitt*	Shop 11B Zoe Place, 6-10 Mount Street, Mt Druitt 2770	9675 6860	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Nth Parramatta*	583 Church Street, North Parramatta 2151	9890 8424 9683 6471 fax	
	Penrith*	2/120 Batt Street, Jamisontown, 2750	4722 0309	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Richmond	Shop 2, 14 East Market St, Richmond 2753	4588 8028	
	Rouse Hill	13/40 Panmure Street, 2155	9672 6190	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Springwood	272 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777	4751 2271	
	St Marys	4 Crana St, St Marys 2760	9833 4594	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Toongabbie	1 Cornelia Road, Toongabbie 2146	9769 1011	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Windsor*	256 George St, Windsor 2756	4577 4880	<b>NOW OPEN</b>
	Woodcroft	S2, Woodcroft Village Shopping Centre 3 Woodcroft Drive, Woodcroft 2767	9672 3226	



## TWINNING

- PCC currently has 52 active twins from India, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand & Cambodia.
- Due to the Covid 19 situation, status checks in progress were extended to end August.
- A new Assist A Student (AAS) information pack is being developed and will be distributed once finalised.

### *Distribution of Twins in the Regional Council Area*

Region	Country						Total
	India	Philippines	Indonesia	Thailand	Bangladesh	Cambodia	
Blue Mountains	11						11
Cumberland	5		1				6
Nepean	4	7	1				12
Prospect	10	3	4			1	18
The Hills	3	1		1			5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>52</b>

## FUNDRAISING

### NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout –Event Update

The annual Western Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout is going ahead but it will be a little different this year. We're going virtual! On Friday 23 October, participants across NSW will unite in a state wide effort to raise important funds and awareness for those in our local community who need it the most. This year, participants will choose from a number of locations across NSW to support local Vinnies services and programs in that region. Sleepers will nominate a sleeping option – your car, your backyard or couch - connecting you to some of the realities people face when times are tough. Tune in to the event's live stream and let's come together on one night in solidarity to make a difference in your patch of NSW. Registrations are now open and your support is needed more than ever. To select a location to join, click here.

<https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/joinnow>



# COVID-19

#STOPTHESPREAD  
#SAVE LIVES

### Virtual Parramatta Central Council Meeting



#### The COVID 19 impact:

*COVID-19 circumstances may have changed the way we work, but it didn't stop Conference members from meeting regularly and continuing to serve those in need. One of the many zoom Parramatta Central Council meetings.*

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#### **Member and Volunteer Support (MAVS) website:**

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/home/> contains updates to latest news as well as information on Social Justice; Spirituality; Schools and Youth and much more. It may help, if prior to every Conference/Regional meeting, MAVS is checked for any relevant updated material.

The home page contains latest news items (bottom of the home page) as well as a link to find what the latest updates to MAVS are (circled at the top of the Home page here):

