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A newsletter for Members

# The Vincentian

MARCH 2025 • Edition 1

**The Vincentian #1 2025** abounds with charitable activity across the Society, amid increasing need and new projects, including our member-led response to the natural disaster in North NSW.

We celebrate members recognised on Australia Day, our committed young Vincentians, and many member activities. Our new Member & Volunteer Strategy accelerates with recruitment at major NSW events.

Mission retreats inspired further impact and key insights are shared from the 2024 Society Insight Forums. New member opportunities include the Pastoral Care Pilot and volunteering across the Society.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those impacted by the natural disaster in North NSW. It is therefore timely to share a number of key resources and policies below that relate to our Safety priority.

Thank you for all you do every day in the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW!



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

### Society responds to natural disaster in Northern NSW

The Society has been on the ground and working to alleviate deeply challenging circumstances in regions impacted by the natural disaster after Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred in Northern NSW.

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## Vale Sister Carmel Hanson RSJ

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW mourns Sister Carmel Hanson RSJ (1946-2025), a dedicated advocate who served the community in Maitland/Newcastle and beyond, for many decades. Her legacy of compassion lives on.

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## WHAT'S NEW



New Pastoral Care Pilot:  
for your Conference?

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Join the Society's 'People  
and Culture' Committee

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Society recruits at Seniors  
Expo & Uni O-Weeks

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Society Insight Forums  
2024 Highlights

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Safety Induction and  
Emergency Resources

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Support Available for  
Members and Volunteers

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**POLICY  
UPDATES**

Updated Policies and Resources

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Other hands-on opportunities

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Strategic Progress Update - Advancing Our Mission

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## VINCENTIANS IN ACTION



### New Members at Regional Festival Mass in Glebe

Over 60 members gathered on 29 September 2024 for a joyful Festival Mass and meeting during Vincentian Festival Month, hosted by St James' Conference Glebe.

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### Australia Day Award Recipients in Wilcannia Forbes

The Australia Day Awards honoured Vincentians in Wilcannia-Forbes Central Council as local senior citizens of the year. Congratulations Helen Smith in Forbes and Garry Fitzgerald in Trangie!



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### Sussex Inlet Conference Spreads Christmas Cheer

Dedicated St Patrick's Conference Sussex Inlet members hit the streets throughout December to raise funds for the Christmas Appeal. A raffle ticket fundraiser supported locals doing it tough.

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## Dave's Journey to a New Beginning

Dave\* attended the Charles Gordon O'Neill House in Coniston, near Wollongong, for many years, initially for the Hub's positive social environment and great food program. It was the start of something life-changing...



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## New Collaboration with St Vincent's Hospital a Success

Recently, the Society started an exciting new partnership with St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst, Sydney. It was a fantastic success, with around 60 people stopping by to enjoy the food, music, and even some dancing!

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## Young professionals inspire at St Nicholas' Youth Conference

St Nicholas' Young Adult Conference, Wollongong Central Council, is an amazing group of committed, caring, kind, community-minded people. Let's get to know one of our groups of committed young Vincentians.



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## Parramatta Catholic Schools Raise \$107K over Christmas

The spirit of giving was alive and well in schools across Parramatta / Greater Western Sydney supporting the Society's Christmas Appeal. Their efforts had impressive results!



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## Reflection & Renewal in Greater Western Sydney

Greater Western Sydney Central Council members gathered in the greenery of Mulgoa on a beautifully sunny Saturday in early February to start the year with time to explore the 'Why' of being a member.



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## Born a Vincentian: Marina Gray, Bathurst CC President

Marina Gray is a dedicated Vincentian, who was elected as the new Central Council President for Bathurst in February 2024, following in the footsteps of the late and much missed Kenneth Rabbett.

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## Vincentians, leaders, servants: 2024 State Council Retreat

Reflection on the themes of personal commitment to the Vincentian spirit and charism, and Vincentian leadership and service, animated a successful Retreat at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney.



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## Gosford Comedy Night Raises Spirits and Funds

Members, volunteers and employees from the Gosford and Woy Woy Vinnies Support Centres came to fruition in September with "Comedy for a Cause" at Drifter's Wharf.

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## Half Century for Our Lady of the Rosary Conference Wyoming

Our Lady of the Rosary Conference Wyoming has celebrated a significant milestone - 50 years of Good Works in the parish and local community.



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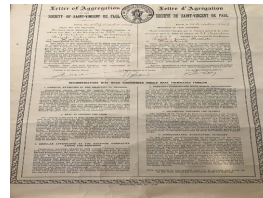
## Halloween Fun with Penrith SAHF Families

The residents and the children of the Society's Social and Affordable Housing units in Penrith, particularly the children and young at heart, enjoyed Halloween fun together on Sunday 27 October.

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## Freshwater Conference looks 'Back to the Future'

Founded in 1957, Harbord Conference members worked tirelessly to support those in need. The founding members' dedication helped shaped the Society's impact today.



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*good works*



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