



Commissioning of the new Shoalhaven Regional President, Anne Hayward 4 May 2025

## Good day Members, Volunteers and Staff.

We are well and truly into Winter in the Highlands, expecting snow any day!

Our sleepout at Charles Gordon O'Neill House, Coniston was a great success this year. Thanks to all those who helped in any way and especially to the CEOs who gave their time and support in raising funds.

As we continue in this Jubilee year of Hope, let us as pilgrims of hope walk this path joyfully knowing that Jesus walks with us.

Please remember in your prayers all our Members who are not well.

*Keep warm, God bless.*

*Peter Doris*

Wollongong Central Council President



## 20th Vinnies CEO Sleepout

A very big thank you to our Vinnies CEO Sleepout supporters!

At the chilly Wollongong event on Thursday 19 June we raised \$78,675, with \$2.7 million raised so far in NSW to support the vital work done by our specialist services.

We are closing in on our national target of \$9 million – we're currently at \$8.7 million and donations remain open until the end of July.



## In this quarterly newsletter you can expect:

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

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## Nagle Centre Update

Exciting times for St John the Evangelist Conference and South West Vinnies Van, now settled into their new home at Mary Gregory House! The new space features a bright interview room, welcoming reception, and dedicated storage for the Van service.

Since moving in April, members have continued their vital work supporting locals in crisis. In June, NSW Member for Campbelltown Greg Warren visited the new site and helped secure a freezer donation from TECO to expand the food pantry — thank you both for your generous support.

To keep things easy for people we serve, the Nagle Centre contact number has been transferred over to Mary Gregory House. For assistance, call 02 4628 2928 (Tuesday – Friday, 11am–2pm).

## Member Spotlight



Members in the Shoalhaven Region came together to celebrate the commissioning of Anne Hayward from Sussex Inlet as the new Regional President with a mass at St Michael's Church in Nowra on Sunday 4 May.



We were delighted that members from local conferences could join the celebration, along with our Peter Houweling State President, Peter Doris Wollongong Central Council President, Solange Frost Regional Director and Leonie Duck, Mission and Spirituality.

Following the mass, the Peter Houweling presented Reg Thompson, St Michael's Nowra Conference, with a certificate for 60 years of service and a papal blessing.

Congratulations Anne and Reg! Thank you for your ongoing commitment and service to the Society NSW to support your local communities.

## Conference housing for people experiencing homelessness

For many years St Mary Star of the Sea Conference facilitated access to discounted holiday rental accommodation for the people we assist. With the worsening housing crisis in the Shoalhaven and the Conference no longer able to manage the holiday units, management of the Mollymook flats has been transferred to Vinnies Services Housing and Homelessness division.

As of 1 July 2025, the Mollymook flats are being used to provide temporary accommodation with case management support for families experiencing homelessness, including women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Our thanks to the Milton Ulladulla Conference for all their work over the years managing the flats, and especially Betty Cotter for the joy they brought to many families and clients. While the units are no longer available for holiday accommodation, they will continue to have potentially life-changing impacts for the people and families who now have a safe and secure place to call home while they get their lives back on track.



## Winter Appeal

This winter, Vinnies Members across Australia are seeing an unprecedented rise in requests for help — from homelessness support to food and financial assistance.

We're incredibly grateful for the generosity of our community, especially the many local schools that have supported their nearby conferences with much-needed donations.

If you'd like to connect with a school in your area or share a great partnership story, please get in touch with our Schools & Youth Engagement Officer, Kelly McCrohon, on 0403 267 381.



# Useful resources

## No Interest Loans

Introducing Jessica Clark as the newest member of the St Vincent de Paul NILS team. Jessica joined us on Monday 02/06/2025 in a newly created position within the NILS team as NILS Outreach Officer for the Illawarra. Jessica's primary role will be to link services assisting women and domestic violence victims to the current NSW SVDP NILS program. Jessica will also be able to assist the NILS team by completing some NILS applications for clients.

Jessica will be working 4 days per week, based from the Warrawong office. If you would like to discuss whether a loan would be suitable for your client, you can call Jessica on 02 69231906.



## Understanding Financial Hardship



Want to have more informed financial conversations with the people you assist? Good Shepherd's 1.5 hour workshop is designed to offer comprehensive & relevant training for people in a client facing role to understand the rapidly changing pressures experienced by our clients.

On Thursday 24 July, 3:00-4:30pm, join this hosted training in the Wollongong Central Council Support Office, Warrawong or online via a ZOOM link :

- What is financial wellbeing & financial hardship?
- How our own money mindset impacts how we work with clients.
- Defining economic harm & warning signs to look out for.
- How to build rapport with clients to discuss personal subject such as their money!
- Financial hardship conversation starters.
- Resources & referral pathways.

To register, contact [nat.nicastro@vinnies.org.au](mailto:nat.nicastro@vinnies.org.au)

## Did you know?

New Members should not attend a visit or a Conference meeting until they have completed a Working With Children Check and a Police Check.

New Members must also complete the following mandatory learning modules within the required timeframes to engage in Conference work.

### WITHIN 30 DAYS

Code of Conduct  
Safeguarding



### WITHIN 60 DAYS

Privacy and Confidentiality  
Safety

These should be renewed every two years. Training can be completed in the Member and Volunteers Hub (MAVS online portal) or in person. For assistance contact [nat.nicastro@vinnies.org.au](mailto:nat.nicastro@vinnies.org.au)

## Administration Assistance

Welcome to Jennifer Cozad, our new Administration Assistant for the Nagle Centre and Wollongong team!



Since starting in April, Jenny has already made a great impact. With a background in compassionate roles in the funeral industry, she brings empathy and strong admin skills.

She's here to support Members with CAMS, EAPA data entry, compliance checks, and local events across Campbelltown, Camden, and Wollondilly. Contact Jenny on 0466248209 or [jennifer.cozad@vinnies.org.au](mailto:jennifer.cozad@vinnies.org.au)

## Member Support Days

The Member Support Days are back for 2025!

All Members are encouraged to attend for a chance to meet your South Region Member Support Staff, get hands-on assistance with MAVS and CAMS, and enjoy a relaxed morning tea. It's also a great opportunity to update your compliance checks, complete your training, and catch up with fellow Conference Members. Be sure to save the date - more information will be sent soon!

## Upcoming events

6-13 Jul NAIDOC Week  
29 Jul Member Support Day - Camden/ Wollondilly  
7 Aug WCC Social Justice Network Meeting  
8 Aug Vinnies Community Sleepout Campbelltown  
13 Aug Member Support Day - Wollongong  
29 Aug Vinnies Community Sleepout Bowral  
6 Sep WCC Meeting  
18 Sep Member Support Day - Shoalhaven  
21 Sep Festival Mass, Wollongong  
15 Oct Member Support Day - Central Illawarra  
30 Oct Member Support Day - Southern Highlands  
10 Nov Member Support Day - Campbelltown



# Mission, Spirituality & Pastoral Care

In September in Rome, Pope Leo XIV will canonise two very young saints – Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Carlo Acutis was a British-born Italian, who was only 15 when he died from leukaemia. He was considered, even by adult computer engineers, a genius in anything to do with computers. Carlo was devoted to the Eucharist from the age of 7, never missing an opportunity for daily Mass. He very successfully used the internet to draw young people to the Eucharist.

Pier Giorgio Frassati is very special to us in the Society.



Frassati was born in 1901 in Turin, Italy. Despite neither of his parents being religious, he grew up with a deep faith and a strong prayer life - which his parents didn't approve of!

From a young age, Pier Giorgio demonstrated faith in action, often giving away his possessions and significant amounts of money. At the age of 17, he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Pier Giorgio embraced life. He was considered handsome and was adventurous and athletic. He was an avid hiker and mountain climber, as well as a lover of arts and music. He would organise outings in the mountains with his friends, which often served as opportunities for prayer and discussions about their faith on the way up or down from the summit. He was also known for his sense of humour and practical jokes.

In his beatification homily in 1990, Pope John Paul II said:

“At a superficial glance, Frassati's lifestyle, that of a modern young man who was full of life, does not present anything out of the ordinary. This, however, is the originality of his virtue, which invites us to reflect upon it and impels us to imitate it. In him faith and daily events are harmoniously fused, so that adherence to the Gospel is translated into loving care for the poor and the needy.....Entirely immersed in the mystery of God and totally dedicated to the constant service of his neighbour: thus we can sum up his earthly life!”

Pier Giorgio embarked on studies to become an engineer. Sadly, before completing his university degree, he contracted polio (which he is believed to have caught from the sick people he was visiting). He passed away on 4th July 1925 at the age of 24. For his funeral, the streets of the city were lined with hundreds of mourners who were unknown to his family – the poor of Turin whom he had served for the past seven years.

Pier Giorgio Frassati is one of the Patrons of World Youth Day and also the worldwide Patron of Vincentian Youth. Our youth conference in the Lismore Central Council bears his name.

I love that these two young people highlight the magnificence that our youth can be. As the mother of two young adults, observing them and their friends in this world, as well as the big hearted and capable young Vincentians we have both working for the organisation, and as members who volunteer their time on weekends, I believe our future is in very good hands.

**Leonie Duck | Mission, Spirituality & Pastoral Care Partner – South**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, 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.



We hope you enjoyed this information, however if you would prefer not to receive the newsletter please email [svdpwollongong@vinnies.org.au](mailto:svdpwollongong@vinnies.org.au) to unsubscribe.