



A Hand Up



Compassionate



Human Centered



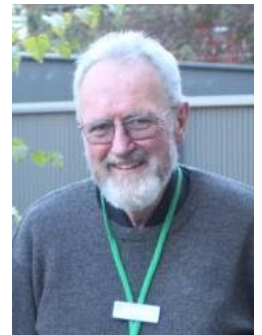
Volunteer Based

## Armidale Central Council President | John Adams

On June 5 I was pleased to welcome members of the Executive Leadership Team (including our CEO Yolanda Saiz) to Tamworth for the first in a series of regional workshops to launch the **Strategic Plan 2024-2028**. The day was informative and well attended by volunteers, members and staff. My special thanks to the St Patricks Parish for the use of their facilities on the day.

Welcome back to Phil Donnan after his trip to visit family in England and thank you to Denise Martin for her support whilst filling in for Phil in his absence.

**Paul Robinson** (pic) President of St Augustine's Conference Armidale (Freeman House Special Works) has resigned after many years of faithful service. I sincerely thank Paul for his excellent leadership and dedication to the Society; especially in developing St Augustine's to be what is now the special works model for NSW and Vinnies Services-based conferences.



Work continues on the **St Mary's Units** in Inverell. I thank President Anthony Dale and his dedicated group of helpers for their continued work on these units.

The **Financial Literacy Course** through TAFE has commenced with good feedback from those attending. This accredited training program is designed to equip our members with basic budget skills in order to offer financial literacy assistance to community members requiring financial literacy support.

I have commenced '**Leading For Impact**' studies at the university of Notre Dame in Sydney. This program is specifically designed for aspiring and current Regional and Central Council Presidents, as well as any interested member of the Society thinking about future leadership positions. It's a good opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to lead with purpose and impact from a Vincentian perspective and draws on the University's vast experience in leadership development for Catholic organisations.

**Cooking for One** classes have commenced in Armidale with both residents from Freeman House and the wider Armidale Community eligible to attend.

## Bathurst Central Council Acting President | Maurie Ryan

As a member of the SVdP National Council, I attended the three-day meeting in Canberra over the first weekend in June. The Friday afternoon meeting was a joint one with the State and Territory CEOs. This meeting was addressed by Frank Brassil, International Territory Vice President for Oceania (the delegate of the President General International) on *The Rule* and how the Society's governance intersects with civil governance obligations under Commonwealth and State or Territory laws. We reflected on it being a complex environment in which Councils and their CEOs operate when accommodating local laws to deliver obligations arising from *The Rule*.

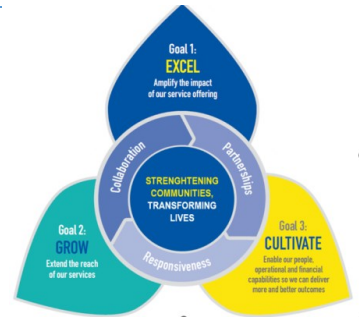


Members of the National Council then attended the 8am Sunday mass at the Cathedral in Canberra where the Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn, Christopher Prowse, invited our National President, Mark Gaetani (pic), to address the congregation. Mark outlined the wonderful good work our Members provide to people in distress and noted the present crisis of cost of living increases was having a major impact on our companions across the country.

The National Council is currently revising its Strategic Plan, which is looking toward completion during the second half of this year. For more see [www.vinnies.org.au/national-council](http://www.vinnies.org.au/national-council)

**Acting Regional Director | Denise Martin**

Hello everyone. It was lovely meeting some of the Armidale Central Council members during my time filling in for Phil Donnan and working out of the Armidale office. Thanks to John, Matt and Ahmed for making me feel so welcome. I must say I am very impressed with the Distribution Centre in Armidale, it is a wonderful set up. I am relieved however to say, *“Welcome back Phil!”*



**Strategic Plan Launches** - Both Armidale and Bathurst Central Council staff have been very busy organising the launch of The Society’s 2024-2028 Strategic Plan in sites across our area. The Armidale CC launch was held on June 5 and the Bathurst CC launch on June 16. Thank you to all members and volunteers who were able to attend the event. By all accounts these events gave members the opportunity to hear first hand the direction the Society is heading over the next four years. For those who are not able to attend the Strategic Plan Launches, a screening of the Sydney launch will be available shortly on the Members and Volunteers (MAVS) website [mavs.vinnies.org.au](http://mavs.vinnies.org.au)

**CAMS** - It is good to hear the CAMS users in Armidale Central Council are going well with the new online client information system. Congratulations all! Bathurst Central Council members will be starting their first training sessions on Monday June 19 through to June 28. The go-live date will be shortly thereafter. It will be very useful to have an all-of-state client information system to facilitate and streamline the care and support we offer.

**Eugowra Flood Assistance** - Orange region Conference members are continuing their great fortnightly flood assistance in Eugowra. Members are assisting on average 60 flood-affected community members totaling \$15,000 each visit. The community members are extremely grateful for the ongoing work Vinnies is doing at Eugowra. This is truly members putting the ethos of the Society into action. So thank you, you are making a significant difference to many people.

**Community Sleep outs** - Planning for the local Vinnies Community Sleep Outs has commenced. The Sleep Outs are planned for Friday August 25. Towns participating this year in the Bathurst Central Council area are Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo and Mudgee’s St Matthews School. In the Armidale area they will be held at Tamworth, Armidale, Moree and Tenterfield. Please reach out to the Conference members in those area if you are able to assist with the planning, I know it would be greatly appreciated.



**Ahmed moving on** - Our Armidale CC Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Ahmed Adeniji will be relocating with his family to Toowoomba at the end of June, as his wife is commencing as a mathematics lecturer with the University of Southern Queensland. He’ll be working remotely till the end of July. Ahmed has been a wonderful team member with the Society, first starting with us as a Warehouse worker in September 2019. His skills and HR qualifications resulted him in becoming Member and Community Engagement Coordinator in June 2020 and he added

the NILS Client Support Officer role in March 2021. Ahmed is a very faith-filled man who readily prays and cares for people. He is always willing to help and has provided a sincere and generous servant approach to supporting and resourcing members, community and other staff. Best wishes to Ahmed and family for their future in Toowoomba and we pray that he will continue to be a great blessing to his family and those around him.

Financial Year to Date – April 2023					
Council	Number Members	Number Visits	Number Primary Clients	Value of Assistance	Appeals Income
<b>North West Region Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>8,275</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>\$802,676</b>	<b>\$442,565</b>
<b>Armidale Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>\$274,826</b>	<b>\$152,398</b>
North Eastern Regional	35	1,091	495	\$132,878	\$24,024
Armidale Regional	61	321	604	\$67,675	\$47,529
Namoi Barwon Regional	43	293	160	\$26,672	\$56,014
Tamworth Regional	44	313	240	\$47,602	\$24,829
<b>Bathurst Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>5,974</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>\$527,850</b>	<b>\$236,764</b>
Castlereagh Regional	38	1,187	635	\$106,679	\$21,632
Cudgegong Regional	27	705	268	\$60,251	\$15,918
Orange Regional	84	660	990	\$240,118	\$175,862
Evans Regional	38	1,840	725	\$120,801	\$23,507

The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.

Mother Teresa