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A newsletter for Members

# The Vincentian

MARCH 2023 • Edition 1

## Editorial

2023 seems to be a year of hope. The light at the end of the covid tunnel has arrived and the promise of our growth across so many fronts comes into greater focus each day.

It's inspiring to see the energy in the youth membership as they reach out to thousands of university students at their Orientation Weeks across the State. The Metro Youth Retreat and Planning Day clearly laid the foundation of planning for success, a theme applicable in all our works across the State.

Our Youth Conferences have incredible energy and the dedication of the Frassati Youth Conference in Lismore has been uplifting in their example of a new generation taking up the Vincentian call to make service at the heart of their lives in a community so devastated by natural disasters.

The team in Wagga are no strangers to floods either and the first Wagga Wagga Buddies Day of 2023 was a great example of showing that the people we assist deserve the good things in life with a creative children's version of the popular 'Sip and Paint' party – giving families and children in need some much deserved joy over the school holidays.

Joy is at the heart of being Vincentian and it is great to read the beautiful story of the Nepean Conferences celebrating Christmas with our residents at St Vincent de Paul / Amelie Housing in Penrith.

Overwhelming community support for the very own Vinnies Van at Ryde-Gladesville Parish, potentially followed by a second Van, deserves special recognition and is an impressive sign of what's possible when dynamic Conferences and parishes work hand in hand.

The NSW State Election fast approaches on March 25 and the Society is calling on members to raise our voices by meeting with local representatives and asking them to commit to housing justice for the community.

Many members generously contributed our voice to the Society's new Strategic Plan, which will be launched in April after approval from State Council, coming into effect in July, with the goals of excelling in our long-term impact for people we assist, extending our reach into the most entrenched areas of disadvantage and cultivating our capacity to support this.

Nationally, another review process for our Rule is taking place and member voice is needed in what is now the first consultation phase. A wise man, probably St Augustine of Hippo, once said *ecclesia semper reformanda est*, 'the Church must always be reformed', an idea the Second Vatican Council embraced in *Lumen Gentium's* call that "the Church, embracing in its bosom sinners, at the same time

holy and always in need of being purified, always follows the way of penance and renewal.”

Imperfect as we and the Society are, we have a lot to be proud of in our works and each other. I hope 2023 is as full of the renewal and hope as it promises to be.

Enjoy The Vincentian for March 2023!



## **SPOTLIGHT ON:**

### **Member Satisfaction and Innovation**

Last year's member satisfaction survey showed great results and 2023 looks to continue this with innovation, a new strategic plan and growth in our impact

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## **WHAT'S NEW**



An opportunity to explore the Spirituality of the Society

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New Disability Awareness learning opportunity

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Members invitation to contribute to the review of The Rule

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Can you meet with your MP and representatives to speak up for housing justice?

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'Leading for Impact', the Society's New Leadership Program from the University of Notre Dame

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## VINCENTIANS IN ACTION

### High octane community support for Ryde-Gladesville's new Van

Vinnies Vans are excited to announce Gladesville Conference will have a new van thanks to overwhelming community support.

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### Encapsulate the day in one word...



### Creativity and energy at Metro Youth Retreat Day

Collaboration, volunteering opportunities, outreach and empathy at inaugural Metro Youth Retreat and Planning Day.

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### Members celebrate Christmas for St Vincent de Paul Housing residents

Nepean Vincentians brought the joy of Christmas to residents of St Vincent de Paul Housing in Penrith.

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### Spirit of Frassati strong in Lismore Youth Conference

The Lismore Youth are following the boundless enthusiasm, generosity and collaboration of their patron Pier Giorgio Frassati to increase their outreach.

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### Artistic Treat at Wagga Buddies Day

Wagga hosted their first children's version of a 'sip and paint' experience to provide a unique adventure for kids and families in need over the school holidays.



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