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A newsletter for Members

The Vincentian

DECEMBER 2024 • Edition 4

Welcome to the final edition of The Vincentian for 2024

In the final *Vincentian* for 2024, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our 4,500 members - our largest community in over a decade - who assisted over 100,000 people across NSW in the 2024 financial year. Thank you for sharing hope through every visit and conversation.

We highlight stories of just some of this inspiring assistance: the Far West NSW energy crisis response, St Mary's Homework Club, Armidale, and the joy families found in Campbelltown's School Holiday Activities.

We celebrate milestones, including St Francis Xavier Conference Wollongong's 100 Years, St Dominic's Conference Kandos's 95 Years, and the incredible contributions of Betty Cotter and Peter Reynolds, now retiring from active service.

We honour the life and legacy of Don Hewitt, whose transformative work brought hope to thousands and continues to inspire today.

Let's celebrate the many achievements of the Society in 2024 and prepare to embrace a 2025 full of opportunity.

*Wishing you
Hope, Peace & Unity
this Christmas*



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[Christmas Message from State President](#)

Merry Christmas from Peter Houweling

As the world prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ, on behalf of the Society, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication to the Society's mission throughout 2024. We are especially thankful for you, our incredible members, who work tirelessly for the community. Your efforts—providing hampers, referrals, emergency relief, and most importantly, love, are a living testament to Christ's love and the compassion that His birth brings into the world.

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MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER STRATEGY JUNE 2024 – JUNE 2028



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Membership and Volunteer Strategy 2024-2028

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW is proud to unveil the Membership & Volunteer Strategy 2024–2028, a forward-looking plan endorsed by the State Council in October. This strategy aims to ensure the sustainability of the Society's vital work while growing and supporting its membership and volunteer base.

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WHAT'S NEW



Mission Strategy 2024 – 2028

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National Council Meetings:
Keeping You Informed

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Renewed Policies:
Strengthening Our
Mission, Upholding Dignity

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VINCENTIANS IN ACTION

The Difference One Person Can Make

Betty Cotter, member of Shoalhaven Regional Council Conference, was honoured with a Society Lifetime Award in October, recognising the thirty years of service she has dedicated to supporting people across the Shoalhaven.



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Steady Hand and Heart: Peter retires in Sussex Inlet

In a world marked by complexity and rapid change, there are people who quietly become figures of hope - steady, reliable, and tirelessly generous of spirit. Peter Reynolds is one such person. For over fifteen years, Peter has served as a member of St Patrick's Conference Sussex Inlet.

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In Memory of Don Hewitt

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of our dear brother, Don Hewitt. Don peacefully passed away on Tuesday 24 September, surrounded by his loving family. To say Don Hewitt was much loved can only be an understatement. Don was a pillar of our community.



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Members Head West in Time of Need

The Society responded immediately to the crisis in Broken Hill and surrounding communities in mid-October, after a severe storm destroyed seven electricity transmission towers, leaving 10,000 homes and businesses without power.

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A Bright New Chapter

The Matthew Talbot Hostel Conference in Woolloomooloo teamed up with Vinnies Services in September to create a vibrant, warm welcome for the Hostel's community in the form of a beautiful mural.



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Campbelltown Gathers for School Holiday Activities

A vibrant array of activities brought together families, Conference members, and employees, fostering a community spirit that will be long remembered, in school holiday activities.

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Kandos Celebrates 95 Years of Vincentian Mission and Service

St Dominic's Conference Kandos recently celebrated an impressive milestone - 95 years of Vincentian mission and service to the community.



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St Francis Xavier Conference Wollongong Celebrates Centenary

St Francis Xavier Conference Wollongong marked an historic milestone in September, with the community gathering for a joyful celebration of 100 years of service, presence and impact, at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on Harbour Street in Wollongong.

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St Mary's Homework Club: Learning Made Fun!

Dedicated members of St Mary's Youth Conference in Armidale are making a remarkable difference in the lives of children at their weekly Homework Club.



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Help for people struggling to pay phone bills

New standards in the telecommunications industry have been introduced that should help people experiencing financial hardship to pay their bills.

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