



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

Vinnies Newsletter June Edition – 2023 North West Region



Hi Everyone

It has been a BIG half year to start 2023. Everyone has had to change to the new CAMS client management system. CAMS is a home grown system that gives us state wide visibility of clients across all of NSW. For the Members in Bathurst transitioning from a very easy to use Hand Up system to CAMS has been difficult. For Armidale the transition from a paper based system to fully online system has been a large shift. Thank you to everyone for your commitment to coping with the system and to ensure that client data is being recorded correctly.

At the core of what we do – we care and provide for people that need help. Whether it is they do not have the life skills to look after themselves, or that they have encountered a life moment where they are not coping – the Society is there to help them. And the Society is your all – volunteers, Members and employees that provide that support both directly and personally.

On behalf of the Society and those that you help – thank you.

We are experiencing a period of time where people are under extreme stress. Having been through Covid people have been feeling isolated and dislocated from their friends and family through lockdown. Coming out of lock-down people have been cut off from their normal support network of friends and family. This moved immediately into a period of time with increasing interest rate, increasing rental and mortgage payments and increased cost of living expenses. Now more than ever our communities need us to support those that cannot or do not know how to help themselves.

We have many things ahead of us including Vinnies Gift Cards, changes to privacy arrangements, additional training on interviews and assistance guidelines, reintroducing EAPA assistance, expanding NILS and many more things that will improve opportunities for the disadvantaged in our communities.

Thank you for what you do and I look forward to working with you the rest of 2023.

Yours Faithfully

Phil Donnan (Regional Director - North West)

News from around the Armidale Central Council

Hello to all

“Volunteers are the glue that sticks an organisation together”, a quote that I recently heard, and I thought how true when I relate it to the Vinnies Society, we would cease to exist without our volunteers.

Plans are well in hand for the Vinnies Sleepout which will be held on the 25 August. Unfortunately, Tenterfield has had to withdraw from the event this year.

In line with the state Presidents request to encourage spirituality within the society, I encourage all to include a spiritual reflection at each meeting. This reflection does not need to be lengthy but rather thought provoking.

CAMS training has finished within the Namoi Barwon area. EAPA training will commence shortly across the state.

There will be some movement of vehicles across the Central Council Area soon as older vehicles are withdrawn from service. The older vehicles are considered no longer safe.

I am also pleased to announce that Jann Browne has accepted my invitation to the role of Vice President of the Armidale Central Council.

God Bless

John Addams (President - Armidale Central Council)

An Armidale Vincentian - Vale Rob Baker



Robert Baker was a well-respected and dedicated Armidale Vincentian. He first served as a young university Classics student in the early 1960s accompanying older Conference members on their visits. Postgraduate study, parenthood and then demands of raising a family of six children as a widowed single parent took Rob away from the Society until his retirement in the early 2000's. On his retirement from a lengthy academic career in the Department of Classics at the University of New England, Rob renewed his Vincentian life, and he did so with great commitment and enthusiasm. Rob was very keen on the visiting and client -support features of the Society, centring this work on the 'service of others' message of the Gospels. As part of Armidale St Joseph's Conference (of which he served for a time as President), Rob took his visitations very seriously and with a real joy and enthusiasm. Rob valued the contributions of every member of the conference, and encouraged each to lead the Reflection which he saw as a vital and empowering aspect of each meeting. He often was able to place a particular

Gospel passage into its historical context, which added to members' understanding and benefit. Rob was also a respected member St Louise's Care and Support team, where he listened intently and compassionately to the stories of those seeking assistance and his perceptiveness was valued by his co-workers. Rob greatly enjoyed the friendships he made as a Vincentian.

In 2007, Rob remarried (his wife Wendy also an active Vincentian) and together they travelled widely, including to Frederic Ozanam's chapel and grave in Paris.

In his parish life, Rob was a welcomer. He read with clarity and authority at Mass. He published on behalf of the Cathedral Parish (notably as co-editor of the centenary publication "Our Cathedral - second century thoughts", and he served on the Parish Council.

Rob had a massive stroke in 2018 while attending the annual Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Gathering and spent his remaining five years in aged care in Armidale, but was always interested in the work and welfare of his Vincentian colleagues and still concerned for those less able or suffering discrimination.

Robert John Baker died on 15 March 2023 aged 83.

May he rest in peace.

Armidale Regional President - Kerry Stellar

Ozanam Learning Centre – Cooking for One

St Augustine's Conference is affiliated with Freeman House in Armidale and it has started an Ozanam Learning Centre (OLC) for community participants who are recovering from addiction, homelessness or social isolation in order to provide them with skills and social connections. Funding is being sought to provide a range of courses that clients are interested in attending.

"Cooking for One" classes commenced on 2nd May and ended on 6th June at the Baptist Church Hall kitchen in Armidale with six community participants who learnt to cook nutritional budgeted meals. An electric frypan with a skillet and utensils were provided for each participant to take home after the six-week course. Our volunteer teacher, a retired TAFE chef, Victor Raszewski, provided this practical adult education, discussing and planning menus with our clients. Vinnies members assisted the participants by helping supervise and purchasing the ingredients required each week.



Photo left: Victor and the clients unpack their new equipment.

Photo right: Steve starts his cooking preparation.

Now that the course has finished, St Augustine's OLC is planning to run another cooking course fortnightly with clients who will take it in turns to choose a recipe and teach the class how to cook it. Victor will visit as a 'guest' chef when he is available.

Winter Appeal donations 2023

O'Connor Catholic College students in Armidale collected winter goods for the Winter Appeal and delivered them to the Armidale Centre on the last day of term. The Lasallian Youth Ministers and Vinnies members delivered over 15 baskets of goods in their school bus. They enjoyed a tour of the Centre in Rusden St. St Mary's Primary school students then walked their baskets of goods to the Centre (which is next door to the school) with their Principal Belinda Burton.

Photo: Donated items by O'Connor Catholic College students.



Regards
Kerry

Tamworth Regional President – Jann Browne



Hi Everyone

A Welcome New Residents to Tamworth was held on 24 May 2023 at Tamworth Town Hall; hosted by Tamworth Regional Council. There were 25 stalls manned by local businesses, community groups and not-for-profit organisations in attendance. This event provided SVDP with an opportunity to not only network within our community, but also promote the Society's good works. This resulted in 7 x EOIs and invitations to liaise with other groups.

Regards Jann

Photo left: myself (left) and Julie Crosby Area Manager Retail - North West

School & Youth Coordinator (Armidale - North West) - Cassie Croft

Hi Everyone

University of New England Armidale - O Week

This year, I attended the UNE O week with two youth members to support, Jarrah Clark and Sophie Warner. With students back on campus and the Vinnies stall being a very popular one, we were able to meet and chat with many students on the day. Following O week there was a follow up session held for all interested students to come and hear a little more about Vinnies. Prospective members were able to come along to Vinnies Rusden Street a few days later to hear about all the different ways they could be involved. Everyone worked together to create care packs for our care and support conference and finished the night with pizza.



Care Pack Making



St Mary's Youth Conference created 80 care packs to be distributed to local high school students whose families are struggling with hygiene necessities in the wake of the cost of living crisis. Partnering with local school nurse, Kate Kennedy, the youth conference shopped for and created care packs with everything a high

school student might need to create basic wellbeing; deodorant, shampoo, brush, toothbrush and paste etc. A special thanks to Jane McCardell from St Louise Conference Armidale for coordinating this great initiative.

Photo right - L to R: Kate Kennedy & Cassie Croft



Youth Week

Youth week was held all across NSW in April this year. Youth Week is an opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives, and create and enjoy activities and events. Our youth conference was lucky enough to be invited to attend events in both Armidale and Guyra this year, allowing them to network with other young people in the volunteering and community development space. Unfortunately, too much fun and networking was had to get any photos on the day but suffice to say, the St Mary's Youth Conference were great representatives for The St Vincent De Paul Society.

Homework Club

The St Mary's Youth Conference has been busy providing a Homework Club service to local primary school students. This club is held weekly at the Armidale town library. They cater for around 10 students aged between 5 and 10, creating a welcoming and supportive environment to complete homework and get some one on one assistance. The program aims to keep students engaged with the school curriculum and help them reach their educational milestones. The St Mary's Youth Members are now in their third term of providing this service and should be commended on their commitment. Each member freely gives of their time, in between juggling school, university, part-time work etc.



Donations

As we move into the winter months, schools around the Armidale Central Council have started to undertake their Winter Appeal activities. So far we have had a varied range of activities including, pajama dress up days, dressed by Vinnies fashion shows, food and blanket hamper drives, masses, sleepouts and more!

It is amazing the level and range of engagement our Mini Vinnies and Vinnies High School Conferences are taking part in each year. A small ask from myself is that if any conferences are told about monetary or physical donations from a school, could you please send me an email so that I can correctly record it and track the engagement of schools.

Although I am more often than not involved behind the scenes of these engagement activities, I don't always know when a financial donation is given. In turn, I am working with the finance team to make sure all school donations stay local and support the local Conference. Thanks so much!

Reach out at any time. Email: cassie.croft@vinnies.org.au (this is for Armidale Region only)

Regards Cassie

News from around the Bathurst Central Council

Hello to Everyone

I have recently taken on the role of acting Central Council President from Maurie Ryan. Maurie stepped down from this role in July, and I would just like to thank him for his support in taking on this position after we lost our dear friend Neil Rabbett (Bathurst Central Council President), back in March.

All conferences seem to be doing well at this point, although dealing with more people requiring assistance due to the rising costs in living and also with the arrival of the new client system (CAMS). This system is keeping everyone on their toes and a work in progress for many.

Spirituality

At the recent Bathurst Central Council (BCC) meeting Paul Burton our State Council President was present. During the meeting he spoke passionately about a need to revitalise spiritually within the St Vincent de Paul Society in NSW. He called on all members of BCC, to go back to their conference Presidents and Members, our grassroots level, and instil a very solid faith-based organisation. He suggested more spiritual/retreat days, feast day mass, and meeting prayers would be a good start. He assured us with much enthusiasm that he intended to promote this message to State Council, all Employees, and the Board. I fully support Paul's message and hope we all do the same.

Fr Laurie Beath's passing

Our much-loved former Parish Priest of Cowra, Coonabarabran, and associate Priest throughout the Diocese. His priestly duties covered three of our four Regional Councils in the Bathurst Central Council area.

Laurie supported his parishioners with a very high order of Compassion, Love, and Peace. In addition to his great faith, he also enjoyed sport immensely.

If anyone would like to read a more in depth article on Fr Laurie by sports journalist Geoff Mann, you can google it through the Dubbo Photo News.



I wish to thank all members within our Central Council for their continued support in often trying times.

God Bless

Pat Yeo (Acting Central Council President)

Castlereagh Regional President - Ian Wray

Hi Everyone

Dubbo - The Dubbo Sleepout plans are on track for the 25th August at the old Dubbo Goal. Donations have raised over \$5,000 so far, and we are on track to reach our target of \$10,000. Great support has been given from the Manager and helpers at the Goal and also the staff from the Dubbo Regional Council. The conference has also seen a large uptake on food and material support.

Gilgandra - The conference is working well under their new President, Mr Paul Mann. A big thank you must go to past President - Mr Paul Dolan for his guidance and support during his time in this role, and to all the members for doing such a splendid job in the interim.

Wellington - President Peter Duffy and his small band of helpers are motoring along. New members are very hard to find, but in saying that Peter has just recruited a new member within the last couple of weeks. Well done Peter!

Kindest regards
Ian

Cudgegong Regional President - Brian McCarney

Coolah - Earlier in the year, around the time school was returning, there were quite a few calls from locals for food as they covered other expenses, but lately, it has been fairly quiet in Coolah. However, the majority of calls for help recently have been from towns where the Society has no presence, namely Premer, Binnaway, Coonabarabran, Baradine and one from as far away as Brewarrina. The needs have been varied - food, fuel, rent assistance and help to attend medical appointments. The conference still continues to help and assist with these requests where possible.

Kandos - client numbers have doubled in the last couple of months. I'm sure the cold weather will only make it harder to make ends meet and numbers will continue to climb.

We have 6 members once again which is wonderful. Judy James has returned after a short break and we welcome new member Linda Aggett to our team.

I thank Louise McPherson, Maureen Forbes and Doreen Wurth for their continued support in our Conference.

Sadly conference member Phyllis Clarkson resigned after more than 20 years of dedicated service to both our conference and the shop. A morning tea was held for Phyllis where she was presented with an Appreciation Certificate for her years of service to our conference and the Society. Nothing was a bother for Phyllis and she was always on hand to help whenever the need arose.

We thank Phyllis for her dedication and I'm sure she will still pop in for a cuppa with her delicious scones.

Mudgee - St Matthew's School has once again contributed to the Vinnies Winter Appeal with their food drive. Donating 1600 cans and personal care packages for the homeless. Students also raised money for the Society holding their own sleep out.

The following also received Appreciation Certificates for their continued assistance to conference with the donation of firewood to our clients - Ulan Coal Mines, Mudgee Lions Club and Mr Max Walker.

Kind regards & God Bless
Brian

Evans Regional President - Denis Kelly

News from St Therese Conference President - Marina Gray

Hi Everyone

It has been a busy few months here in Bathurst. We have had the people we are assisting increase, many we have referred to other programs within the society and outside.

One program that has been exceptionally great has been the Domestic Violence Program, a shame it has finished at the moment, hopefully it will come back, as it has been a great support to people we have been assisting and ourselves as members.

Below are some of the things we have done and are doing:

Cooking Classes - present and ongoing. We have changed venue and it is a little more difficult, but we are coping. The classes are well sort after, where we are knocking people back. We have a couple of ladies at the moment who are coming and learning low cost meals, so they can take them home for the family as things are very tight.

We were able to pick up on their situations and have now referred them to conference where they can be helped under Care and Support.

Morning Teas - we run morning teas as a social get together. These are for people to come out and join us, have a cuppa and cake!

Dresses and Suits - we are collecting formal dresses, suits, shoes etc. for formals in November. We have reached out to the community and they have been donating. We are getting quite the collection. These will be given to students making year 12 formals who are unable to buy one. We have had offers from a hair dresser and someone else to do their makeup. If we only have one young lady or gentleman take up the offer, that's one more smile. We have had only positive comments. The only down side is that mothers have mentioned that they can't go as the tickets are min \$90 each and that just is not in their budget.

Bathurst Sleepout - we are running our Community Sleepout this year and with a few false starts we are now underway with doing a virtual sleepout.

Centacare Family Fun Day - we attended the Centacare Family Fun day where the community comes together for a free family day. Kim Colbourne our (Schools & Youth Engagement Coordinator) joined us and we all had a great day, and the exposure for Vinnies was fantastic. We mainly had sandwiches and a few sweet things on our table. Guess what went first..... the Fairy Bread!!! and chocolate crackles. It is great to be part of community events and working together.

St Therese Conference has been thinking laterally about what we do, recruiting members and retaining members. On Monday 31/07/23 we have a young lady 18 years old starting with us, she lives with autism and lives in out of home care. We were fortunate to meet her in our cooking class and with speaking with her and her home parent, Bridgett is joining us on Mondays. We have talked about what she can do and assist us at the Conference. Bridgett is going to be our welcomer under the We Care Model.

We also on Monday have a gentleman coming in to talk further on joining the Conference, I have spoken at great length on the phone to him.

I also have a few more up my sleeve - just talking and getting to know them.

Well what else? **Bathurst Food Van** - Yes and thanks to everyone that has helped us on the way. PHIL DONNAN said we will have it by the SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER - now Orange you take good care of it until then. There have been different fundraisers on the way, and our last one we did raised over \$800. Geoff Hubbard (President Assumption Conference) has a Bunnings BBQ coming up in a couple of weeks.

Now we have to get down to the nitty gritty of planning the van program and associated paperwork (paperwork YUK - I think this is where I hand it over to Geoff Hubbard (Assumption Conference President).

I am sure I have forgotten one or two things we have done but my memory these days...

Kind regards
Marina





On the 6th May, members of Evans Region, along with staff member Gail Gilbert attended the Commissioning Mass of Denis Kelly. Denis was commissioned as the new Evans Regional President. The mass was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wallerawang and was followed by a lunch at the Wallerawang Bowling club. Also commissioned in new roles on the day were Linda Durnford (President St Patrick's conference Lithgow), Geoff Hubbard (President Assumption Conference Bathurst) & Marina Gray (President St Therese

Conference Bathurst). Members present at the lunch were presented with Years of Service badges and Certificates of Appreciation for their service to the Society.

A wonderful day was had by all.

Above: I. to R: Linda Durnford, Denis Kelly, Marina Gray & Geoff Hubbard

Take care & God Bless
Denis



Orange Regional President - Chris Worley

Hi Everyone,

This first half of the year has been a very busy time with most conferences having seen an increase in the need for assistance, with my area (Orange) also suffering the floods. These events have only made the region stronger as the members came together to do such amazing work. This was not only happening in their own towns but also Eugowra, and because of this we have been able to share tough times and sorrow leading into progress.

The Eugowra community are working hard to get their town back on track and on our fortnightly trips it has gone from having only the fantastic coffee cart open at first (the Fat Parcel), to now the local Convenience Store, Butcher and Hairdresser, it is progress slowly, but it is happening. In all of this we have had the opportunity to listen to some incredible stories from people as they have shared their sometimes sad journey with us, but mostly their determination to go forward which varies for every house hold. Some are still living in caravans, sheds, one room in a house and then some are getting access to housing Pods.

Hopefully we can continue at Eugowra for a while yet. I would like to thank Phil Donnan, Denise Martin and Gail Gilbert for your support and help to make this happen.

The Orange Food Van has been back up and running for a number of months and providing a great service. Easter saw the van receive a wonderful donation of Easter eggs from James Sheahan High School (Orange). These eggs were given out on the van run to many happy children.

The Orange Community Sleepout (Vinnies) is a combined affair this year with a number of Orange agencies. All monies raised from the event will go to the van. A number of personnel from the Orange City Council and youth from the Orange Youth Hub will be sleeping out. A big thank you to all.

I also need to thank Keith Dowling for all the amazing work he is doing with the van as the coordinator and for all his wonderful effort with the Sleepout.

On June 28th the Central Council office staff - past & present, Phil Donnan and members of St Mary & St Joseph conference celebrated the retirement of Martin Tonks our (Facilities Coordinator), with a lunch at Simply Nile Café here in Orange. Martin had been with the Society for a number of years and was an integral part of the office and was always willing to go above and beyond if anything needed doing. The office staff miss him terribly, but wish him and his family all the best for the future. No doubt we will see Martin in the office from time to time for a cuppa.



St Mary & St Joseph conference member Trish Mannix was presented with flowers, an Appreciation Certificate and a Service Badge at her farewell morning tea on the 3rd August. The morning tea was held at the Bathurst Central Council office in Orange and was attended by both members, volunteers and staff who had worked with Trish over the years. We wish Trish well in her new life in Tasmania.

L to R: Tony Davidson (President St Mary & St Joseph), Trish Mannix, Chris Worley (Orange Regional President) & Danielle Curran (Area Manager Retail)

March this year became tough with the death of our Central Council President Mr Neil Rabbett. Neil was farewelled at St Joseph's Catholic Church Gilgandra. He is very much missed by all members and staff within the Bathurst Central Council. For myself I have lost a great friend and mentor.

Kind regards
Chris

Orange Vinnies Van Support Coordinator - Keith Dowling

Well, it's been six months into the year and five months into the Vinnies Van service delivery. How quickly it moves from hot summer evenings to cold brisk wintery nights. Since the re-commencement of the service in February of this year, the total clients supported with food distribution has been 1230 individuals with children representing 60% of the total. These figures constitute an almost 3-fold progressive increase in demand over this short period of time.

It's evident from the challenging economic circumstances with inflationary prices, the impact of the rental crisis and the ominous credit squeeze associated with the housing mortgage cliff that parents are going without, just to put food on the table or in the lunch packs of their children.

James Sheahan Catholic College

So, it was a welcome treat to be able to distribute an abundance of chocolate goodies to a stream of young faces eager to get their share from the generous donations of James Sheahan Catholic High School students Easter Egg Drive. The smiles on the faces of the students that were donating the eggs was just as illuminating as those receiving them out on the Van run.

Photo: compliments of the Orange CWD



The Central Western Daily covered the story and I would like to thank the Student Representative Council (SRC) Coordinator Bec Murdock for running the competition and of course the generous efforts of the students and their families.

Television Exposure

In late February, Mahalia Bowles from WINNEWS came out to Kenna Hall and conducted a piece on volunteering for the Vinnies Van. We had an opportunity to display our sandwich preparation volunteers in action and showcase the van. Interviews from volunteers were conducted and I had the privilege of speaking on behalf of our clients.

Photo: compliments of WIN news.



Promotional Activity



In early May a group of dedicated volunteers assisted in an awareness campaign at Ashcroft's Peasley Street IGA, one of our generous sponsors who donated 200 sausages and frozen onions for a free sausage sizzle. This event was an opportunity to cross promote with our sponsors, generate donations, and importantly capture community members who express an interest in joining to volunteer with the van service. It was a successful event with every person receiving a sausage sandwich, they also heard a concise spiel about the Vinnies Van and we raised over \$300 in 2 hours!

Rotary Club Donation to Orange Community Sleepout

Don Martin who is the President of the Rotary Club of Orange, presents a cheque for \$2,000 to support the Orange Vinnies Van Service. Operations Support Officer, Gail Gilbert and I were happy to receive the very generous donation for the Orange Community Sleepout

Photo - L to R: Keith Dowling, Don Martin & Gail Gilbert



I must also say a huge thank you to Chris Worley (Orange Regional Council President), Denise Martin and Gail Gilbert in the office for the practical support they've shown me.

I'd also like to express my resounding gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers who have supported me and the van service over this time.

Kind regards
Keith

School & Youth Coordinator (Bathurst - North West) - Kim Colbourne

Hi Everyone

It has been a busy period for the youth area with the formation of the Bowenfels youth conference in Lithgow. This conference consists of nine students of the Australian Health Sciences Institute and was formed to give them a pathway to experience the charism of the Society. Several of the students have expressed interest in continuing with the Society past the seven weeks programmed, and are looking to join St Patrick's conference in Lithgow or St Therese conference in Bathurst. It is envisioned that Bowenfels will remain as an entryway for students of the Institute and other higher learning institutions so that they have a structured learning experience of the Society and an opportunity to engage further with the Society, if they feel called to it.

After having the opportunity to assist St Therese and Assumption conferences in the Bathurst Family Fun Day organised by Centacare, Bowenfels conference will be running a food stall at the Lithgow Family Fun Day on the 28th of October. Meeting with Bathurst Centacare staff has been very fruitful; they assist families in need with an intensive early learning program for 3-5 year olds called HIPPY. This is run in areas throughout the diocese; if you already have engagement with this program or you would like to learn more about it, please contact me via email: kim.colbourne@vinnies.org.au

Many schools in the Bathurst central council area have been very generous in their support for our Winter Appeal. A quick shout out to St Laurence's Dubbo; Cathedral Bathurst for their Scarf making workshop; St Mary's Dubbo PJ day; St John's (primary) Dubbo "Hoodies, oodies, trackies, beanies and uggies day", James Sheahan College Orange for their Winter appeal donation drive – our schools not only raise funds but give donated items to our stores and our conferences to assist those in need.

St Matthews Mudgee held a school sleepout with over one hundred students sleeping in their school hall to raise funds for those experiencing homelessness. It was a terrific night; 23 teachers volunteered to work in shifts to run a soup kitchen, play "games" designed to increase an understanding of how difficult it is to be homeless, and ensure student safety. A gentleman whose family experienced homelessness and who has been assisted in finding a home by the Society spoke very movingly of the experience. I spoke on the general statistics of homelessness in the state and mentioned some of the works the Society has to assist people in need. Carol Jones, the president of St Mary's conference, expanded on the work that is done by the Society and thanked them all for what they were achieving that evening. And achieve they did – they raised over \$3000 and gathered over a thousand tins of food for distribution.

The Orange food van made a special trip to St Mary's at Orange to collect snack packs made by the Mini Vinnies group. I haven't read Keith's report, but I hope he included the photos! MacKillop College has expressed interest in assisting with the Bathurst food van when it arrives. The vans are fantastic not just for what they do but for what they provide for younger Vincentians as a way to experience service.

Warehouse & Logistics Coordinator (Bathurst Central Council) - Melissa Stewart

Hi All

The Warehouse has been business as usual with our volunteers sorting through clothing and driving around the region delivering stock and collecting export. This winter has been tough on stock supply with a shortage in some lines falling over most of the region. As you all could probably know the quality of donations has dropped considerably and as such a knock on effect is less quality stock to keep for our retail stores. As we have struggled through the winter season I am glad to see summer starting to hit our stores and supply easier to come by from our stock inventory.



I would like to welcome Ashley, our new driver based out of Dubbo to our Vinnies family. Ashley has been attending to our West and North West friends for servicing their region. Ashley has been with us for approx. four months now and has been a fantastic addition to our team.

I hope this finds everyone well and I look forward to seeing you out on the road on my travels.

Keep warm everyone and keep up the great work.

Cheers from Mel and the Warehouse Team

The Society would like to thank all our Members
within the Bathurst & Armidale Central Councils
for your continued support and dedication in
helping those less fortunate within your communities.

Our December newsletter will be our Christmas edition.
If you have any news items you would like placed in this edition
please forward to: Gail Gilbert at gail.gilbert@vinnies.org.au

