



A Hand Up



Compassionate



Human Centered



Volunteer Based

Bathurst Central Council President | Neil Rabbett

Castlereagh Region - Ian Wray (Acting Regional President) acquired several boxes of eggs (180 per box) which were delivered across the region with some going to Molong. Barbara Kelly (St Brigid's) has accepted the President's position as an administrator for 12 months. We are putting a lot of effort into Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Coonamble to reestablish the Conference. All conferences in the region are operating under Covid restrictions and are in and out of lockdown.



Cudgegong Region - Sacred Heart Coolah will be moving into the new premises housing Retail and Care and Support from the 11th October. All other Conferences are operating remotely. I am still on the lookout for a President for St Mary's Conference and a Cudgegong Regional President.

Evans Region - Projects under way in Evans are progressing favorably and Marina is happy with progress. She is investigating methods of fund raising and is open to suggestions!

Orange Region - I wish to congratulate Chris Worley who was installed as Regional President at a recent regional meeting. All activities are going well and the office personnel are settling in well at 88 Bathurst Rd.

Armidale Central Council President | Paul Burton

Dear Fellow Vincentians, I wish to convey my appreciation for the consistent efforts made by all members, volunteers and staff over the past month. All aspects of the Society's mission continue to be diligently addressed. Following our Central Council meeting of August 31 a **review of the Tamworth Region** has been initiated with the view to improve most areas of Vincentian involvement. Thanks to committee members, John Wallace, Alan Robinson, Cathy Norvill, and Jann Browne for their input to date. A **State Council Spirituality Meeting** on Sept 3 was well attended (electronically). Thanks especially to Margaret Atchison (Spirituality, Armidale Central Council) and to all attendees who made me welcome at my first meeting in this forum.

The Diocesan Recruitment

Workshop held at St Patrick's Parish Centre Tamworth on Sept 23 saw much positive input, resulting in high expectations of future momentum. Thank you to all involved in making the event so successful. God Bless.

When we lose aged members of this calibre it is a clear indicator of the need for urgent recruitment

Don Hewitt

Vincentians Passing*

May their commitment be forever remembered and appreciated.

Ross Joseph Campbell - a long-time and extremely committed member of St Mary's home visitation Conference Armidale. Passed away April 5th at 93.

Donald Barry King - a schoolteacher and Society member in various towns, becoming a Conference President when he was Principal of Uralla Central School. Passed away April 5th at 81.

John Anthony Fitzgerald - an active and respected member of St. Mary's home visitation Conference Armidale, moving from Victoria in 1962. Aged 90.

Desmond Latham, a retired Bank Manager and Society member for many years, renowned for organising 'Schools of Charity' in Inverell when he was stationed there. Buried after Mass Sept 28th.

George Keoghan, schoolteacher and later a University lecturer, joined the Society in Mungindi at 19 and was active in St Joseph's home visitation Conference Armidale. Passed away June 15th at 87.

* We ask members to please let our central offices know of the passing of Vincentians to help keep our tributes current.

Well done, good and faithful servant ...
Come and share your master's happiness!

Matthew 25:21

The strongest bond of true friendship is charity, and the exercise of good charity is the practice of good works. Frederic Ozanam

Retail Regional Manager | David Powter

Covid - Currently there are 22 stores open with 14 still in lockdown. Two of these should be open next week with the Cowra lockdown ending on the 5th. The rest of the fleet will open with NSW opening roadmap on the 11th. Currently the society is looking into the possible restrictions and mandates that will still apply from the 11th and how we may navigate these. This includes any public health orders, such as mandatory vaccine status and how that is policed by retail outlets. Clear guidance will be provided to volunteers on how we will operate under these mandates and restrictions once the Government indicates how it would like Retail outlets to proceed.

Coolah - After months of negotiations, Coolah will re-open in the week commencing the 11th. The store has been closed since March last year during the original Covid lockdown in 2020 and the termination of the lease we had at the time. A new premises has been provided and renovated including conference, office and waiting rooms.



Dubbo - The relocation of the Dubbo store will **There will be cake!** finally occur this month, with the projected opening on 26th October for Members and Volunteers followed by opening to the Public on the 27th October. All Members and Volunteers who can be in Dubbo on the 26th are encouraged to come and see the new premises. Blessing, media interviews and welcome to country are scheduled to start at 10am. There will be Cake!

Regional Director | Phil Donnan

Covid - With a number of LGAs still affected by restrictions, there is a mixture of how sites are operating. We do our best work when we are face to face and sites are encouraged to return to normal operations at the earliest opportunity. Meeting together is an essential part of providing support and fellowship to one and other, so it is suggested conferences have a social meeting as a good first step towards resuming full conference meetings. Please ensure to maintain good Covid practices incl. use of masks, sanitiser and distancing.

Relocation of Orange office - Neil Rabbett advised of the relocation of the Orange regional office in the Sept newsletter. I would like to confirm that the office phones are now a digital system and staff phoning from the office will display a Sydney number commencing with 02 9173 ####. Calls into the office using the main number 02 6362 2565 will enter an auto-assistant number system. Without listening to all the options, you can skip ahead using the following keys to reach the person you want: 3+1 Accounts | 3+2 Jenny Mathieson (Volunteer & Background Checks) | 3+3 Denise Martin (Membership Enquiries) | 3+4 Danielle Curran (Retail Management) | 3+5 Martin Tonks (General Property Repairs & Maintenance) | 3+6 Nazia Judkins (Property Asset Management) 3+7 Gail Gilbert (Other Enquiries).

Membership Strategy - The main strategy for 2020-22 is to increase membership numbers. This will be done in a manner that suits each location and will include working with Retail to include volunteers at the same locations. There will also be a focus on forming new youth and family conferences to complement our existing conferences. A pilot in Armidale has been successful and the concept and process will be shared widely once the review is completed. We would love to hear from conferences that would like to form an associated youth or family conference.



Meeting together is an essential part of providing support and fellowship to one and other

For helpful resources, news, contacts, events and more, see the Vinnies NSW Member and Volunteer Support website

mavs.vinnies.org.au