



# Newsletter

## Welcome to the new Parramatta Central Council President !!



James McLaughlin with the outgoing CC President Anne Stanfield

### **JAMES MCLAUGHLIN**

James has been a member with Vinnies for 11 years and is currently an active member of Penrith St Nicholas Conference.

### **MESSAGE FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR METROPOLITAN—GAYL PURCHASE**

We're well into our new financial year and while we are far from putting the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, I'm pleased to say our Vinnies Service Centres have remained open to continue to support those vulnerable in our community. This is in no doubt the result of the efforts of our wonderful staff, members and volunteers. While we have experienced a decrease of requests for support from the community we are gearing up for a greater demand after Job Keeper and Job Seeker payments cease.

School communities have shown incredible generosity of donations during the Winter Appeal and our schools team are about to launch our Christmas appeal by preparing information packs for schools to ensure that our Conferences and Vinnies Service Centres have donated items and hampers. The Metro Schools team are making contact to launch the 2020 Christmas appeal and are preparing information packs for schools to ask for donations towards our Christmas hamper.

Starting in October we will be providing a changed monthly report from all Vinnies Support Centres. These reports will detail how many people were assisted, how much money was spent in support of people in their local community and will have a case study highlighting the amazing work we are all doing in these extraordinary times. I urge all to continue remaining connected on our MAVS website at <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au> for latest advice.





**WELL WISHES FOR ANNE STANFIELD...!**



*I have known Anne for over 6 years, first meeting her at the PCC as Prospect Regional President and subsequently at various presentations and committees in which both of us were engaged. I have always found Anne to have dedication, energy and heart for the welfare of the Society, its members and volunteers.*

*Indeed Anne will be much missed leaving a vacuum in the overall operations of the Parramatta Central Council.*

*I wish her a good rest and best for her new challenges ahead of her.*

**Anthony Ruzgas**  
**Nepean Regional President**

*On behalf of our Conference Presidents and Members I wish to express our gratitude for your help and support during your term as President of PCC. With your constant updates and information we now have a much clearer understanding of our organisation. We wish you success in all of your endeavours.*

**Reno Abela**  
**Prospect Regional President**

*On behalf of the Hills conferences, I would like to extend our appreciation for the support and guidance that you have extended. Your dedication and enthusiasm was a catalyst for all of us. We wish you the very best in your future plans.*

**Vikram Pitre**  
**The Hills Regional President**

*Thank you Anne for your time and commitment as Parramatta Central Council President. Your generosity of spirit, passion and knowledge have been an inspiration to all of us and I have especially appreciated your support in my role as Regional Director. Best wishes Anne as you move towards the next chapter life brings your way.*

**Gayl Purchase**  
**Regional Director, Metropolitan**



**James McLaughlin, Anne Stanfield and Gayl Purchase**



## VISIT TO THE AUBURN DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

A group of members and membership support staff from Parramatta CC took up an offer to tour the Auburn DC – what an operation!!, as well as seeing the pathway of donations to shops, recycling, etc members were able to see the items given to people in need .



**Josephine & Alenepi Seupule, Lauraine Steward, Martin Pottage, Gayl Purchase, Anne Stanfield, Pamela Nash & Ron Horne**

The Auburn DC has 30 warehouse staff and 20 drivers to service the Metropolitan area. We cover as far as Katoomba all the way to Hornsby and everything towards the coastline. We provide textiles and bric a brac for 65 stores using our own fleet of 14 trucks.

Once donations have been collected from our stores or one of the 90 Donations bins sites it is returned to the Distribution centre where it is isolated for 48 hours prior to being sorted, this ensures we remain vigilant around the current pandemic, all staff are required to wear gloves and are given the opportunity to wear a mask if they would like, where possible the 1.5m rule is in place.

Our sorters sort on average 45 tonnes of textiles a week, of this 1700 boxes a week of great clothing is created and made available for stores to order. Each box weighs approx. 6kg to ensure that our workers in our stores can easily fill their clothes racks.

The remaining textiles that are not suitable for sale form part of our Vinnies Textiles Recycling business, or VTR as we like to call it. These items are sold and then used to create exciting items such as bath towels, rugs, and door mats to name a few. This aligns with our strategic plan of having minimal or no textile waste to landfill by 2022

The revenue generated from our shops and VTR also allows us to purchase new items for welfare, we deliver to those in need such items as beds, mattresses, tables and chairs and an array of manchester. This is achieved by working closely with Vinnies support centres across the Metropolitan region.

If you are ever in the Auburn area, please feel free to drop in and meet the team and have a look around.

**Martin Pottage, Logistics Manager  
Metropolitan Region**

## Safeguarding Children Update



As part of our continual improvement towards embedding Child safe practices across the organisation, the Member and Volunteer website (mavs.vinnies.org.au) now has a Safeguarding children space:

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/>

Please feel free to familiarise yourself with this space as the go-to reference for all Society Child Safe information. Safeguarding children and young people so that they thrive in their families and communities, is a fundamental aspect of our work in providing a hand up to those facing adversity.

The Society strives to work with the wider community to prevent all forms of abuse against children and young people and to ensure that the inherent dignity, care and well-being of all children and young people is upheld. The Society is committed to being a Child Safe Organisation and to continually assessing and evaluating its Child Safe strategies to ensure that we are vigilant in our work to support and protect children

**KEEPING CHILDREN  
SAFE AND WELL  
IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**



## STORES



Shops	Address	Phone No	Status
Baulkham Hills	9A/B Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills 2153	9686 4159	Now Open
Blacktown	23 David Lane, Blacktown 2148	9622 6088	Now Open
Blacktown Mega Centre*	Shop C04, Blacktown Mega Centre, 14 St Martins Crescent Blacktown 2148	9621 3423	Now Open
Blaxland*	132A Great Western Highway, Blaxland 2774	4739 8402	Now Open
Carlingford	285 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford 2118	9871 2649	Now Open
Castle Hill –Vic	5/19 Victoria Avenue, Castle Hill 2154	0407 077 242	Now Open
Greystanes	433 Great Western Highway Greystanes	9688 5406	Now Open
Jordan Springs	Shop 6-7 56-66 Lakeside Parade, Jordan Springs 2747	4730 7154	Now Open
Katoomba*	65 Waratah St, Katoomba 2780	4782 1068	Now Open
Kingswood*	74 Cox Ave, Kingswood 2747	4731 5900 4751 7292 fax	Now Open
Mt Druitt*	Shop 11B Zoe Place, 6-10 Mount Street, Mt Druitt 2770	9675 6860	Now Open
Nth Parramatta*	583 Church Street, North Parramatta 2151	9890 8424 9683 6471 fax	Now Open
Penrith*	2/120 Batt Street, Jamisontown, 2750	4722 0309	Now Open
Richmond	Shop 2, 14 East Market St, Richmond 2753	4588 8028	Now Open
Rouse Hill	13/40 Panmure Street, 2155	9672 6190	Now Open
Springwood	272 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777	4751 2271	Now Open
St Marys	4 Crana St, St Marys 2760	9833 4594	Now Open
Toongabbie	1 Cornelia Road, Toongabbie 2146	9769 1011	Now Open
Windsor*	256 George St, Windsor 2756	4577 4880	Now Open
Woodcroft	S2, Woodcroft Village Shopping Centre 3 Woodcroft Drive, Woodcroft 2767	9672 3226	Now Open

\* These centres sell / stock furniture



## OLOL Baulkham Hills Socks and Beanies

As part of their social justice programme Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School at Baulkham Hills ran a “Socks and Beanies Drive” with the proceeds going to the local Vinnies Conference.

Through their efforts the children donated:

**3** blankets, **68** scarves, **115** pairs of gloves, **146** beanies and **643** pairs of socks.

The donations have been valued at \$4,200. This is a truly remarkable contribution, particularly at a time when so many in our school communities are doing it tough.

Due to the enormity of the response, OLOL Conference at Baulkham Hills South was able not only to provide an assortment of socks and other items to their regular clients, but also to share the proceeds with other Conferences in the Hills Region, as well as The Vinnies

Van, the Vinnies Service Centres at Blacktown and Harris Park, the Jesuit Refugee Service at Westmead and the Lisa Harnum Foundation operating in the Hills District assisting victims of domestic violence. Donations were gratefully accepted by all parties.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School has a long history of supporting the OLOL Vinnies Conference under the guidance of the Principal and his hard-working staff. The children and their parents and guardians continue to demonstrate outstanding generosity and care in the magnitude of their donations.

On behalf of Vinnies and all those who have benefited from their donations we thank the Principal, staff, students and families of Our Lady of Lourdes for their outstanding generosity and ongoing support and ask God’s blessings on the OLOL community.

## Vinnies Van– Western Sydney

During the pandemic, although the van had to reduce the number of nights it went out from 7 to 4, it still continues to provide consistent support to the people of Western Sydney. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers who have all stepped up with some doing different shifts to what they usually do and others doing more shifts!

The van is still providing food, toiletries, winter woollies and most importantly, a friendly face and a listening ear! We have also been able to provide patrons with a PPE pack containing, gloves, hand sanitiser and a mask



The Western Sydney Vinnies van was also involved in the CEO Winter Sleepout where the team on shift that night were interviewed and streamed to the sleepout participants as well as those streaming the event.

Please click link below to see Robert Feeney and his team who are well established Vinnies Van volunteers with Robert being involved with the van for over 15 years!.

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/coche24iglf2cq/200617\\_Vinnies%20Van\\_EDIT%201%20JBF\\_1.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/coche24iglf2cq/200617_Vinnies%20Van_EDIT%201%20JBF_1.mp4?dl=0)

## Harris Park Vinnies Support Centre says “Thank you!”



We wish to shout out to the generous parents, friends and school community of Maronite College of the Holy Family in Harris Park, who provided Harris Park Hub with an enormous donation of food, socks, warm blankets and knitted goods along with a cheque for \$2000 toward assisting people in our local community who are at risk of homelessness.

Your generosity is very much appreciated !

## CODE OF CONDUCT

As members and volunteers we continue the good works started by Frederic Ozanam over two centuries ago. Like Frederic and his companions, we are guided by our Christian values and the inspiration of St Vincent de Paul. As a lay Catholic organisation, our good works are based on an enriching heritage of living our Christian faith in service of others.

The Society’s Code of Conduct is informed by our Mission, Vision, Aspiration and our Key Values. For more information, please visit <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/policies/code-of-conduct-6/>

## Vinnies Learning Centre

Recently you may have received either an invitation to join the Vinnies Learning Centre or a reminder to complete learning from the Vinnies Learning Centre. We wish to make your visit to the Vinnies Learning Centre a positive experience. So to assist you with using and exploring the Vinnies Learning Centre, there is a User Guide that can be located from the Content Library. This guide provides answers to common questions and those you may not have thought about.

Follow the below instructions to access this guide:

Log into the [Vinnies Learning Centre](https://vinnieslearningcentre.litmos.com.au/account/Login) <https://vinnieslearningcentre.litmos.com.au/account/Login>



Click [here](#) to locate Frequently Asked Questions. Click [here](#) to locate the Guide. Please contact [Learning@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Learning@vinnies.org.au) for any questions.

## TWINNING

With great pleasure and many congratulations to St Oliver Plunket Conference of Harris Park on the completion of the SHEEP PROJECT which enabled their twin in India, Christ the King Conference, to help 15 families.

The SHEEP PROJECT is designed to provide each of the 15 families with a sheep. Usually the sheep is already with milk that the family can use of for their need. The family is also encouraged to have the sheep impregnated so she can produce a lamb. This lamb should then be given back to the conference to help another family. The first help received then rotates to subsequently benefit other families.

## Fundraising Tools

### ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN !

Dear all,

Orders are now being taken for any Conference wishing to use an **Albert Terminal** or a **Personalised Fundraising Page** for their Christmas Appeal Fundraising in 2020.

#### What is an Albert Terminal?

An EFTPOS Machine just like you see in Coles or Woolworths, more commonly known as a 'Tap and Go Machine'.

#### How can you use an Albert Terminal?

By taking cashless donations from your parishioners as they exit church or by taking cashless donations from the general public at your fundraising activities (e.g. Bunnings BBQ, Donation Drive at your local Shopping Centre etc)

#### What does a Personalised Fundraising Page look like?

e.g. <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/rozelle-region-covid-19-fundraiser-2020>

#### Are the funds raised from a Personalised Fundraising Page received by your Conference?

Yes, all funds raised by your page are transferred to your conference once your page closes.

Any Conference wanting to take advantage of either or both options outlined above should get in touch with Katrina Ortolan direct via [katrina.ortolan@vinnies.org.au](mailto:katrina.ortolan@vinnies.org.au) or 0411 255 658.

**FUNDRAISING**  
\$ Help is Here \$

## NSW Community Sleepout

On Friday 23 October, we held our first ever virtual NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout.

209 participants across the state came together and slept out at home in their car, backyard or couch. They were connected via a live stream hosted by Channel Nine and 2GB presenter, Deborah Knight and tuned in to our brave speakers, inspiring videos and live crosses around the state.

So far, \$136,000 has been raised for Vinnies Services and programs in twelve NSW locations. In Western Sydney 35 locals raised \$37,000 with all proceeds going towards the Vinnies Van and the Vinnies Hubs in Blacktown, Penrith and Harris Park.

*Big thanks to everyone who supported the event !*

Donations will be open until the end of November visit

[www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout](http://www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout)

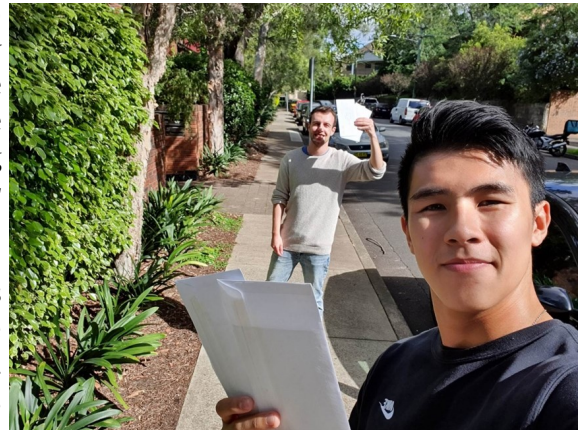


# SCHOOLS AND YOUTH UPDATE

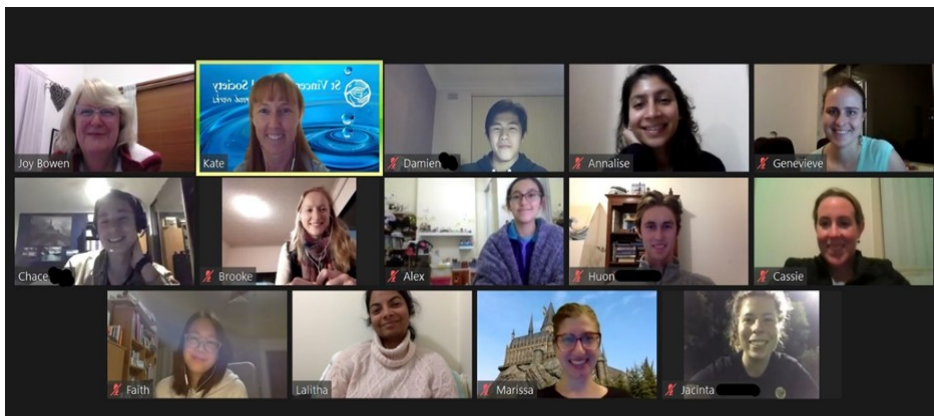
## Vinnies Youth Conference Connect

Over the past few months, Vinnies Metro Youth have responded to the changing needs of those we support and the work done by Conferences, by participating in the Vinnies Youth Conference Connect Project. It is an initiative developed by the Vinnies State Youth Team, which facilitates the matching of willing young volunteers and members to support Conferences in continuing their work during these challenging and uncertain times.

As part of the project, Conferences have been able to ask for Vinnies youth volunteers and members to be involved with their Conference work by being a youth volunteer 'Helping Hand or 'Listening Ear'. The Helping Hands Volunteers have been helping to pack hampers and drop off food vouchers. The Listening Ear Volunteers have been working with Conferences to make social phone calls to people to help address the loneliness and uncertainty that these times bring, the social phone calls complements the work being by Conference Members.



Conference Connect youth volunteers delivering food vouchers.



Conference Connect youth volunteers attending the online Pastoral Care Basic Skills Training.

As part of the project, youth volunteers participated in an online training course, facilitated by Joy Bowden – Vinnies Mission, Spirituality and Pastoral Care Partner. Volunteers were able to develop and gain new skills in the areas of pastoral care, listening, boundaries and self care. Vinnies Metro Youth were excited about this great opportunity to bring our younger volunteers together with experienced Members, with the potential to lead to ongoing and deeper relationships with Conferences.

If you would like to find out more about what Vinnies Youth or be put in touch

with your local Vinnies youth Members & volunteers get in touch with; **Faith Lam** – Parramatta Youth Rep [Faith.Lam@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Faith.Lam@vinnies.org.au); **Kate Conroy** – Metro Youth Engagement Officer [Kate.Conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Kate.Conroy@vinnies.org.au)

## Vinnies Youth

Why do Vinnies Youth love what they do? [Click here](#) to view a short clip of Vinnies Youth NSW volunteers and members, sharing why they give their time to support people in their local communities, and what these opportunities mean for them. If you have any enquires about Vinnies Metro Youth, please contact Kate Conroy – Metro Youth Engagement Officer at [kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au)



Link as mentioned in article: <https://www.facebook.com/VinniesYouthNSW/videos/285368945947308>





## Important dates in the Social Justice Calendar

### 10/10 World Mental Health

Vinnies NSW works closely with those experiencing mental ill-health and has seen first-hand how homelessness, unemployment, and social isolation can impact mental health and well-being.

*In October last year*, Vinnies NSW launched the *Mental Health and Well-being Social Justice Statement* at the annual Rosalie Rendu Forum. This was a symbolic commitment to do more as a Society in response to the challenges people face when experiencing mental ill-health.

*In August this year*, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference released their Social Justice statement, *‘To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today’*. The Bishops’ Statement aligns well with the Vinnies NSW Mental Health and Well-being Social Justice Statement, and is a timely reminder for us to better support one another and break down the stigma associated with mental ill-health.

*On Wednesday 16/09*, Vinnies hosted a Webinar to learn more about the Bishops’ Statement on Mental Health, ongoing challenges people face in accessing the care and support they need, and to discuss ways in which the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW can take action.



### 12/10 - 19/10 Anti-Poverty Week

<https://antipovertyweek.org.au/apw-2020/>

Vinnies Build Homes, Build Hope is campaigning for the NSW Government to invest in 5,000 new social housing homes every year for the next 10 years. We are doing this because there are more than 100,000 people waiting for social housing across NSW right now – some of whom will wait up to ten years. At the same time, 37,000 people are homeless. We launched our campaign in September last year. Since that time, in spite of drought, floods, bushfires and a pandemic, Members of the Society have had more than 100 engagements with their MPs and collected 11,733 signatures on our *Build Homes, Build Hope* petition. This achievement resulted in St Vincent de Paul Society CEO, Jack de Groot, and Vice President Social Justice, Brooke Simmons, delivering the petition to NSW Parliament. Alex Greenwich, the Independent MP for Sydney, received the petition and committed to table it in Parliament this week. He will also arrange for the petition to be debated, necessitating a response from the Minister for Housing in the Legislative Assembly, as soon as the Parliamentary schedule permits.

### 18/11 - 15/11 NAIDOC Week

#Always Was Always Will Be

NAIDOC Week this year was moved from July to 8<sup>th</sup> November. The November dates follow the decision by the National NAIDOC Committee (NNC) to postpone NAIDOC Week from the original July dates due to the impacts and uncertainty from the escalating Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic across our communities and cities.

For ideas on how you may like to celebrate NAIDOC week, go to <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social-justice/> and scroll down to ‘NAIDOC Week’.

### Looking for a way to let your Community or Parish know more about Vinnies ?

For suggestions on additions to Parish Bulletins or speaking notes for a few minutes after Mass about upcoming Social Justice events and the work Vinnies does to address Social Justice, please visit the Social Justice page <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social-justice/> and look for ‘Social Justice Diary 2020 – Resource for Members’. The October Social Justice newsletter has been released. To subscribe go to <https://socialjustice.vinnies.org.au/join/>



## Congratulations CONFERENCE MEMBERS FOR YOUR UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

Conference	Member	Month	Years of Service
Warragamba Sacred Heart Conference	Jeffrey Regan	September	5
Richmond St Monica's Conference	Alan Wilson	September	5
Richmond St Monica's Conference	Jane Wilson	September	5
Richmond St Monica's Conference	Ian Huxley	September	5
Plumpton Good Shepherd Conference	Laura Salas	September	5
Parramatta St Patrick's Conference	Raymond Love	September	10
Harris Park Our Lady of Lebanon Conference	Josette Rahme	September	10
Rydalmere Holy Name of Mary Conference	Anthony Ryan	October	10
Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity Conference	Joe Hall	October	10
Emu Plains Our Lady of the Way Conference	Barry Harris	November	10
Penrith St Nicholas Conference	Brian Brainwood	November	10
Cranebrook Corpus Christi Conference	David Fisher	December	10
Cranebrook Corpus Christi Conference	Keith Quinlivan	December	10
Cranebrook Corpus Christi Conference	Steve Hoare	December	10
Cranebrook Corpus Christi Conference	Tess Lennon	December	10
Castle Hill St Bernadette's Conference	Geoff Roney	December	10
Penrith St Nicholas Conference	Elizabeth-Anthony Lee	December	10
Penrith St Nicholas Conference	Joseph Tabone	December	10
Penrith St Nicholas Conference	Loredana Tabone	December	10
Penrith St Nicholas Conference	Norm Lee	December	10
St Clair Holy Spirit Conference	Dulcina Carvalho	November	15
Baulkham Hills St Michael's Conference	Kevin Carey	November	20
Katoomba Mary Mackillop Conference	Elaine Smith	December	25

### Have you seen the updated Member and Volunteer Support website?

This site exists to share resources, news, contacts, and events with our members and volunteers. We want to provide members and volunteers with the tools, information and resources that will assist you in your service.  
<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/home/>

We really want to know what you like and want in the Member and Volunteer online resources platform. Parramatta Central Council has its own page:

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

For requested updates, please email [janice.stokes@vinnies.org.au](mailto:janice.stokes@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/>