

# News in Brief

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Welcome to our latest e-news, which is filled with stories from around the country from hard-working volunteers and staff who are helping people in a practical way every-day. If you have a story you would like us to share, please email it to us at: [national@svdp.org.nz](mailto:national@svdp.org.nz)



MEMBRE DE LA SOCIETE  
DE SAINT-VINCENT DE PAUL



## A message from National President Marlena Hoeft-Marwick



**It is five months since I stood in front of most of you and accepted my responsibility to serve as the National President of our Society here in New Zealand. With that election came a new era. It was my responsibility to appoint new Officers/Board members and reconvene, if desirable, past Committees.**

The appointments to our National Board include: **Fr Jeff Drane**, Spiritual Advisor; **Terry Jordan**, Treasurer; **Roger Clark**, Secretary; **Liz Chiappini**; **Paola Minehan**, Youth Representative; and **Arthur Schultze**, Twinning and Operations. Plus, our representative from National Office **Anne-Marie McCarten**, National Executive Officer.

Thank you sincerely each and every one of you for taking on/continuing this very dedicated work for our Society and for the wonderful support you have afforded me to date. We have held two board meetings, the first in early December and the second in February, with others planned for the rest of 2019 and beyond.

The Social Justice Committee was reconvened - Chaired by John Kennedy-Good and supported by Bob Goodyear. There will be at least one other member joining this committee soon, as Bishop Owen has decided to not unreasonably, call it a day. Thank you, Bishop Owen, for your contribution on this Committee and as our past National Spiritual Advisor. If there is anybody in our Community who think they could be willing and able to take on a role on this Committee, please feel free to contact John Kennedy-Good directly.

I want to mention also the freely offered support of our immediate Past President, Terry Comber, plus quite a number of other past Presidents and Office Bearers. All have been very welcoming and sincere

in their offers of assistance and advice. I acknowledge their past and present service and wish to make it known that I value what they offer in the way of experience and knowledge and it is my intention to utilise their collective special skill sets. So, you may have been wondering and at times feeling sidelined, but please be patient.

To date I have only visited and interacted with a few Conferences, but am looking forward to, after this weekend of the AGM visiting with a great many Areas/Conferences in the lower half of the North Island, commencing with those in Taranaki. I expect to be on the road for at least another ten days beyond the AGM.

From hereon I shall be committed to visiting more Conferences/Areas on a regular basis, so would be happy to hear dates and times of upcoming meetings, so I can work around those. Although I will not be doing the Society's groundwork regularly, I believe my input into Conferences and Areas, including my own and around the country will be equally serving.

As always, I pray for the continued cohesion of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand and blessings on our Society from our founders and our namesake.

**Marlena Hoeft-Marwick**  
- National President

# 2019 AGM

Photos from this years AGM held in New Plymouth March 29-30th.  
The theme of this years AGM - 'Let's do it Together'



# Pope John Paul II – The Great Mercy Pope

**Pope John Paul II, both in his teaching and personal life, strove to live and teach the message of Divine Mercy. As the great Mercy Pope, he wrote an encyclical on Divine Mercy:**

“The Message of Divine Mercy has always been near and dear to me... which I took with me to the See of Peter and which it in a sense forms the image of this Pontificate.”

In his writings and homilies, he has described Divine Mercy as the answer to the world’s problems and the message of the third millennium. He beatified and canonized Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, the nun associated with the message, and he did it in Rome and not in Poland to underscore that Divine Mercy is for the whole world.

**Establishing Divine Mercy Sunday for the Entire Church -** When Pope John Paul canonized Sr. Faustina (making her St. Faustina), he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday (the feast day associated with the message) as a feast day for the entire Church. The feast day falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter season. On that day, Pope John Paul II declared, “This is the happiest day of my life.”

**Entrusting the World to Divine Mercy -** In 2002, the Pope entrusted the whole world to Divine Mercy when he consecrated the International Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Lagiewniki, a suburb of Krakow in Poland. This is where St. Faustina’s mortal remains are entombed. The saint lived in a convent nearby. The Pope himself remembers as a young

man working in the Solvay Quarry, just a few meters from the present-day Shrine. He also says that he had been thinking about Sr. Faustina for a long time when he wrote his encyclical on Divine Mercy. Further, the Holy Father has frequently quoted from the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska* and has prayed The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy at the saint’s tomb.

Beyond the Life of John Paul II - Given all these connections to Divine Mercy and St. Faustina, is it any wonder that Pope John Paul II died on the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday (the evening before the feast day), which fell that year on April 3. It is also no surprise that the Great Mercy Pope left us a message for Divine Mercy Sunday, which was read on the feast day by a Vatican official to the faithful in St. Peter’s after a Mass that had been celebrated for the repose of the soul of the Pope.

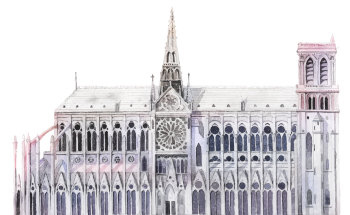
Repeatedly Pope John Paul II has written and spoken about the need for us to turn to the mercy of God as the answer to the specific problems of our times. He has placed a strong and significant focus on the Divine Mercy message and devotion throughout his pontificate that will carry the Church long after his death.



## “Miracle” as Cross survives in heart of cathedral despite blaze

From @vaticannews on Instagram

Inside Notre Dame Cathedral after the fire: The cross stands amidst the ashes, a sign of hope that never dies. In a message to the Archbishop of Paris, Pope Francis expresses his desire that the cathedral return to being the sign of faith and the architectural and spiritual heritage of France and of the whole world, thanks to reconstruction efforts and the mobilization of all.



# New Plymouth Vincentians - Long and Devoted Service

## The St Vincent de Paul National Annual General Meeting and Conference was held in New Plymouth from 29-30th March.

Our President, Marlena Hoeft-Marwick , arrived in New Plymouth the day before the Conference started.

As soon as Marlena stepped off the plane, she was whisked off to Jean Sandel retirement village, to present Certificates and crucifixes to Brian Ford and Tony McNair recognising their long and devoted service to the local Conference of St Vincent de Paul. This photo shows Brian (on the right), and Tony (on the left ) watching as their wives received bouquets in recognition of the support they gave their husbands.

Tony (an ex school Principal) was instrumental in establishing and maintaining an annual grant for tertiary education, which continues to support young people in need of extra financial help, to realise their education dreams. Brian has been a stalwart of the visitation ministry, which he continues today by visiting people in

the retirement village where he now lives.

The presentation was attended by current members and supporters of the St Joseph's New Plymouth conference. Those present enjoyed a delicious morning tea, while recalling happy memories of times spent in the service of the local community.



## 40 years of service

On 3rd April 2019 the members of St Vincent de Paul Society of St Anne's Conference, Manurewa gathered at the home of Ms Marie Dephoff to celebrate the occasion of her long service as a member of the Society.

Marie has served for over 40 years. She is now 93 years young.

Her various charitable activities includes visiting the sick in hospitals, attending care homes and volunteering at the Vinnies shops.



## Lower Hutt Benemerenti Awards

**On Sunday 31 March 2019 Cardinal John Dew presented three Lower Hutt Vincentians with the BENEMERENTI Medal, Josephine Dowsett, Kathy Brabin and Dennis Cheetham.**

In his homily he said that when people receive such medals, a number of people write letters in support, one of the letters said *independently they have found their social consciences in the principles of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. They have worked for 30, 40 and nearly 50 years in the St. Vincent de Paul Society in this parish, all of them holding various positions of leadership and being President. They are three people who are people of great integrity, each with a lovely sense of humour, for who family, friendship and community relationships are extremely important. They are reliable, loyal and very faithful.*

Each of them has done incredible work particularly for the St. Vincent de Paul Society - in doing so they have helped people come closer to God. Each of them, the three of them, working with refugees and migrants, each of them taking Communion to the sick and elderly and driving people to Mass.

*Right: From left, Dennis Cheetham, Kathy Brabin and Jo Dowsett.*



## Papanui Benemerenti Award

**Papanui Conference member Janette McKee has been recognized by Pope Francis with a Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award.**

The award was presented after Mass on Sunday 20th January 2019 by Christchurch Bishop Paul Martin SM with many of Janette's family and friends in attendance.

Janette's award recognizes a lifetime of service to the Parish of St Joseph Papanui including her thirty-year membership of the Society of St Vincent de Paul and thirty-five-year membership of the Catholic Women's League.

Janette's husband Russell is also a long-term member of the Society and in 2016 was awarded a Vincentian Cross by International President, Renato Lima de Oliveira, for his sixty years membership of the Society.

Both Janette and Russell still take a keen interest in the Papanui Conference activities and Janette is still delivering food parcels to the needy of Papanui. Both Janette and Russell have served more than one term each as president of the Papanui Conference over the years.

The Papanui Conference thanks the McKee's for their service and interest in the Society.



*Photo: Janette McKee supplied by Papanui Conference*

## Wellington Long Service Awards

**Three long serving and beloved Vincentians of the Seatoun & Miramar Conference in Wellington were honoured at a Festival Mass in December 2018.**

**John Woods, Brian Ward, and Jack Dobbs** have given many years and untiring effort to a great many people in need in the Eastern Suburbs of Wellington. John and Brian have been Vincentians since the early 1970s, and Jack since around 1980.

John Woods, a past Conference President, continues as an active member visiting elder clients every week around the region especially in retirement homes, participating in all appeals, and attends every Conference meeting. Jack Dobbs too has not lost his Vincentian calling, and has continued as an associate member since retiring from active service a handful of years ago. He visits a few long-standing clients, delivers Communion to the sick, and is a Eucharistic Minister. Brian Ward retired six years ago after spells as Conference President, Secretary and Treasurer, played an influential role in the continuity and success of the Conference, and continued as an associate member.

Tribute was paid by Brendan Quirk, the current Conference President, before a framed recognition certificate signed

by the National President Marlena Hoeft-Marwick and a brass cross engraved with symbols of the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, both blessed by Father Dennis Nacorda, were presented by the Area President John Kennedy-Good. As Brian was unable to attend the Festival Mass the presentation was made to him at his retirement home.



## Humility

*Saint Vincent de Paul* perceived that all his advancement and almost all the graces he had received were due to this virtue; and for this reason he inculcated it so much and so greatly desired to introduce it into his congregation.

Humility is the foundation of all the virtues; therefore, in a soul where it does not exist there can be no true virtue, but the mere appearance only. In like manner, it is the most proper disposition for all celestial gifts. And, finally, it is so necessary to perfection, that of all the ways to reach it, the first is humility; the second, humility; the third, humility. And if the question were repeated a hundred times, I should always give the same answer -  
*Saint Augustine of Hippo.*

*Saint Aloysius Gonzaga*, who knew this truth well, took no greater pains in acquiring any other virtue. For this purpose he recited every day a special prayer to the Angels that they would aid him to walk in this royal road, which they themselves had first trodden, that he might finally succeed in gaining the position of one of those stars that fell from Heaven through pride.

## Tokoroa

**St Vincent de Paul Tokoroa has recently established a Support & Advocacy Service which provides intensive client support services to those with high and complex needs. In most cases these clients require assistance on multiple fronts including securing housing, reducing debt, developing parenting skills, job seeking, addressing legal issues and complying with obligations to WINZ and Community Corrections.**

Our two Support & Advocacy workers work in a client led way to help those in need develop a vision for their future and identify the steps that need to be taken to achieve their goals. They walk alongside the clients, providing practical and emotional support as they complete the actions on their plans, celebrating successes and providing encouragement and support where actions prove difficult to achieve. The goal is to change people's circumstances so that they become self-supporting and are able to live lives of dignity.

The service works closely with other agencies in Tokoroa including Community Corrections, Tokoroa Council of Social Services, WINZ, Oranga Tamariki, Raukawa Iwi Social Services, Pacific Island Social Service, Budget Advice and others and makes and receives referrals from other agencies as appropriate.

While a new and developing service, Tokoroa's Support & Advocacy Service has produced some life changing results for those who have sought help from St Vincent de Paul.

## Tauranga Community Day

**On Saturday 23 March 2019 the Society's Western Bay Area hosted a Community Day in Tauranga. The main purpose of the day was to give out clothing to needy families. This clothing was mainly summer clothing collected over the past year. Shop volunteers had presorted clothing into categories and was all clean and fit for reuse.**

The day ran for four hours and took place at the Area's Warehouse in Courtney Road, Fraser Cove. Clothing was placed on tarpaulines and in boxes and those attending were able to sort through and take whatever they wanted for free. About 500 people attended the day. At the peak about 250 people were present. Young Vinnies from Aquinas College operated a free sausage sizzle.

About 30 mainly shop volunteers, staff and Conference members were there, all in bright orange hi-vis vests to help people sort out what they wanted and keep the displays tidy. The local fire brigade helped move boxes of clothing from storage out into the courtyard display area. Furniture and costume jewellery were available for sale and delivery of furniture sold was carried out on the day for a small charge. The day raised over \$1,000.

Many of those attending came to volunteers, expressing their appreciation for the day, the friendly and helpful Society people there and how receiving free clothing would be a great help to them and their families.



# Youth Annual Report

Report prepared by Paola Minehan, National Youth Advisor.

Young Vinnies in New Zealand continues to be run as a National Programme with each area responding to needs with the skills available. Most of our conferences are at Catholic school level with the Vinnies programme becoming part of the faith formation curriculum. In larger urban areas, such as Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland there are Young Adult conferences as well.



Those regions that spend money wisely to employ a Youth Coordinator to oversee these young conferences do consistently well and the Area Councils that rely on the skills of the Youth Coordinators and their dedication, including hours worked do particularly well.

I receive many requests from Catholic school teachers from all over the country for information and resources about setting up a Vinnies programmes. There are some huge opportunities/gaps, mainly in rural New Zealand, for conferences and area councils to approach their local school and let them know about us. Nurturing these relationships will enable our Society to continue to assist the poor and lonely. Teachers are in a unique position to know who may be in need of our practical faith.

## THE PAST 12 MONTHS

The focus of many of youth conferences across the whole Society consists of visiting with mental health and vulnerable adults, the aged, prisoners and those with an intellectual disabilities. We manage to engage our Young Vinnies using a lot of common sense whilst managing risk.

## GOALS FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS

- Increase engagement with National Facebook page. Adding Instagram. Using this medium to gain insight into local area concerns.
- Engage in a more meaningful way with our twinned conferences and councils. Local schools should be able to skype/message or email with a local school in our twinned area.

## FINALLY

Even if the Youth Coordinator is not employed by an Area Council, it is still essential that they continue their professional development by attending, at the very least, the National AGM. Those who are paid Coordinators are obliged to attend as part of the employment contract signed at the beginning of their tenure.

Apart from the collegiality of meeting others in the same role, it is important that they are aware of current concerns that are brought to the National Council meetings.

We are a Society that achieves its work through face-to-face interaction. If we do not visit and communicate with each other then, the basic charism of the Society is missing.



## New President elected to lead the Australian St Vincent de Paul Society National Council

**The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council is pleased to announce that Claire Victory has been elected as its new National President and Warwick Fulton as the Society's new Deputy President.**

Ms Victory is a solicitor who has been working in private practice, for a small Adelaide firm, since 2008. She has been a member of the Society since age ten and brings 25 years of experience serving and supporting the Society in various capacities, including extensive involvement in Vinnies Youth programs and eight years on National Council.

Claire has the honour of several firsts for this role. She is the first woman ever elected to the role in Australia; she is the first South Australian to fill this role; and she is the youngest President of the Society in the 165 years it has existed in this country.

In her new role, Claire stated she was looking forward to continuing and

strengthening the Society's work towards building a more just and compassionate society.

"In a context of persistent poverty and new forms of inequality, I look forward to supporting the Society in its role as a leading voice for social justice and change," Ms Victory said.

"A key challenge for the future of our organisation is ensuring the dynamism of our membership so that we can continue to respond with hope and love to those bearing the brunt of poverty and inequality.

"A priority for the new Council will be reviewing governance across the Society - everything from training, formation and succession planning for our members in conferences to looking at legal structures and reporting standards for councils. We need to ensure that we are operating in the most effective way possible while retaining our mission at the heart of all we do.

"We want members across Australia to feel informed, supported and empowered to continue doing good works in new and creative ways, and through evolving conference and program structures, in order to best meet the needs of our companions and our community."

Ms Victory succeeds Graham West as President and will officially commence on Friday March 22nd 2019.

"On behalf of all of our members, I would like to personally thank Graham West for the dedication and commitment he has demonstrated in his role over the past four years," said Ms Victory.

"Graham's experience and enthusiasm in guiding the Society has been a significant positive force and I look forward to continuing this."

Claire will be leading the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia for the next four years.

# Pompallier Catholic College



This year can confidently be deemed as the revival of Young Vinnies at Pompallier Catholic College. With Joseph Luna stepping up as the Chairperson of the group, which had been quite inactive in previous years, I am very proud to say that the 2018 representatives of Young Vinnies have outdone themselves with the extensive amount of time, energy and effort that they have generously given in order to make a difference in our community.

Being the youth representative of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an international voluntary organisation who has a long and proud history of helping those in need, we wanted to be able to live up to their legacy by doing our part as the future of the Society in New Zealand, which meant raising awareness within our school community about poverty and the struggles that people in our very own society have to face daily. Thus, with Joseph's initiative, we have organised many activities this year with the ultimate goal of offering service to those who need it the most.

One of our very first projects was the Bunny Run, wherein we challenged the different whānau classes in the school to collect as many Easter eggs as they can to win a free shared lunch of Domino's pizza! Out of the many enthusiastic classes that took part in this activity, the victory of collecting the most Easter eggs, and thus winning the free pizza, went to 78PY in the Year 7 and 8 classes, and to Mr. Nimmo's class, C2NM, in the senior classes.

We managed to receive about 600 to 700 Easter eggs overall and we gave them to the students of Te Timatanga O Te Matauranga, a kindergarten school in the suburb of Otangarei, as well as to the different wards in the Whangarei Hospital. We even received positive feedback from a doctor at

the hospital, saying *"On Thursday afternoon I was sitting in my office struggling with a difficult report. What a lovely surprise to be greeted by one of your awesome students giving out Easter eggs. What lovely young men and women and so smart in their uniforms. Made my day!"*

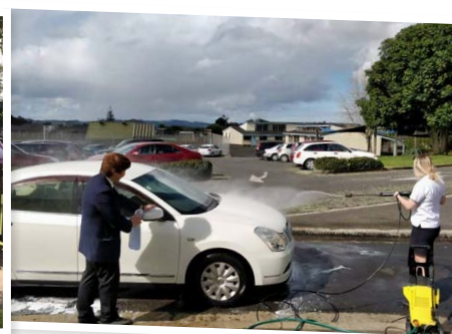
It was amazing seeing the beautiful smiles on the people's faces as we gave them the Easter eggs, knowing that our generosity was the reason behind that smile.

Another project was to raise money for children who are unable to afford lunch for school, as well as to donate money to CanTeen, a support group for teenagers dealing with the effects of cancer. We were able to achieve this through our fundraising activities of bake sales, sausage sizzles and car washes. For three weeks, several members of the group baked many sweet goodies for the bake sales that we held in the staff room for the teachers, who really enjoyed them! We hosted sausage sizzles every Friday lunchtimes for nine weeks, and despite the stress that came with buying the supplies, setting up the grill and washing the dishes, we still had fun knowing that every sausage sold contributed towards a good cause.

Our most recent fundraising activity is currently washing our teachers' cars for the same cause, and although we

get wet and soapy, we still manage to have fun and bond as a group. Another ongoing project for the year is gardening; earlier this year, Young Vinnies planted several winter plants such as carrots and cabbages in a garden bed that we deweeded and tilled ourselves, under the guidance of Mrs. Chircop of course, with the hopes of donating the vegetables to people in need of food. Because this turned out very successfully, we are now in the process of creating a second garden bed to plant even more seeds, and not only are we able to fulfill our purpose of helping others, but we will also be able to leave a legacy behind; one that we hope the future generations of Young Vinnies at Pompallier Catholic College will continue.

We have also organised visits to two of our local rest homes, Selwyn Park Rest Retirement Home and Radius Potter Home. In the Bible, God calls us to be servants and it is our duty as Catholics to serve those in need. This means visiting the sick, the elderly and the dying. Catholics are strong followers of the Golden Rule, which is written in the book of Matthew 7:12, *"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets"*. This really caused us to think about what we would want if we were sick, old or dying; all of us hope that once we reach that stage where we are no





## Young Vinnies Report continued...

longer able to do things for ourselves, there will be someone there for us who will tenderly care for us and will come to visit us to keep us company and make us smile. We wanted to be that someone to the elderly in our local community and so when we visited, we sang many songs to them, asked them about their life stories, talked about our own stories and played board games with them. It was an amazing experience being able to connect with the generation before us and hearing the exciting things they have done in their childhood.

But what made the visits even more worthwhile was being able to see how much of a difference we made to their day just by visiting them. Their smiles, words of appreciation and wishes for us to come back really meant to us, and not only did this visit give us a chance to interact with the elderly, but it also allowed us to form

a newfound appreciation for health and it allowed us to realise just how fragile life can be.

One of our last ongoing projects is attending Soul Food at the Anglican Church Hall. Soul Food is an organisation who works to prepare and serve food for the hungry and the homeless every Monday and Friday evenings. Starting last term, several members of Young Vinnies has been attending Soul Food to help in the preparation of the food, and if they wish, to serve it to those who are in need of it. Not only has this opportunity been a great way to make new connections with the organisers of the group, but it has also been a great opportunity to allow us to further appreciate the blessings that we have in our lives. We are so used to being able to eat whatever we want whenever we want to, regardless of whether we need to eat or not, that we can easily

take the blessing of food for granted. Volunteering at Soul Food has helped us to realise just how lucky we are to be able to have such easy access to food so we shouldn't be ungrateful or wasteful, because there are millions out there who struggle to feed themselves, let alone their whole families. This really inspired us to volunteer so that we are able to make a difference in our communities by feeding the poor and the hungry.

So all in all we are able to say that revival is well and truly working and we hope that next year the students in our school continue to blossom and support each other to help those in the community who need our help. Thank you Joseph for being such a great role model and keeping us all on task and having fun.



## Come and join us!

**For the Society to renew itself and increase Conference membership, workshops will be held nation-wide in 2019. This new initiative will help us to identify pathways to reach out to those in need – nurturing and enriching our experiences as Vincentians.**

Fr Jeff Drane will contact you regarding dates suitable to you.

*“Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future because the number of its past works is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite”*

**Frederic Ozanam**

# Michael Hanham, loving giving back

Article and photos provided courtesy of the Ashburton Guardian

**Once a six-foot four-inch force on the rugby field, today Michael Hanham is a gentle giant of the charity world.**

**St Vincent de Paul in Ashburton has been helping out the needy in Mid Canterbury for more than 55 years.**

The Chairman is Michael Hanham and he himself goes back to those early years, when he was on the very committee which founded the organisation.

The 77-year-old grandfather of 17 is enjoying the chairmanship role, which he has been in for about six months.

He said it was upon returning home after completing schooling at St Bede's that he was asked to become a member of the founding group and never had any doubt about joining.

"I think there's an inherent thing in most people to want to help if they can," he said, adding such goals tie in with a command of Jesus to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

While it is a lay Catholic organisation, there is no faith prerequisite for the large range of volunteers who serve St Vinnies in Ashburton.

Hanham was brought up in a Catholic family, the oldest of six children, and he and wife Di are themselves parents to six children. He is a committed volunteer, also having belonged to the Ashburton Lions Club for 45 years. He was president of the Lions Club when it sponsored the formation of Ashburton County Lions. He said it gave him great satisfaction today to see that club have success with its signature Toot for Tucker event, which helped organisations such as St Vinnies each year to stock up its foodbank.

He said in the 55 years of existence for St Vinnies in Ashburton, people's needs had not changed.

"We all have to have warmth and food," he said. Those are the necessities of life that St Vinnies helps out with and volunteers provide these wrapped in kindness and care.

Hanham and fellow volunteers make regular visits in pairs, their mantra being to assist people in need in their own homes, discussing problems face to face.

They bring courtesy and tact at all times, realising that those they are helping will often be under stress and may be deceitful, or appear rude, arrogant, anxious or angry.

And some of the predicaments people get themselves into is heart-breaking.

Family violence situations can see single parents and their children land in their new rental properties with nothing.

"One of our philosophies is if there's children involved you just go overboard to make sure they are fed,"



*Above: Michael Hanham and St Vinnies' shop manager Donna Collins tend to the organisation's foodbank where demand is growing.*

Hanham said.

As rents and fuel increase there is more pressure on families, but it is satisfying to be able to help from the well-stocked St Vinnies foodbank, where it is estimated there has been a 10 per cent growth in demand over the past year.

The organisation works in with a range of supporting organisations, including Budget Advice, to ensure long-term assistance is provided where required.

Hanham started out his working life on return from boarding school, helping out on a farm. But he quickly changed careers after getting his first pay packet.

"When I did the figures I realised I would be a long time buying a farm," he said.

It seemed the natural choice to join his father Cliff's Hanham Concrete Products business, and he eventually took it over. Today his son Michael runs the business, named Hanham Enterprises.

Sport is ingrained in the Hanham family from way back. Cliff held three New Zealand professional boxing titles and Hanham followed in his footsteps to take up the sport, but rugby became his main passion. His love for the game had its foundation at St Bede's where a fellow member of the First XV was Jake Burns who later became an All Black. Hanham is today a life member of the Celtic Rugby Club and recalls a highlight of his rugby career was when the Mid Canterbury rep team, which he later went on to captain, famously won against the touring Australians in 1964.

The Ashburton showgrounds were packed with 5500 people for the August 18 clash and Hanham and his fellow players were the toast of the town after the startling 16-10 victory.

Hanham scored the first try in the opening three minutes, helping set the team up for the stunning upset.

"It's nothing specific about me, I was lucky enough to have some good players alongside," he said. But he can not help but remember the victorious feeling he and fellow team-mates felt on that day, and for some time afterwards.

"The following week Australia beat the All Blacks, so we thought we were pretty good for a while," he said.

# Twinning Report - April 2019

## SRI LANKA

There is a new president in Sri Lanka, Cheryl Silva, along with a new National Council. The distribution of funds is well managed and is directed into the most needed areas in each individual Council and its Conferences.

We are currently awaiting on Project requests for assistance from two Area Councils.

The Diocesan Council of Chilaw for funding to assist with the provision of sanitary facilities at Puttalam in the village of Sevagantheevu Murugan Kovil. Government statistics indicate 12% of the Puttalam population, 21,500, do not use or have access to a toilet

The village's current wc's are low level fence type structure, waste is then discarded into the nearby pond area or into a ditch.



Batticaloa where the local Council and its Conferences have had an association past 33 years with the Ozanam Centre a facility where the care of mentally retarded children are cared for. They are currently launching a project appeal to acquire a bus.



I had the opportunity to meet with the Bishops of Chilaw and Batticalo and they expressed their thanks for the ongoing generosity of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand. We are the main Twinning contributor for Sri Lanka.

The Twinning Co-ordinator for Sri Lanka, Melanie Bibile, is stepping down from the role. I wish to thank her for her input and support for the 3 years I have been working with her.

## TONGA

They have come through the hurricane season unscathed, different to what we experienced 12 months ago. During the past few months we have seen the completion of a housing project, partly funded by NZ, that was instigated 2 years ago.

Currently we are investigating possible funding opportunity through the NZ Government for specific projects.

Tonga have printed their own Rule Handbook in Tongan.



## SAMOA

Like Tonga we had no major hurricanes this season.

During 2019 we are investigating as what can be done to help a community with its water supply. There are issues with billing policies and the ability to pay water rates by several families. Project costings are needed and this may fall under the NZ Government funding opportunity.



# Obituaries



## Arnold Rushton

**Arnold Rushton, a long-serving stalwart of Holy Name Conference, Ashburton passed away on April 9th, 2019, aged 88.**

Arnold and his wife Elaine joined the conference almost 20 years ago when their parish of Tinwald began to share a priest with the Ashburton Parish. Arnold soon became president and represented the conference on the South and Mid Canterbury Area Council. On a couple of occasions he represented the council at National Council meetings. When he stepped down as president he took on the treasurer's role, aspects of which he held right until his death.

He joined the conference at a time it was rebuilding and did a lot to encourage new members, to form working relationships with other like-minded groups and to develop closer relations between the Conference shop and other opportunity shops. He was behind the purchase of a van for the conference Youth Co-ordinator and also assisted with the building of a new conference shop after the old one was earthquake damaged.

He helped develop small satellite groups of members in outlying small towns to do the Society work there. He also did a lot of work organising the Society's 2007 National AGM when it was held in Ashburton.

Coming from a farming background, he was a community minded man, serving for 21 years as a district councillor, including a time as deputy mayor, and was heavily involved with the Safer Community Council, the Mayfield Lions Club and Mayfield Golf Club. While a member of the Society's Area Council he was able to use his contacts in Lions to have the Toot For Tucker programme that had been running in Ashburton for a number of years extended to Timaru and other South Canterbury towns. Mayfield Lions contacts were also very useful in obtaining firewood for clients in the more distant parts of the conference's region.

Arnold was a deeply spiritual man, a regular attendee at weekday Masses, and could always be relied on to discuss spiritual reflections at meetings. His second religion was golf.

It was said at his funeral his life was divided four ways - Faith, Family, Farming and fellowship.

In spite of his large involvement in many community organisations he was fond of saying that St Vincent de Paul was the most worthwhile organisation he had belonged to.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Elaine, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## Contact Us

### News in Brief

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### We'd Love to Read your Stories:

If you have any news items that you would like us to put in our next 'News in Brief' e-newsletter, please send us a short article and a photo (if you have one) to Anne-Marie McCarten, email: [national@svdp.org.nz](mailto:national@svdp.org.nz)

## Jim Howitt

**1 January 1934 - 28 March 2019**

Jim passed away suddenly but peacefully in his chair, at home.

He was a long time member of St Joseph's Te Aroha conference and president for many years.

We miss him for his friendship, the caring, active duties he performed and astute knowledge of where help was most needed in our town.

*May he Rest in Peace with Noeline.*

