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A Hand Up



Compassionate



Human Centered



Volunteer Based

### Armidale Central Council President | **John Adams**

Thank you to all who were involved in organising our festival mass and commissioning. A special day for both Jann and myself and a great gathering after.

Welcome to our new Diocesan Social Justice Representative – Giana Saccon from Tenterfield.

I will be visiting some conferences in the western area of our diocese in the near future together with Phil Donnan and Vince Tydd; that is weather permitting.



**Leo Tucker, Jann Browne, Bishop Kennedy, Paul Burton, Brian Halligan & Neil Rabbett**



Current Tamworth St Nicholas' Conference President John Wallace (pic) turned 80 on September 14 and has been an active member for 50 years (serving as a member, Conference President and Regional President) - many of these shared with his late wife and fellow Conference member Mary.

Please remember to pray for our State Council President Paul Burton as he faces another bump in his health.

### Bathurst Central Council President | **Neil Rabbett**

Bathurst Central Council are looking to increase membership numbers in existing conferences and also reopen inactive conferences; particularly in the Castlereagh region. Pat Yeo of St Brigid's has agreed to step up and drive the push for new members and also help with the re-establishment of Our Lady of Perpetual Hope in Coonamble. Both Parish Priests in Coonamble and Coonabarabran are supportive of The Society and are assisting in this endeavour.

Some great news is that St Brigid's Dubbo Conference member Ian Wray has been awarded NSW Volunteer of the Year for the

**It took me 80 years to look this good**

Orana Region by the Centre for Volunteering. We are very proud of Ian and his work for the Society and other organisations in Dubbo region. Ian will now attend the NSW Awards on 8th December representing the Orana Region.

Ian Wray is resuming his role of Regional President Castlereagh from November 1. Thank you Pat for filling the void in the meantime.

All Conferences are coping well with Care and Support. Thank you all for what you do. God Bless. Neil



**Ian Wray - NSW Volunteer of the Year for the Orana Region**

Not all of us can do great things.  
But we can do small things with great love. *Mother Teresa*

**Armidale Festival Mass and Commissioning** – Sunday September 25 was a wonderful day with the commissioning of John Adams as Armidale Central Council President and Jann Browne as Tamworth Regional Council President at the St Mary and St Joseph’s Armidale Cathedral. The Mass was followed by a workshop with members discussing spiritual growth and determining priorities for the Armidale Central Council in 2023.

**Increase client support amounts** – with an increase in cost of living expenses and an underspend in client assistance across NSW, we have been given permission to increase support generally. Conferences are encouraged to **increase financial support to clients in the order of \$20 for individuals and \$50 for families**. Conferences have discretion to go above this if needed. With a number of low income earners also seeing us for the first time, Conferences are encouraged to be particularly generous by considering one off assistance of \$300 - \$500 per household to give them a real hand up with their situations.

**CAMS / IT rollout** – the new client management system rollout will be in 2023, being February – March for Armidale Central Council and April – May for Bathurst Central Council with specific dates available soon. Many of you are still managing old desktop computers with Windows 7 operating systems. We are now pleased to advise that our IT department will be rolling out new laptops to replace the current old equipment. This is expected to occur in late October and an IT staff member will visit each site to remove the old equipment, fully install the new laptop and ensure that everything is connected and working well before leaving site. A timetable will be distributed shortly.

**EAPA** – The Society discontinued providing Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) vouchers late 2020 with a commitment to review the process. This has now been completed and the Society is once again looking to offer EAPA to our clients. Many conferences previously found the application process very arduous and time consuming but it has now been confirmed that there are six (6) key questions to be answered. While NSW will have a contract again each Conference will participate on an opt-in arrangement. There will be some training provided by the government for those conferences wishing to offer EAPA again.



**Bishop Kennedy commissioning John Adams & Jann Browne**



**Members discussing spiritual growth and determining priorities for 2023**

**Christmas Hampers** – It’s time to order Gift Cards for Christmas Hampers. Finance will be forwarding order forms for general gift cards (eg Woolworths/Coles) and the proposed inclusion of a Vinnies Shop specific gift card is also being considered by senior management. Conferences are free to make their own food hampers. Unfortunately The Society’s own FoodBarn operation will not be offering hampers this year. Any conference looking to order hampers can order through FoodBank - please urgently contact the office as only a limited number are available.

Financial Year to Date – August 2022					
Council	Number Members	Number Visits	Number Primary Clients	Value Assistance	Appeals Income
<b>North West Region Total</b>	<b>380 (+37)</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>\$79,280</b>	<b>\$47,464</b>
<b>Armidale Total</b>	<b>177 (-5)</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>\$28,254</b>	<b>\$5,148</b>
North Eastern Regional	37 (+1)	138	102	\$13,345	\$2,693
Armidale Regional	59 (-1)	59	49	\$8,454	\$1,200
Namoi Barwon Regional	38 (-2)	47	40	\$3,710	\$242
Tamworth Regional	43 (-3)	71	63	\$2,745	\$1,014
<b>Bathurst Total</b>	<b>203 (+41)</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>\$51,026</b>	<b>\$22,180</b>
Castlereagh Regional	44 (-1)	155	117	\$13,977	\$10,232
Cudgegong Regional	28 (0)	62	48	\$5,835	\$1,031
Orange Regional	85 (+42)	275	213	\$17,587	\$10,378
Evans Regional	46 (0)	244	191	\$13,628	\$8,475