



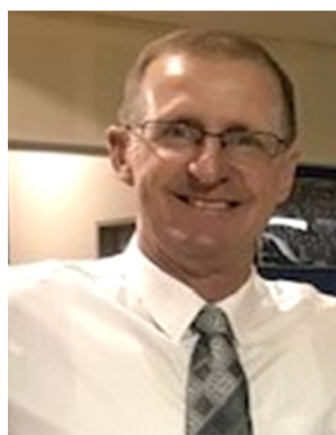
St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Sydney Archdiocese NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2021

MESSAGE FROM SYDNEY ARCH CENTRAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT - TONY CRANNEY



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this story so many people are once again affected by “lockdown “ and once again we are reminded how much we “St Vincent de Paul “ are needed.

Most members of the community feel various levels of inconvenience but many are impacted in a much more serious way and this can often be forgotten by those making

the rules or even members of the public but must NEVER be forgotten by us.

Dear brothers and sisters this is when we must stand at our tallest, let us put into practice all we have learnt from previous lockdowns.

Let us bring relief, comfort and companionship to all who are struggling...

Those who are feeling scared or isolated...

Those who find it difficult to get their medical prescriptions filled...

Make it to their appointments....

Make ends meet due to loss of income...

Access or afford basic items many of us take for granted....

Those sleeping rough who might normally use toilet facilities in parks, libraries etc that are currently closed.

Please stay safe and look after your family as well as your extended family.

God bless !

MESSAGE FROM METRO REGIONAL DIRECTOR GAYL PURCHASE

Again we find ourselves in lockdown providing much needed support to people vulnerable in our communities remotely. Last financial year we have supported approx 7240 people in Sydney Archdiocese which is a tribute to the hardworking staff, members and volunteers.

In response to those schools who were not able to attend our Mini Vinnies gatherings we have developed an online streaming alternative which is presented by our Schools and Youth Formation team. This will help us to reach more and more schools and we are looking forward to growth in take up of this program in the coming months.

We continue to work with external stakeholders by offering them the opportunity to go out on van service night patrols, donate financially or with resources and the take up has been steadily growing. As well advertised our CEO sleepout was a major success with us raising over \$3,000,000 in NSW which is a new record as well as breaking our national record of over \$8,500,000. This is astounding given the changing environment we find ourselves in following a global pandemic. These good works demonstrate the drive in the community to support St Vincent de Paul Society as we support people who are suffering, either by experiencing homelessness, domestic violence or other hardships which set off a devastating chain of life-changing events.

I congratulate and thank all members, staff and volunteers for the extra effort, the extra smile and the caring patience when dealing with this fragile sector of our community.



Prayer for Recovery from the Pandemic



LOSS OF ANGEL

On Tuesday, 22 June, the Sutherland Shire lost an Angel in Vicki Rolland, the President of Cronulla St Vincent de Paul Society. Vicki died suddenly in the main street of Cronulla.

Vicki was a well known, highly regarded, extremely active and much loved member of the Society over many years, holding multiple positions over time. But she was much more than that. Vicki bought love, compassion, joy and assistance to hundreds of families throughout The Shire and beyond.

Vicki was a leader who led by example and actually couldn't say no to anyone in need or Members who asked her to assist with a project. Vicki's commitment to the community was widespread with a large amount of her time and talent also given to St Aloysius Catholic Church in Cronulla, where her beautiful voice would be heard on a regular basis. She would also live stream Mass and funerals as well as develop and deliver scripture classes.

Vicki was also a wonderful cook which led to volunteering to cook for all sorts of occasions, but she will be fondly remembered for the meals she provided for many years at the Como Social Leisure Centre where those suffering with Mental Health issues would gather for support. I do not think it was any coincidence the hall was always full on the days Vicki was cooking.

Besides Vicki's role as President of the Cronulla Night Conference, she volunteered to answer the phones at the Support Centre where those most vulnerable in the community would ring looking for help, and when there were extra shifts to be done, Vicki would be there at any opportunity.

Vicki's generosity had no boundaries and I mean that she was also our local Twinning Officer which meant on behalf of Vinnies, she

coordinated assistance to the poorest of the poor in India.

Vicki also played an active role in advocating for social justice through our committees. I remember her telling me one day she passed the Prime Minister in the Cronulla Mall and could not help herself and pleaded her case in supporting women affected by domestic violence. There really was no stopping her.



Next week Vicki was scheduled to assist at the official opening of our Amelie Housing Complex in Smarts Crescent, Woolaware. She will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

No one did fundraising better than Vicki as she pleaded to the generosity of her audience. Tears would roll down her cheeks, such was her empathy and compassion for those she sought to assist.

I do not think anyone really knows the full extent of Vicki's generosity, compassion and good deeds, but be assured there are many hundreds of people out there today who's lives have been visited by an Angel we called Vicki.

Tony Cranney
Sydney Archdiocesan President, but more importantly a friend.

SLEEPOUT 2021



The NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout is back in 2021! Last year, we adapted to a virtual event and raised over \$165,000 for Vinnies Services and Programs across the outer suburbs of Sydney and regional NSW.

This year, we are reverting back to the traditional physical event (with COVID-Safe measures in place). On Friday 27 August, we will once again join forces in a state-wide effort to help raise vital funds for people experiencing homelessness and hardship, and many more at risk.

Help us spread the word or register at one of thirteen locations across the state at www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout



REGIONAL COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE

Sutherland Regional Council-News from the Shire

We say farewell to team Tony Cranney (Regional President), Frank Tierney (Vice President) and Denis O’Brien (Regional Treasurer) and thank them for their faith and diligence.

Welcome Team 2021 - Pat Cudmore as Regional President. Pat comes to the role passionate for the needs of the poor, her faith, family and gog. She is supported in her role by Rob Van Der Nouwelant as Vice President, Paul Monahan as Treasurer and Chris Watson, Secretary. Blessings go to them as they continue the Good Works of the Society, espoused by the previous committee.

On the 21 June we welcome to the Sutherland office, Eliza Martinez, who takes up the position of Regional Support Centre Coordinator, replacing Joanne Gelston.

In 2022 we will be celebrating one hundred years since the commencement of the Society here in the Shire, in the Parishes of Cronulla and Sutherland. Watch this space.

Blessings, Pat

Matthew Talbot Conference Kicked-off



The objective of the Matthew Talbot Conference is to provide Pastoral Care and support to the visitors to Matt Talbot. Our first Conference meeting a few weeks ago was followed up with Pastoral Care training run by long time Matt Talbot pastoral care provider, Joy Bowen.

We feel lucky and blessed to be given the opportunity to help and be involved with the Matthew Talbot Hostel. If you have any enquiries or would like to join, contact joy.bowen@vinnies.org.au or tony.cranney@vinnies.org.au.



REGIONAL COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE

MY VINCENTIAN JOURNEY



Hi, my name is Peter Doyle. I am a member of the St Joan of Arc, Haberfield Conference of the Society. I am 58, and I am married with two adult sons.

Back in early 2019, I found that I had some time that I could devote to volunteering. Having been a Society Member when I was a young adult and living in Cessnock in the 1980s, I was drawn back to Vinnies as I knew how personally enriching a Vincentian role could be. I was keen to put my faith into action. I joined our Haberfield Conference and have made some home visits over the last few years. Living in

Haberfield, we happen to be in a part of Sydney where homelessness and poverty are not as significant as elsewhere, so the call for home visits is not that frequent.

In 2020, as Sydney emerged from the Covid-19 lockdown, I was asked if I could spare some time to volunteer at the Vinnies Support Centre in Burwood. I have been able to fit that into my life, and most Wednesdays you will find me there, assisting Maggie Moa (Centre Coordinator) and Sacha Chetwynd (Administration Officer). I answer the phone taking requests for assistance and I meet companions who come in seeking assistance or for appointments.

I have had some great interactions with companions. They are mostly grateful and are often uncomfortable seeking assistance from Vinnies. Occasionally there are difficult conversations and I need to remind myself to see the face of Christ in those we serve.

Recently I read about Jack de Groot launching the CEO Sleepout. Given that I had already been goaded by a good

friend, who I won't name (but Macca, you know who you are...) to participate, by the time I got home that night I had signed up. With the support of some very generous donors, I exceeded my \$5000 goal.

Outside of Vinnies, I am an Adult Officer in the Australian Army Cadets, providing support to the Saint Aloysius' College Army Cadet Unit. And when I have time for it, I work for myself as a consulting engineer/project manager. I love to ride a bicycle and have completed several challenging long day rides in various towns around Australia over the last few years and I usually ride to Burwood VSC.

Thank you to all who contribute in meaningful ways to the works of the Society.



Northern Suburbs - An Abundance of Generosity!

What an abundance of generosity was provided to our Crows Nest Vinnies Support Centre from the students of Marist Catholic College North Sydney this Winter!



Students from each year group collected socks, scarves, beanies, gloves and personal care items for our volunteers to create Wellness Packs for the people we assist in the Northern Suburbs Region. Each person we assist and who visits the Centre, including those who are experiencing homelessness, is provided with a Wellness Pack full of items carefully put together by Referral Room volunteers. Wellness Packs are also provided to people we assist from the North Sydney Our Lady of the Way Conference area, including families and individuals who are patients receiving care at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Pictured next to the bounty of precious donations are the Year Six leaders of Marist Catholic College, Linda Curtis (Family Educator), Lauren Leahy (Crows Nest Metro Vinnies Support Centre Coordinator) and Referral Room Volunteer, Florence Cheung.



REGIONAL COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE

Sharing the Load in Western Suburbs Regional Council - Community Giving at a Time of Great Need

As we have been thrown into a new virus outbreak “Delta Strain – Covid19 - 2.0” and throughout this pandemic, we find ourselves evolving to continue the distribution of the generous donations we receive within the community in a timely and efficient manner.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all the students, teachers and school communities at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School in Concord, Eileen O’Connor Catholic College in Lewisham, Christian Brothers High School in Lewisham and St Maroun’s College in Dulwich Hill for their generous donations of food and winter goodies. The donations were gratefully received as it will help us meet the needs of so many at a time of great need. The multi-level effort was orchestrated throughout our St Vincent de Paul Society from our Conferences and Members, Logistics team, Retail staff and volunteers and our appreciation for getting the job done is extended to all involved.

The current lockdown hit at a time when we started receiving generous donations from our School communities as part of the Annual Winter Appeal. Donations started arriving at our Burwood Vinnies Support Centre during the last week of Term 2. On the following Monday, Sydney was thrust into lockdown, at the same time as the first week of school holidays, which is often a distressful time for some families. The expectation of our contributors is that the donations will be distributed to our most vulnerable to get through the cold Winter months.

So many people have been impacted adversely with this pandemic, creating difficult times with loss of jobs, income and inability to pay for basic needs (shelter, food, and clothing), things we often take for granted. When basic needs can’t be met, exposure to other experiences enhance further vulnerabilities, like loss of companionship, which can lead to loneliness, social isolation and mental illness. The St Vincent de Paul Society is well placed to provide a helping hand to those very people who need our kindness, understanding and support. By banding together and supporting one another as one Society we become an effective team, responding to community needs and creating avenues for the promotion of well-being for those very people we seek to serve.

It is important we get the supplies entrusted to us, distributed to the needy in our community right now, and not have the items stored away. The schools had asked us to share our surplus with Night Patrol (who advised they were sufficiently provided for now), and so I reached out to Michael Synott, the Acting Volunteer Co-coordinator at Matthew Talbot Hostel, who gratefully provided a list of required items they needed for the people they serve. It appears that due to the current unavailability of adequate food and supplies, they have been struggling to meet community needs and we were only too happy to accept our offer. Today Hernan (volunteer driver) arrived at the Burwood and gratefully accepted these donations of blankets, pantry staples and toiletries that will be shared between both Matthew Talbot and Vincentian House, both having outreach and case management services for the people they support to assist their transition back to the community.

When I talk with my colleagues, our Members and volunteers and enquire what it means to be an Vincentian, I often hear of the happiness they feel when they have truly helped someone in need. They tell me when you see someone’s face light up, you just know you have filled an emptiness within them that can’t be seen. It is in these moments that we know we have made a valuable impression and impact to make a difference contributing to better outcomes - we don’t always see or hear it, but we can certainly feel it.

The difference we make today can always be seen, whether today, tomorrow or even in years to come. When you come across or see someone in the street and see they are progressing through their struggles or have reached the other side, you know your mission has been accomplished.

Sacha Chetwynd- Client Support Assistant
Burwood Support Centre



CONFERENCE COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

Conference Collaborations with Local Schools

St John Bosco College, Engadine



Staff and students of St John Bosco College have thrown their support behind the Winter Appeal, participating in the Sleepout event on Friday, 18 June.

The College's Student Leadership Team, student Social Justice Leaders and several staff slept out with nothing but a cardboard base, sleeping bag and a single small blanket.

Angela Giampietro, Youth Ministry Coordinator said, "Our students are the drivers of change for future generations. It is important that we as a college give them the opportunity to open their eyes and their hearts to issues that exist in our society. We want to challenge their actions and attitudes towards homelessness in our community and our world".

Together the group heard from the President of the St Vincent De Paul Society in the Archdiocese of Sydney, Mr Tony Cranney, who spoke to the students about his work for Vinnies and the reality of homelessness in Australia. Mr Cranney was accompanied by Mouna Roche, Sydney Catholic School's Education Officer for Church Engagement.

The night was filled with lessons and group activities aimed at helping the students learn about homelessness and practical ways to support those in need.



Fill the Van!

St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School has over 200 students from Year 1 to Year 6 involved in three different social justice groups. We are privileged to be the student leaders of these groups.

On Sunday, 9 May our Parish went on their first Night Patrol. Our parents told us about the need for donations to keep this service running. We are also aware of the needs of our local community because Georgette Frances at our local Support Centre took us on a tour and showed us the needs in that area. For this reason we decided to organise a "Fill the Van" day. On 6 June we had the Night Patrol van parked outside after the 8am and 10 am Masses at our Church. We are encouraged our parishioners to donate items such as food, toiletries, blankets and money to help our community.

We were able to fill the van and also help the Berala Conference.

We plan to take this initiative to other parishes so that we can help even more people.

Sometimes life's hard but when we support each other we can accomplish our goals and live a happier life. Jesus asked us to love one another as He loves us. This is our mission as Catholics, as School Social Justice Leaders and as humans.



Article by Alexia, Isaac, Jacob and Tyler (Year 4 students), pictured



CONFERENCE COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

Oyster Bay Conference/St Joseph's Primary School



It was with great pleasure that as Oyster Bay Conference Member, I accepted an invitation from our school, St Joseph's to attend "Pyjama Day" for the school's handover of donations from their Winter Appeal. Teachers and students were all wearing pyjamas and the children were very excited. I spoke to them about the families we visit and how so many were in need. There were over 18 baskets full of 'goodies' of tinned food, cleaning products, toiletries, pasta, bags of socks, beanies, gloves and more.

Father Jerzy allowed me to take everything down to the hall for sorting. Other Members stepped in to help then, with grateful thanks to Terry who filled the back of his car and dropped a load to my door; and Colleen and Karin who collecting items before going on visits. Others came and helped yourselves to whatever they need.

Mary Harrison
Oyster Bay Conference Member

St Patrick's Primary School, Sutherland



Winter Appeal efforts by the school community were as always bountiful and most welcome. St Pat's always boosts the donation stock for all those who our Sutherland Conference assist, with plenty to share with other Conferences too!

SHOPS/RETAIL



Mt Pritchard

Allen, shop manager, with the manager and team member from the local Commonwealth Bank branch. The Society was chosen by the branch as their quarterly charity to receive their donation.



VOLUNTEER WEEK'S SHOP VOLUNTEER THANKS - SOUTH REGION

COOGEE



Guler does everything in the store, sorting, pricing, working the POS. Customers and the team love her, she brings her kind nature and good humour to the shop on a daily basis and we are very grateful for her ☺



What's on at Vinnies

CRONULLA



Some of our wonderful weekend volunteers – Meg, Bev and Terri

Some of our longstanding volunteers: Rosemary, Chris, team member Kylie and Mary



KINGSFORD



Judith, Sandra, Jill, Peter and Louise showing a very proud V sign for Vinnies Volunteers! Sandra also volunteers in Randwick.



MAROUBRA



Global citizens in Maroubra ☺





VOLUNTEER WEEK'S SHOP VOLUNTEER THANKS - SOUTH REGION

MASCOT



Team member Vanessa with almost 70 years of volunteer experience in Marie, Val, Bel and Lenore, Mascot ladies love what they do and we are very happy they choose to spend their days to help us ☺



MORTDALE



Juliet, Susan, Michael, Delphine, Chris, Russell, Lynette and Barbara clowning around whilst enjoying their well-deserved morning tea ☺

HURSTVILLE



Ritta, Rosemary, Suzy, Takki and Francis – a cuppa, a chat and lots of sweet and savoury goodies.

WAVERLEY



Morning Tea the Waverley Way! Diane, Kay, Shirley, Zoe, Ena, Heather and Vanessa – so much sugar they were buzzing for the day!!



ROCKDALE



Sweet and savoury treats at Rockdale all week for our volles – great menu



SCHOOLS AND YOUTH UPDATE

YOUTH

There are currently three Young Adult Vinnies Conferences in Sydney Central Council plus hundreds of Young Adult volunteers who participate in our various Vinnies Youth Programs and Vinnies Services. If you would like to know more about or connect with Vinnies Youth in your local area, please get in touch with Kate Conroy, Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer
kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au

Young Adult Conference Spotlight

This issue we would like to highlight some of the Good Works being done by **University of NSW Young Adult Conference:**

Following the success of the UNSW Vinnies Society's Term 1 O-Week and Meet and Greet, UNSW Vinnies started Term 2 off with a convivial Welcome Week, Meet and Greet, and Amazing Race. During Welcome Week, UNSW Vinnies held a stall at UNSW to introduce new students to the work that Vinnies conducts to help those experiencing disadvantage in the community and how students can get involved in the multitude of volunteering opportunities provided by Vinnies. Hundreds of students stopped by to learn more about Vinnies. Plenty of Vinnies flyers and stationery (such as pens, notepads, bookmarks, and stickers) were on offer with many signing up to join the Society.

In the week after, UNSW Vinnies held a Meet and Greet at the UNSW Roundhouse to welcome new members to the Society and provide all members with an opportunity to socialise with each other. In addition to bonding over the Society's shared commitment to offering a 'hand up' to people in need within the community, members attending the Meet and Greet enjoyed board games, trivia, and food and snacks. It was so great to see the shared fun and joy experienced by the diverse and

vibrant UNSW Vinnies student community. Additionally, it was great to see the enthusiasm of new members to volunteer with Vinnies and help make a difference in the broader community.

Following the event, UNSW Vinnies collaborated with the UNSW Volunteer



UNSW Vinnies Society Member at the Term 2 Meet and Greet

Army on an Amazing Race held on Friday 18 June. Over 12 teams of 3–5 participants embarked on a journey through some of Sydney's top not-for-profit organisations, completing a series of rewarding challenges and volunteering tasks along the way. To raise student awareness of the work and functions of Vinnies stores, Amazing Race



Amazing Race Participants with their Fabulous Outfit Creations

teams were tasked to make their way to the Vinnies Darlinghurst Store on Oxford Street. Upon arriving at the Store, teams were greeted by UNSW Vinnies representatives and Vinnies Darlinghurst Store Manager, Cata, and informed of the core functions of Vinnies Stores, specifically to offer affordable and high-quality items to the public, foster a greater sense of community and provide referrals to

essential services for those in need. To emphasise the affordable and high-quality nature of Vinnies Store items, teams were presented with a fun, creative challenge: create two complete outfits under \$100 in under 15 minutes. Utilising the uniquely stylish clothing items and accessories found within the Store, all teams created fabulous outfits, with some even purchasing their creations.

The UNSW Vinnies Society is extremely grateful for the support it has received from Kate Conroy (Vinnies Metropolitan Youth Engagement Officer), Mary Musolino (Vinnies Metropolitan Youth and Schools



Delwyn and Sarah at the UNSW Vinnies Society Welcome Week Stall

Engagement Manager), Gemma Presley (Vinnies Central Metropolitan Retail Area Manager), and Cata (Vinnies Darlinghurst Store Manager) all of whom have considerably helped in the planning and execution of UNSW Vinnies' event initiatives. Following the success of Welcome Week, the Meet and Greet, and the Amazing Race, UNSW Vinnies greatly looks forward to the many more events planned throughout Term 2, including a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser in Ashfield on Saturday 24 July, a fundraising collaboration with the UNSW Engineering Society, and the annual Vinnies Community Sleepout on Friday 27 August.

Darius and Sarah Dadgostar Presidents of the UNSW Vinnies Society



YOUTH UPDATE

VINNIES YOUTH BUDDIES DAYS ARE BACK

Vinnies Metro Youth is very excited to be running Buddies Days in Sydney Central Council again! After a 12month break due to COVID restrictions the Vinnies Buddies Day Volunteers are enjoying spending time with their Buddies.

Each Regional Council in the Sydney Central Council has been allocated a Buddies Day date for Conferences and Vinnies Support Centre Staff to refer children onto the Buddies Day Program. Presidents & staff will distribute Buddies Day Application Forms and Information Packs when you Buddies Day is coming up. We recently ran Buddies Days for the Sutherland, St George, Liberty Plains & Macquarie Regions- a very big thank you to all the Conferences for your support and trust in the program and the volunteers. We look forward to meeting many more children throughout the year!

Buddies Days is a Vinnies Youth Program, operating throughout NSW, which offers the families being supported by Conferences and Vinnies Support Centres another opportunity for support. The Buddies Day Program has been providing support to Sydney Central Council Conference for many years, and we are glad to see them operating again. For those who are not familiar with the Buddies Day Program here is some background, Buddies Days are held for children of families supported by the St Vincent de Paul Society. It is a care and respite program that consists of a fun day of activities for children in primary school, to give them a break from any hardships they may be experiencing. Vinnies Young Adult Volunteers take the children out for a day, usually to places such as ten pin bowling, zoo or museums. We also work with Catholic Secondary Colleges who hosts the days on their school grounds, with senior students running the activities and games. Buddies Days are held on a Saturday or a Sunday- a private bus collect the children and volunteers, all food for the day is provided and there is not cost.

Vinnies Buddies Days aim to...

- Provide outreach to children of families, supported by Vinnies, who are doing it tough

- Provide activities that encourage children to develop new skills, enhance their self-confidence and broaden their friendship networks, most importantly while having fun!
- Provide a day of respite to parents or guardians
- Promote friendship, compassion, dignity and community
- Provide an opportunity for volunteers to actively assist in helping those less fortunate

If you would like more information about the Vinnies Buddies Day Program, please get in touch with Kate Conroy, Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au



CUMBERLAND YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Metro Schools & Youth Engagement Team was invited by Cumberland City Council to attend their Youth Week Festival in Auburn on Thursday, 22 April. Around 100 high school students and young people visited our Vinnies stall and mini-games table throughout the evening. It was great to have both youth and representatives from other community organisations in attendance express an interest in our Vinnies' services. Our mini-games' table was also highly popular with the Youth Festival attendees and Council's youth volunteers (who enjoyed snacking on mentos and playing giant connect four throughout the evening). Thank you Fiona Pelosi for assisting with running the stall and Kate Conroy for organising the Vinnies resources.



YOUTH UPDATE

Vinnies Youth Training Opportunities

It has been very encouraging to see Vinnies Metro Youth & Young Adult members and volunteers taking up the opportunity to undergo new training opportunities with Vinnies.

In April, current Youth Conference members participated in a new Child Safe recruitment training hosted by Belinda-Jayne Davis, Vinnies NSW Safeguarding Coordinator. It is a new training designed to equip our young adult members with the skills required to interview potential new young adult members on child related programs such as the Buddies Days. Young Adult members responded positively to the training, sharing that they appreciated the opportunity for further development in their volunteer role within the Society, and that they also gained valuable skills in ensuring our organisation is Child Safe.



We also continue to see lots of new youth volunteers participate in the Buddies Day Training- over the past couple of months we have seen 21 new volunteers trained, with many more trainings scheduled to be held during July & August.

SCHOOL NEWS

SACRAMENTAL RETREAT DAYS

Receiving a Holy Sacrament is a special and important time in the lives of young children. Upon doing so, candidates continue their journey of faith – started at Baptism – and strengthen their relationships with God and the Catholic Church.

Over the past few months, many Year 5 and 6 students across Sydney have made/are preparing to make their Sacrament of Confirmation. In light of this, the Metropolitan Schools Engagement Team facilitated a number of Sacramental Retreat Days for schools across the region, with several more to take place in the coming months across the Metro region for students receiving their sacrament of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

As part of a Confirmation Retreat Day, students learn about what it means to complete the process of initiation into the Catholic Church and how Vincentians live out the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Students also practice putting their faith into action on the day by donating and preparing snack packs, blankets, toiletries and cards of hope for the people we serve.



SCHOOLS NEWS

2021 Vinnies Winter Appeal



As always, schools across Sydney Central Council have been incredibly supportive of the 2021 Vinnies Winter Appeal. With most schools planning to contribute to the Appeal in Term 3 (when the #FAMILYWINTERSLEEPOUT@HOME initiative will be taking place for 2021), there have been 48 Sydney schools that have already donated to this year's Appeal.

Schools have provided support for areas such as their local Conference, local Vinnies Support Centre, Vinnies Van Services and Vinnies Retail Stores, just to name a few. Some schools have donated to multiple Vinnies Services and have run

several events for their Winter Appeal through Term 2 such as donation drives, pyjama days, school sleepouts and fundraisers

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of schools in the Sydney region and cannot wait to see the incredible results they will come up with in Term 3!



FAMILY WINTER SLEEPOUT



We are excited to announce the return of the Family Winter Sleepout @Home in 2021!

On Friday 30th July, students and their families will gather in their own homes to raise funds and awareness for those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage in our community.

Last year, through the tremendous efforts of students, parents and teachers, over \$70,000 was raised for Vinnies NSW.

Please spread the word far and wide across your region, to encourage Catholic Schools to get involved.

Schools can also have their funds designated to support their local conference. Schools can register now at the following link

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/family-winter-sleepout-home-1> and any questions can be directed to olivia.andrews@vinnies.org.au



Yamma Maliyaa (Hello)
(Cammeraygal)

NAIDOC WEEK- "Heal Country!"

Vinnies joined with others in the community celebrating NAIDOC Week (4-11 July) and renewing our support for the rich history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the oldest continuing cultures on the planet. The theme "Heal Country!", emphasises the importance of the lands, waters, sacred sites and cultural heritage of the First Nations peoples. One of the aims was to seek greater protections for sites of physical and ancient cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

The beautiful NAIDOC artwork, "Care for Country", was designed by Gubbi Gubbi artist Maggie-Jean Douglas. Using this year's theme, it is a bright and vibrant artwork which explores how Country has cared for and healed First Nations people spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally.

By working with our Indigenous sisters and brothers to *Heal Country*, we share in the dignity of the First Peoples of this land and strengthen the solidarity of our national community.



Yamma Maliyaa
Hello in Cammeraygal

Did you know?

NAIDOC Week is usually held in the first week (a Sunday to Sunday) of July that incorporates the second Friday – which historically was celebrated as 'National Aboriginal Day'.
Happy NAIDOC Week!

[The Cammeraygal, variously spelled Gamaraygal or Kameraygal, are named after the Cammeraygal people. Their language is Yora. The area includes the suburbs of Crows Nest, Chatswood, Manly, North Sydney, Waverton and Willoughby. Cammeraygal and several other variations, were one clan of the 29 Darug tribes who were united by a common land and language.]

Crows Nest NAIDOC Window catches attention

The Sydney Vinnies store at Crows Nest is on Cammeraygal land. During NAIDOC Week, Store Managers Priyanka Rathore and Agnes Lis Rosgowska worked with Martin Pottage from Logistics and the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee to exhibit a window display for NAIDOC Week. Here are some photos of the amazing donations and art works collected and displayed at Crows Nest.



Why is it important to all Australians to know our Aboriginal Heritage?

Aboriginal culture enriches the diversity of Australia's society, provides deep links into ancient history, and offers different views to living in this country and a wealth of stories. It is important for all Australians to understand the essential features of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, including their special connection to the land and their commitment to family and community. It is important that we can walk on this land together as friends and equals. Aboriginal culture is holistic, defined by its connection to family, community and country. In Australia, the idea of "being on

country" is central to the Aboriginal worldview. It is important to have an awareness of the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as cultural awareness shows respect for the culture with whom one is working, which can aid people working with these communities to build better relationships and be more effective in their work.

Visit the Cultural Competency Framework on MAVS

Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) pledges to deliver reconciliation actions aimed at closing social and economic gaps in order to make a substantial difference in the lives of the people we engage, employ or assist. The RAP has three priority areas: Relationships, Respect, and Opportunities. To find out more about Vinnies' reconciliation efforts, including Cultural Protocols, the Prayer of Acknowledgement and other resources, visit: <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/cultural-competency-framework/>

Get involved in the Metro RAP Committee

A Metro RAP committee has been established and held its first meeting. The Committee has confirmed a Terms of Reference and has already been active in the promotion of NAIDOC Week and meeting with Metro Retail about the roll-out of Acknowledgement of Country plaques in all stores.

The Committee has representatives from MVRO, Retail, Logistics, Disability and Inclusion, Housing and Homelessness Services, as well as Member representatives from Greater Western Sydney and Sydney. What Programmes are Vinnies implementing to support the Aboriginal communities in Sydney? Over the next 12 months Vinnies services is looking to place a number of traineeship positions. These positions are yet to be defined. We will also be recruiting an identified Mentor leadership position to help guide and support these employees. Watch this space...



JULY SACC SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK MEETING

The Network comprising each Regional Council Social Justice Representative, met via Zoom on Monday, 5 July. Discussions centred on:

- Update on Housing Campaign and debate in NSW Parliament
- Next step to lobby local State MPs in all parties to use Private Members Statements time to raise the need for social housing on the scale of 5,000 per year for next 10 years
- Update on Meeting with State Opposition Leader
- Vinnies Metro Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group:

The focus on the RAP for Vinnies at the moment is around cultural competence. The Reconciliation Action Plan available:

https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Publications/NSW/Reconciliation_Action_Plan/Reconciliation_Action_Plan

- * NAIDOC Week activity, occurring between 4 - 11 of July
- * Update Loneliness Partnering Programs
- * Update on Vinnies Services Offering Vinnies Services
- * Homesafe Partnering Opportunity
- * Local Initiatives - including housing, loneliness, domestic violence and specific local issues
- * Engaging Regional Members and Training for SJ Reps.

MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER WEBSITE

A reminder about the resources, news, contact and publications available for you on MAVS. Here you can find the latest on COVID19; Programs for assistance; Updates on Conferences and Spirituality; Social Justice content; Schools and Youth; Volunteers; Safeguarding Children and lot of resources available for your use.

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/home/>

Sydney Central Council have their own page

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/conferences/sydney-central-council/>

For requested updates, please email paul.longobardi@vinnies.org.au

There are also lots of other updates happening on MAVS which you can check in on anytime here: <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/mavs-latest-updates/>

The Vinnies Members Induction video has been updated - please refer to the bottom of this page. <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/resources/recruitment/>

The Winter Appeal kits and video have been added to the Resource page:

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/resources/>

