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MAY 2023 • Edition 3

Welcome to the third edition of our volunteer newsletter!

Welcome to the third edition of our volunteer newsletter, *Volunteering at Vinnies*.

It's been a busy few months at Vinnies NSW. In March, we welcomed Yolanda Saiz as our new CEO. Yolanda joined the Society in 2011 as Head of Communications and had been engaged as Executive Director – Commercial Enterprise, Fundraising and Communications since 2019. Congratulations, Yolanda!

March also witnessed the launch of the Society's new [Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#), 'Strengthening communities, transforming lives'. The approval of the new strategy is an important milestone for the Society – its goals are firmly focused on the people we assist as well as delivering service excellence and growth. You can read more about our new Strategic Plan later on in this edition.

Most significantly, in May we celebrated National Volunteer Week. National Volunteer Week is a chance for organisations such as ours to celebrate and recognise the vital contribution of volunteers towards the work that we do. Thank you so much to each and every one of you for dedicating your time, skills, passion and energy to making our community a better place. We are so grateful you're here.

If you would like to contribute to our quarterly newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Volunteer & Associate Engagement Team at volunteers@vinnies.org.au.

We hope you enjoy this edition.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

National Volunteer Week 2023

National Volunteer Week is celebrated annually in the third week of May and provides organisations such as Vinnies with the perfect opportunity to say thank you to our cherished volunteers across NSW. This year's theme was 'The Change Makers' - a fitting theme for our volunteers and members, who improve the lives of those in their communities every day.

Many of our services and programs held local celebrations during the week to recognise their volunteers and members. Pictured above (clockwise from left) are celebrations at Blacktown, Crows Nest, Redfern & Gosford respectively. The Volunteer & Associate Engagement Team would like to say a heartfelt thank you on behalf of our organisation to all of our volunteers and members. You are the backbone of our Society and we are extremely grateful for your contribution.

WHAT'S NEW



The Society launches new Strategic Plan '*Strengthening communities, transforming lives*'

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Marking IDAHOBIT Day at Vinnies NSW

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We need you! Help us test our incoming Volunteer & Member Management System

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Vinnies NSW launches Volunteer Welcome Pack for



volunteers in Services & Programs

Vinnies NSW has launched an accessible, inclusive Welcome Pack for volunteers in Services & Programs. This important reference tool contains all the information you will need during your time at Vinnies.

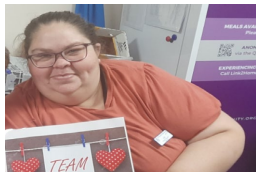
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Lifetime Service Award recipient, Patricia Holz

Patricia Holz (second from right in photo) recently celebrated her 55th anniversary as a volunteer with Vinnies. Instrumental in the opening of our Singleton shop, Patricia shares her story here.



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Meet Lisa Kingdom, Wyong Support Centre Volunteer & Warnervale Conference Member

Lisa Kingdom has volunteered at Vinnies Support Centre in Wyong since 2019.

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Leading the way at the Nagle Community Centre: Meet Chelsea and Mark

Chelsea Ward and Mark McNeil are delivering hot meals and community engagement activities to our residents in Albury.



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87 Years of Service combined: Celebrating our Grafton Shop volunteers Eileen, Eileen & Aileen

Nonagenarians Eileen Taylor, Eileen Thorpe & Aileen Brown have contributed an astonishing 87 years collectively to our Grafton Shop.

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New Vinnies Safety Induction for Volunteers

Vinnies online Safety Induction has recently been updated and is now available to all volunteers. Please complete this training by the end of June 2023.



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Pathways to employment: Travis's story

Men's Behaviour Change Program Facilitator, Travis Underwood, shares how his experience at Wyong Support Centre helped him secure a role with Catholic Care.

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Meet our staff: Maggie Lipu, Vinnies Service Medallion Project Coordinator

Earlier this year, the Member & Volunteer Survey results revealed that you wanted to know more about the work that we do at Vinnies NSW. In the second of our staff profile series, we meet Maggie Lipu, Vinnies Service Medallion Project Coordinator.



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Creating our volunteer community: we welcome your newsletter contributions

Research shows us that feeling connected as part of a team leads to a greater sense of volunteer satisfaction. We would love to invite you to help strengthen our volunteer community by contributing to our newsletter.

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

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