

WAGGA WAGGA CENTRAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

November 2024



Welcome

As the Wagga Wagga Central Council President, I wish to welcome all Members and Volunteers to the newsletter. Its primary purpose is to communicate current and proposed activities likely to impact our operations and assist us as individuals and conference in supporting those in need.

To this end I encourage you to read in detail everything contained therein and expand your society knowledge with the Society's publications detailed below.

In the lead up to Christmas I look forward to meeting you all at your respective 'Regional Get Together' in November and listening to your ideas for the next newsletter.

Enjoy our Good Works newsletter!

Anthony Foley
Wagga Wagga
Central Council
President



Wagga Central Council's Good Works

Did you know that last financial year, members in the Wagga Wagga Central Council supported over 5,600 people and provided \$707,000 worth of assistance? This information was some of the information sent to Bishop Mark Edwards OMI last month about the good works of the Society in the Wagga Wagga Diocese. Anthony Foley, Central Council President, along with Peter Houweling, NSW President and Leo Tucker, Executive Director Mission and Spirituality will now meet with Bishop Edwards in February 2025 to share the good works of our members and to strengthen the Society's working relationship with the Bishop.

Wagga Wagga Central Council 2023-24 - overview

- Number of members of St Vincent de Paul Society: 281
- Number of Conferences: 22
- Number of people assisted 2023-24: 5609
- Percent Supported for the First Time in 2023-24: 14%
- Amount of Support Provided in 2023-24: \$707,157

In this quarterly newsletter you can expect:

- Upcoming events
- Member spotlight
- Useful resource
- Conference updates
- Pastoral care

Vinnies staff contacts

Regional Director - South
solange.frost@vinnies.org.au

Manager - South
ana.suarez@vinnies.org.au

Youth & Schools
ana.suarez@vinnies.org.au

Operation Support
margaret.vanzyl@vinnies.org.au

Community Outreach
shannan.carey@vinnies.org.au

Client & Member Support
lisa.whillans@vinnies.org.au
mavs.support@vinnies.org.au
cams.support@vinnies.org.au

IT
servicedesk@vinnies.org.au

Finance
bharat.narsey@vinnies.org.au

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land, with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith and reconciliation.



Regional Get Togethers

Join us for our inaugural Regional Get Togethers to enjoy a day filled with meaningful interactions, inspiration, collaboration and growth. Lunch will be provided.

12 Nov | Wagga Wagga
13 Nov | Albury
18 Nov | Murrumbidgee
19 Nov | South West

RSVP to Maggie | svdpwagga@vinnies.org.au or 0491031062



Brain teaser

Lucy is following up on a referral from Vinnies Assist. She needs to confirm some details, including the date of birth, so she calls the number provided. The person's housemate answers and explains that the referred person is currently out. Lucy thinks that she may as well complete the form while she's got someone on the phone.

Can Lucy ask the housemate to provide the date of birth instead?

NO - we must collect personal information directly from the individual concerned unless it's unreasonable or impracticable to do so. In this case, it shouldn't be unreasonable or impracticable to try to contact again later.

Do you want to know more about how you can respect our client's privacy and confidentiality? Read the Society's Privacy Policy or for help, contact svdpwagga@vinnies.org.au

Article links for members

The Vincentian
State newsletter for Members.

Click [here](#)

Vision

Communication and Marketing articles

Click [here](#)

Impact

Fundraising and Communication articles

Click [here](#)

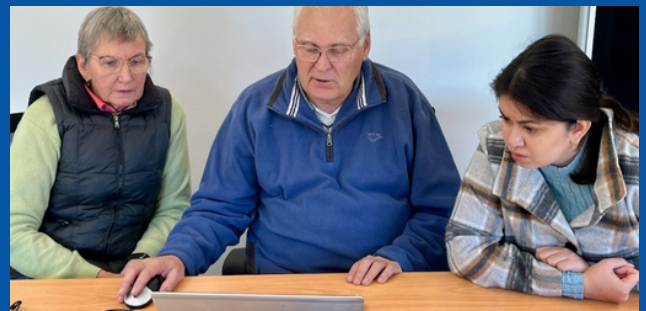
Member spotlight



We are delighted to introduce the Holbrook Our Lady of Sorrows Conference and its dedicated members: Monica, Sharon, Ian, Dianne, and Winnie. The conference meets weekly for Mass on Thursdays with Fr. Jomer and holds face-to-face support sessions every fortnight from 11 a.m. in the church rooms. They are here to offer material and financial aid, or simply a friendly cuppa and a chat.

The conference will soon offer EAPA (Energy Accounts Payment Assistance) support for those who need help with electricity and gas bills. If you or someone you know could use a hand, please reach out to the conference at ☎ 0477 741 450.

Our members complete mandatory compliance checks and regular training to best serve the community. (pictured: members completing online training).



Useful resources

Blue Knot Foundation

Building a Trauma Informed Community

Trauma training

Blue Knot Foundation is running a series of free online workshops for those who are helping people experiencing different types of trauma.

Further information is available on the Blue Knot Foundation website
www.blueknot.org.au/supporters/supporter-workshops/

VINNIES RIVERINA



Follow us on Facebook

Information on the Riverina area is being updated regularly on the Vinnies Riverina Facebook page.

If you have an event or good news story to share, please contact Shannan | shannan.carey@vinnies.org.au



Support program

The Society has partnered with Converge International to provide you with free, confidential coaching support for up to 4 sessions per issue to help you deal with the challenges, concerns or issues that may be affecting you.

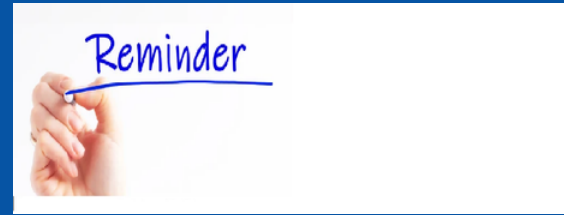
Call 1300687 327 or visit www.convergeinternational.com.au



New Members needed

The St Vincent de Paul Society only exists through the action of our Members and Volunteers.

If you know of someone willing to give a hand up as a Member, retail volunteer or as part of the Vinnies Van team, please encourage them to contact membership@vinnies.org.au or scan the QR code above.



A few reminders:

- Handy forms, templates, order forms and guidelines can be accessed on MAVS www.mavs.vinnies.org.au
- Family Assistance Forms will be discontinued for 1 November so make sure you are familiar with how to use and record the new Vinnies Retail Gift Cards.
- RSVP to svdpwagga@vinnies.org.au for the Regional Get-Togethers. Invitations were sent to all members via email.
- RSVP for safeguarding training or reach out if you can't attend to shannan.carey@vinnies.org.au or 0491783750
- The Code of Conduct should training should be completed every 2 years. For assistance call Shannan 0491783750.
- The 2024 Christmas Appeal launches on 1 November. Resources should be sent to Conferences from 14 October. Any enquiries can be sent to margaret.vanzyl@vinnies.org.au
- Save the date for Vinnies Family Fun day 26 April 2025 at the Wagga Wagga Showgrounds



St Seb's Youth Conference



St. Sebastian's Young Adult Conference in Wagga Wagga celebrated Refugee Week by organising a spectacular multicultural dinner for the community. Families from Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Colombia, Spain, India, and Australia came together to celebrate diversity and enjoyed a variety of traditional dishes from around the world. The city of Wagga Wagga became a Refugee Welcome Zone in June 2012, making it one of the most diverse inland towns in NSW.

Our youth members in Wagga value the importance of engaging with and supporting different communities, and they work on various initiatives to ensure our diverse communities feel welcome, comfortable, and happy. Well done to St. Sebastian's Youth Conference for putting this amazing event together!

South Wagga Excursion



Thanks to a generous bequest left to Wagga Region specifically for the benefit of students, 9 students were recently sponsored for an educational milestone. The Principal of South Wagga Public School wrote: "Our Stage 3 students attended the 3-day excursion in Ballarat/Bendigo/Echuca. From the bottom of our hearts, we want to pass on our sincere thanks to Vinnies for your support in providing this opportunity. All students had an amazing time, and the students that you supported to attend could not stop smiling ... Whilst all students benefited from this opportunity, 4 of our Yazidi students had the trip of a lifetime. I have attached some of their happy snaps for you. We thank you and Vinnies for your very generous support."

Mission, Spirituality & Pastoral Care

Employees, Members and Volunteers of the St Vincent de Paul Society are driven by our values. Key amongst our values is compassion – welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgment. Fr Gregory Boyle is a Jesuit priest who founded Homeboys Industries, a US-based organisation dedicated to rehabilitating former prisoners and gang members.

In his book *Tattoos on the Heart* he wrote:

"Here is what we seek: a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it. Kindness is the only strength there is."

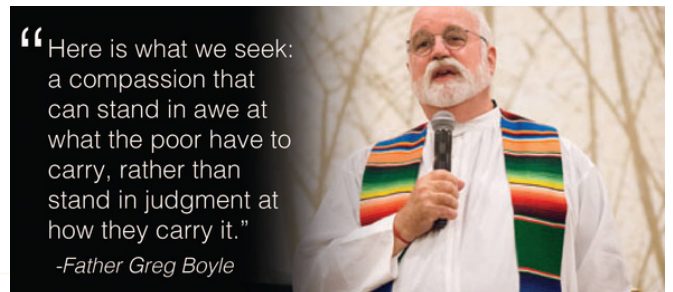
He goes on to talk about "inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognise it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion.

Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and the voiceless.

At the edges, we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonised so that the demonising will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away."

"Compassion isn't just about feeling the pain of others; it's about bringing them in toward yourself. If we love what God loves, then, in compassion, margins get erased. 'Be compassionate as God is compassionate,' means the dismantling of barriers that exclude."

Leonie Duck | Mission, Spirituality and Pastoral Care Partner - South



WWW.VINNIES.ORG.AU

VINNIES ASSIST 13 18 12



15 Peter Street, WAGGA WAGGA

svdpwagga@vinnies.org.au