

News in Brief

E-news September 2023 | Issue 32

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



MEMBRE DE LA SOCIETE
DE SAINT-VINCENT DE PAUL



Visit to Chapel of St Vincent de Paul

– Mike Moore, Christchurch AC President

During a short stopover in Paris recently, I made a visit to the Chapel of St Vincent de Paul. The day dawned and after the traditional French breakfast of coffee & pastries, my wife & I started a walking tour, first on the list was the Chapel of St Vincent de Paul. As we arrived, daily Mass was starting with some 15-20 retired priests also participating. Whilst the short sermon went over our heads, we will always remember the amazing singing - not just here - but in all the churches - the harmony and involvement of all those present - and yes, there were many young people as well!

After Mass, we climbed the stairs behind the altar & visited the remains of St Vincent de Paul which were located above the altar. We prayed for our members & the future of the Society in NZ. When we descended the stairs, we had the opportunity to meet a number of the retired priests who were most welcoming and very pleased to see us.



The Chapel of Saint Vincent de Paul in Paris is dedicated to St Vincent de Paul (1581–1660) where his remains are venerated in a silver reliquary above the main altar. To honour their founder, the Vincentians built this chapel in order to shelter his relics. The first stone was laid on 17 August 1826. The chapel was consecrated on 1 November 1827 by Archbishop de Quélen. It was subsequently restored in 1983 and 1992.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

You will hopefully by now have heard of the devastating illness that Terry Jordan, your St Vincent de Paul president is currently experiencing. As a result Terry has constantly been in my prayers and I hope yours as well.

Personally, I was delighted when Terry accepted nomination for the role of president of the Society. I first met him while an assistant priest at Lower Hutt, and then later came to know him much better when ministering in Wainuiomata

in the 1980's. At that time he and Julie were raising their wonderful family but still found time to contribute greatly to parish life. There will be at this time a heavy burden on Julie his wife and rock, so now is a good time to let them know of our support. The dreams Terry has for the society are inspired, and our best way to show our support is to try and incorporate them into our prayer and thinking.

Fr Alan Roberts
– Spiritual Advisor



Twinning Report

AUGUST 2023

By Arthur Schultze, NZ Twinning



ASSIST A STUDENT

Support for this project was well received and supported at the launch in March 2023. To date we have NZ\$6k. This is to remind you the cut off point for donations for the 2024 considerations of student support is the 31st of December. We look forward to your support to assist needy students in our 3 twinned countries Sri Lanka, Tonga and Samoa.

Bank Details:

Society of St Vincent de Paul
02-0528-0208598-027
Reference: Assist a Student



SAMOA

We are working with Lily and Peter on 2 project proposals.

1. Developing a Learn a Skills Program for Young Kids

We are noticing that in a few families we are visiting, some children of school age have dropped out of school to help their parents sell stuff on the streets to be able to make ends meet. There are two families which we are looking at assisting as these young adult kids (12-18 years) do not wish to go back to school because they fear being teased as they would have to go back to younger classes but are much older now and we cannot force them. We have approached a retired homeschool teacher and pastor's wife. She is keen on the idea to do a teaching program to assist street kids or anyone who is selling wares on the street to learn new skills such as elei/clothes printing, cooking, basic reading/writing, handicraft making etc.

2. Building Project for 11 families

Families from both Upolu and Savaii who need a water tank require a new roof as they are either thatched leaves or rusted iron roofing which has to be replaced. Some of these families are still making trips to the nearest watering bore to collect water, or rely on other families nearby for water - there's additional issues such as infighting or refusing access etc.

We were looking at two options which was discussed at our meeting is to do either:

Build a container home - using container house concept (this is around \$10K tala upwards per container house)

Fix up existing the houses to be able to support a water tank installation but some houses may require a complete rebuild as the timber support posts will need to be changed

TONGA

We are getting printed 200 copies of the Rule which has been translated into Tongan. These will be shipped in the next couple of weeks.

We met with Sakapo in Auckland recently where we covered various areas regarding appropriate aid. The shop project is finally ready to start we are just waiting for the building permit. We have also signed off with His Eminence Soane Patita Paini Cardinal Mafi Diocese of Tonga a license to occupy for 20 years a site in the Ma'ufanga Parish facing Vuna Road.

Other assistance being considered is current office support needs. We are currently assisting with 2 containers from Christchurch going to Apifo'ou College in Nuku'alofa being coordinated by Sister Monika Mo'ale RSM and her team.

SRI LANKA

As reported previously the water supply project for the village of Aligambay in the east of the country. It has now been completed. It will assist greatly in household and agricultural needs.



PROJECT 2023 HEALTH EQUIPMENT AID

There is a great need for medical equipment in both Samoa and Tonga. We are requiring about 20 hospital beds, 50 wheelchairs, walkers, walking frames and other miscellaneous equipment.

I will be seeking the support of Area Council presidents in identifying personnel and their contact detail in the stores department of all hospitals in the country. There may even rest homes who could have equipment. I will be making contact shortly to find the best way to manage this appeal.



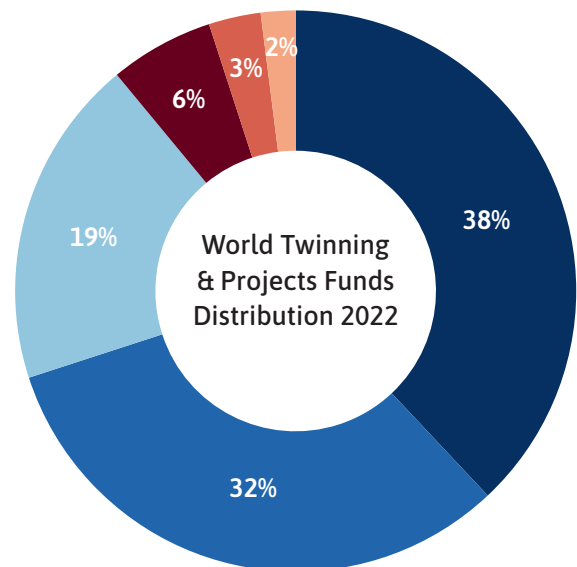
INTERNATIONAL

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN 2022:

Twinning Funds Distributed	1,267,316€
Twinning Project Funds Distributed	1,284,090€
Total Funds Distributed	2,551,406€ (NZ\$4.7m)

WHERE DID IT GO?

- Asia: €975,621
- Africa: €828,300
- Americas: €487,361
- Europe: €145,195
- Oceania: €66,156
- MENA: €48,774



Denture Care

TIMARU
CONFERENCE

Timaru Vincentians are helping many people in the community who would otherwise not be able to afford dentures.

Some hold their heads down, won't smile and cover their mouths with their hands to ensure no one can see their teeth or lack of them. This impacts their mental health and confidence, limits work opportunities and impacts their physical wellbeing when they are unable to eat properly.

Amazing transformations take place with those who have been assisted. They hold their heads high and have a new level of confidence.



Our local branch has been very busy since Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle flooded many homes and disrupted the lives of many families in this district in February. People and organisations from all around the country have been very generous to us with their donations of food, goods and money.

The first thing to arrive was a truckload of bedding from the SVDP area branch in Hamilton. A local parishioner delivered it to us via our treacherous roads, where it was processed in the den ready to be delivered to local flood-affected families.

Next, Campion College students arrived with a big load of tinned food which they had received from St John's College in Hamilton, and which they handed over to us for distribution. We bagged it up into food parcels and left it in the church foyer for people to distribute to flood-affected families, friends or anyone in need of extra food. The food parcels soon disappeared.



Above: SVDP secretary Helen Geard with the boxes of food donated by St John's College Hamilton which we were given to distribute to people in our community affected by the flood.

In the meantime, many individuals and groups from all around the country sent us donations of money which they had given personally or fundraised for. This amounted to almost \$25,000 and has been used to buy new fridge freezers, washing machines, and stoves for families whose homes were badly affected out at Te Karaka. It will take many months before these homes are dried, cleaned, repaired and ready to be inhabited again.

We have also made contact with a group of five local churches, "Te Hahi" and we all work together helping each other out and making sure that things don't get duplicated. One of the group

had a large donation (four shipping container loads) of almost new beds from the Millennium Hotel in Christchurch, which is being refurbished. We were given as many beds as we could store (the priests kindly loaned us one of their garages!) to use for flood-affected families.

The latest donation we received was \$50,000 from our National St Vincent de Paul Office Flood Recovery Fund for a project which we called "Whiteware for Wairoa". We had visited Wairoa and seen the devastation in Clyde, with over 200 houses flooded. The local Mayor had tried to get outside help but nothing much seemed to be happening. So the locals had given up waiting for outside/Government help and banded together to start the huge and depressing job of removing silt from around and under their homes, so they could begin the long process of restoring them. They had also commandeered the old 'New World Supermarket' in Queen Street to use as a Pataka (storehouse) where people could drop off donated goods and those that had lost everything could call in and get things they needed. It is working well.

The flood recovery is a work-in-progress which will take a long time to complete, but we will get there if we are all prepared to work together. Our thanks to all the SVDP branches, The Common Good Foundation and everyone who has contributed funds to help us to date.

Please keep all the flood-affected families in your prayers. They have a long and difficult journey ahead of them.



Above: Jim and Kathy from St Vincent de Paul and Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri.

Te Karaka update

People out at Te Karaka, who were severely affected by the cyclone, are just starting to move into their small temporary "Pod Homes" but are not expected to start returning to their own revamped houses much before Christmas. There is so much work still to do raising them up above flood level as well as cleaning, relining, plastering and painting the interior walls. Some of them also need re-roofing.

Well what a catastrophe we have all been through with Cyclone Gabrielle. Some people losing everything while others just lost power for 5 days. A group of young people mentored by Paola Minehan and Victoria Ruru were out delivering food parcels (many hundreds) to all those affected by the Cyclone. They visited Puketapu, Rissington Tangoio and other affected Areas.

These young people were in the first stages of setting up a new Conference and we at St Pat's were supporting them. Apart from buying food in there was a tremendous outpouring of food from our Community of St Patrick's Church.

Without these young people to help us distribute food to those where it was needed we as a small Conference would have found it very difficult.

As a Conference we take an interest in WITS What Ever It Takes especially through the Outreach Centre. We found that their centre had been turned into an emergency centre. There were approx 30 people who were sleeping over at night with having breakfast in the morning. All these people had lost most of their personal goods and together with the Vinnies Manager we were able to supply from the shop most of their needs. e.g. shoes, socks, blankets, clothes and personal items. The staff of Vinnies were so helpful and generous. We now have a box with our name on it in with clothes that are too good to throw out but not good enough to put up for sale in the shop.

As a conference our focus through this time of cyclone recovery is to support those families in the schools that in our community whose homes were displaced by the cyclone and those children who have suffered trauma. In the beginning the Catholic schools in our region were very very reluctant to ask for any funding even though we explained to them that a special cyclone fund had been set up especially for this purpose.

Here is a letter that we received from one school after visiting them:

"We are also finding the anxiety levels are higher than normal across many of our students. Some students have been severely traumatized by the cyclone and are struggling with concentration, attendance and managing to get through the day. We have identified that counseling and or coaching for these students would be beneficial. This professional help will give them strategies to get through the day with small achievable goals which helps with self esteem. This in turn helps them to see a way forward and reengage in their education and achieve academic success"

At another Catholic primary school that we support we found that there 4 students that were traumatised by the cyclone who never talk. Through the counselling the staff have noticed a change in the boys from having one to one attention with the counselling that we are providing.

We look and assess the need for counselling at the beginning of each school term and so far we have a positive feedback from the schools thanking us for our ongoing help.

As a Conference we provide counselling to other people in the community that come under our umbrella. Although the amount of food parcels given out to families appears to have diminished somewhat there are families whose children come to our Catholic schools hungry. Because of the Cyclone some families are still displaced and others have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and yet others through ethnic reasons do want to ask for anything but the children are given food as soon as they reach school and the Principal of the school is able through St Vincent de Paul to give out food vouchers to those families in need. The need for food is still very great but needs to be handled with care and without discrimination through the School Principals.

Uniforms, stationery – ordinary part of our Conference giving throughout the year has become the "norm". We have also assisted with payment of after school care, school camp fees, and helped with transport to and from school. One school asked for year 9 Big Day out for 75 students at a cost of \$3000 which included food, transport and activities. We received and outpouring of thank you letters. Oh to be 13 again just an example of the thank you letters below:

Dear St Vincent de Paul

I am so grateful for your generous sponsorship for the Big Day Out. I was upset not to be able to go to camp this year but this was better.

My favourite part was the movies and being able to bond with people I usually don't hang out with. The movie was funny and me and my friends enjoyed watching it.

I loved how everyone could connect in a fun way outside of school, and have a giggle.

I am ever so grateful for your kind sponsorship.

Thank you very much Anon



There are no words to express the trauma and pain of the aftermath of cyclone Gabrielle but working with the Principals of the schools but our little Conference can help to alleviate some of it with outside help.

Our help is ongoing to all those who have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle together with monetary donations from St Vincent de Paul's Cyclone relief and other donations.

Through our Conference's work with others that the values of St Vincent de Paul Society Generosity, Compassion, Empathy, Responsiveness, advocacy, Respect for people, Respect for the environment and courage have been met.

– Helen Butler, President

Helping Cyclone victims get through

In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, St Mary's Conference Taradale has been busy on the ground, helping the community and families in desperate need.

In mid-February Cyclone Gabrielle struck Hawke's Bay causing huge devastation to the region. Many land-based businesses and households were severely affected and people have struggled to get back on their feet.

In the months since the cyclone hit, St Mary's Conference in Taradale has been very proactive. Funds were provided from the St Vincent de Paul National Office for their work with cyclone-affected families.

An August report on the Conference's activities notes: "Since March we have visited 59 families and gifted \$98,500 to them. We have heard about people in need by word of mouth, neighbour to neighbour, through friends and families of those we meet."

The Conference reports that the issue now is not survival from flood waters and silt but people finding the resilience to pick up their lives and continue.

"Stress is very high in the communities, especially among the men. Their whole meaning and purpose for living has been wiped away. They have been busy with orchard and farm work all their lives and now there is nothing but debt, debris, loss – their lovely homes gone, vintage cars, some restored lovingly over the years, all gone and many of these people in their seventies. How do you find hope?"

In their visits the Vinnies have brought compassion and a readiness to listen, as well as funds.

"Our visits involve just sitting and listening, giving hugs which even these weather-hardened men relish, (one man said I've learned how great hugs can be!). We offer some funds for them to spend on themselves as they wish, and get some time away from the devastation. All those given funds send an email when received so we have a good paper trail for accountability.

They assure us it all helps.

"They appreciate knowing they are not forgotten. Again and again they say it really helps to be listened to with compassion. They are very grateful to SVDP and the people of New Zealand for their generosity.

"I've said this before and I continue to say it, we are so privileged to be in this position, it is so humbling."

Meanwhile the Taradale Conference carries on with its regular work – supporting families, collecting food donations from church continue and delivering food to the Napier Family Centre.



President-elect presents credentials to Pope Francis



A bust of Ozanam was gifted to the Pontiff

Brother Juan Manuel Buergo Gómez was this week in Rome to present his credentials to Pope Francis in his capacity as President General-elect. The cordial meeting took place yesterday, September 6, in St. Peter's Square, after the traditional Catechesis on "Wednesday's Audience".

On the occasion, the President-elect said to the Pontiff: "Your Holiness, I am Juan Manuel Buergo, the new President General of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, from Spain. I give you this figure of Frederick Ozanam, in the hope of his forthcoming sanctification".

In response, Pope Francis said: "Ah, very nice!, go ahead, blessings and congratulations. Greetings to the Society of St. Vincent! Persevere in the cause of Ozanam".

The new President General was accompanied by brothers Antonio Gianfico and Sebastián Gramajo, as well as Father Giuseppe Guerra, CM, postulator of Ozanam's cause for canonization.

Next Saturday, in the Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris, brother Renato Lima will lead the inauguration ceremony of brother Juan Manuel.

Ecclesiastical authorities and Vincentians from various parts of the world have already confirmed their attendance. Ozanam TV will broadcast everything live on Facebook in four languages.

Let us pray for the success of the new administration that will take over the Council General International for the period 2023/2029.

When St Vincent de Paul in New Plymouth had a shortage of helpers to provide community meals, it was a case of students to the rescue.

Every Tuesday night in New Plymouth for the last seven years, the Vinnies offer a community meal for anyone who would like to partake. The free meal is cooked and served in St Joseph's Church Hall and usually attracts 35-50 diners each week. Meals are also provided and delivered for those who cannot attend.

However recently the roster had not allowed for a fifth Tuesday of the month, and there were no cooks rostered on. Stuck for cooks and helpers, Vincentian Bob Goodyear, asked if the Sacred Heart Girls College students could help out. Here is his report on the enthusiastic response he received:

"We casually asked Magdalena, Deputy Head Girl Student Council, whether Sacred Heart students could help. The next day she came back and said 'Yes we can do that'. And they did! A BBQ meal, barbequed on site, was provided for diners followed by fabulous desserts.

A huge 'thank you' to the Sacred Heart Year 12 and 13 students, the brownie experts, chocolate cake experts, the chocolate icing expert, the vegetarian dish cook and the 3 BBQ operators. Thank you also to the year 8 students from SHGC who came along to help.

A particular 'thank you' to Magdalena for organising the meal, chopping 5kg of onions with Mavis and cleaning up after the meal. Thank you Alex, for providing the succulent sausages, Etu, who slaved over the pavlovas, Carrena, for her help in the kitchen, Chris for washing up with assistance from students and the SVDP volunteer who collected the chips. There were 38 diners served and 10 carry-out meals delivered by Carrena and Chris after everything was finished."



Top photo: Student helpers serving the meals.
Above: Hard at work, cooking the sausages.

YOUNG ADULTS VINNIES CONFERENCE, HAWKE'S BAY

In the Footsteps of Christ

A group of seven SVDP Conference members from Napier and Hastings has initiated a Young Adults Vinnies Conference in Hawke's Bay. The Young Adults Conference began on 11 March, 2023 and has met weekly in Hastings and Napier since then. Here is a report on progress so far.

"We began this mission after Cyclone Gabrielle. As young people we saw a massive need within our communities and believed that the voices of younger generations walking in the footsteps of Christ needed to be heard. Our newly-founded conference is formally known as 'Ark of the Covenant' and our aim is to establish this group officially with the support of our Hawke's Bay Area presidents.

Our name is an important symbol of faith and references God's pledge to dwell among his people and guide them from the mercy seat on top of the Ark. This is so important to us as this is God's work and we are his workers, which is such a privilege.

We have appointed members to the roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer within our Conference and have already discussed many ideas/ future projects. Some of our recent activities since the Cyclone have been weekly food parcel deliveries, home visits and nurturing the wellbeing of our young people in the Hawkes Bay region.

This month we helped at the Hawke's Bay Hospital, assisting in-patients to attend church service in the Hospital Chapel. We spent time talking, praying and getting to know the patients. You could tell they appreciated our company and enjoyed being in the presence of young people."

ARK OF THE COVENANT

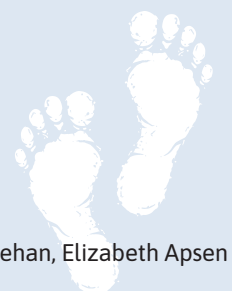
President: Kelly Minehan

Vice President: June Sheardon

Secretary: Taylah Vō

Treasurer: Meki Savanaiaana

Members: Jayden Ilima, Eamon Minehan, Elizabeth Apsen



Basil's brush with destiny

ARTICLE SUPPLIED BY
TOP SOUTH MEDIA

Basil Brush is a fictional fox, best known for his appearances on daytime British children's television. A treasured childhood toy has been reunited with its grateful owner 16 years after it disappeared.

Jacqui Baulk from Blenheim was devastated when her much-loved Basil Brush toy went missing.

A surprise gift from her grandmother half a century ago, Basil was lost in a house move and Jacqui thought she would never see him again.

So, when he showed up at Picton's St Vincent de Paul's charity shop, she couldn't believe her eyes, she says.

"That Basil Brush means more to me than any other gift and when I saw him, I just cried. "Still, to this day, I remember unpacking and he was never there. I couldn't believe it when I saw him online."

Basil Brush is a fictional fox, best known for his appearances on daytime British children's television. The character has featured on children's television from the 1960s to the present day. Given to Jacqui by her grandmother May Baulk, Basil Brush was her pride and joy she says. She recalls staying with her grandmother in Dunedin when she was six years old as her mother was ill.

"We went into Arthur Barnett department store. I was staring at this display of Basil Brushes just going 'wow.' He was very real to me.

"She turned to me and asked, 'did I want it?' I thought it was a trick as she was quite strict. She didn't keep him for Christmas or my birthday, she just gave him to me."

St Vincent de Paul manager Marianne Govaerts says Basil was donated to the store about six months ago. While the shop was closed for renovations, Marianne sold lots of items online. But Basil was different, she explains.

"Something stopped me, so many times, from selling him. I didn't know why but now I know the reason.

"Jacqui recognised him because he has a tooth missing. She cried on the phone when we spoke and when she came to pick him up."

Staff wouldn't take payment for Basil so instead Jacqui made a donation. The money was used to give warm clothes to 17 RSE workers who called into the High Street shop looking for warm clothes.

"You share kindness, and you find you get it back tenfold," Marianne says. Jacqui says when she got older, she carefully put Basil Brush in a bag to protect him from the passage of time.

Losing him meant she lost a tangible connection to her grandmother; one she is delighted to have back.

'He's definitely not spending any more time in a bag now, he's out on display. He's just perfect.



Jacqui Baulk has been reunited with her childhood Basil Brush. Pictured with St Vincent de Paul volunteer Anne Goodyer.

The General Assembly of the St Vincent de Paul Society was held in Rome from 12 –16 June 2023.

The International Council General (CGI) comprises various bodies with a range of responsibilities which govern the Society at the international level as described in Part II of The Rule. The General Assembly is the highest governing body of the CGI and includes National Presidents from every country. The General Assembly normally meets every six years and its key functions are to elect the International President General (PGI) and to approve changes to Parts I and II of The Rule.

Oceania was well represented at this General Assembly, which was delayed for a year because of the Covid pandemic. The countries from Oceania that attended were: Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu. Micronesia could not attend because the National President was expecting a baby and Papua New Guinea does not have a National Council. The Assembly was also attended by Claire Victory, who chairs IFAC which oversees the financial management of CGI; Kevin McMahon, a member of the International Commission for Aid and Development (CIAD); and Frank Brassil, ITVP Oceania.

For many representatives from Oceania the trip to Rome was new experience and a very long and arduous journey, in some cases comprising four or five flights each way and

overnight stays. Vincentians in New South Wales very kindly hosted the National President of Kiribati and the Northern Territory hosted the National President of Timor Leste as they spent some days between flights. For all National Presidents this was their first General Assembly and for many their first visit to Europe.

The Assembly elected Br Juan Manuel Buergo Gómez from Spain as its next International President General. The General Assembly also approved important changes to The Rule:

- The General Assembly will from now meet every three years.
- The age limit for election of a PGI was increased from 65 to 75.
- The requirement for a candidate for PGI to be an active Conference member was added.
- Some changes were made to the structure of the various bodies comprising the International Council General which governs the Society between General Assemblies.

The General Assembly is the highest exercise of international solidarity within the Society and National Presidents from countries large and small, rich and poor come together as equals to determine who will lead the Society and the rules by which we govern ourselves. The coming together of so many Vincentians from such different backgrounds is also an important opportunity to experience the diversity and unity of

the Society, to appreciate the extraordinary range of cultures we embrace and to take home a new and deeper insight into the global potential of the Society.

On the morning of 14 June an audience with Pope Francis was scheduled, but unfortunately he was in hospital recovering from surgery. As an alternative, the Vincentians visited St Peter's Basilica and attended mass concelebrated by the chaplain to the CGI, Fr Andreas Motto.

The photo below shows the Oceania representatives to the General Assembly in St Peter's Basilica in front of the statue of St Vincent de Paul, together with the International Vice President for Structure, who coordinates the work of the ITVPs around the world.



The people in the photo are, from left to right:

Br Rabaere Rikari, National President, Kiribati,
Br Maurice Yeung, International Vice President, Structure, Hong Kong.
Sr Julian Ketai, National President, Solomon Islands
Sr Jackie Faasisala, National Vice President, Samoa
Br Ambrosio Meltieres, National President, Vanuatu
Br Mika Mataka, National President, Fiji
Br Tevita (Sakapo) Lolohea, National President, Tonga
St Claire Victory, Chair, CGI IFAC
Br Mark Gaitani, National President, Australia
Br Etelvino Carvalho, National President, Timor Leste,
Br Frank Brassil, ITVP Oceania
Br Kevin McMahon, CIAD
Br Terry Jordan, National President, New Zealand



World Youth Day 2023

PAOLA MINEHAN
- NATIONAL YOUTH ADVISOR



As the National Board's Youth and Young Adult Director, I was privileged to be able to attend the international Saint Vincent De Paul meeting in Portugal. Accompanying me was the Kapi Mana Youth Coordinator, Amanda Joe.

The meeting was at the local secondary school in Felgueiras, a small town about two hours from the capital of Lisbon. I was amazed at the coordination and effort the town had put into our meeting which had more than 2,000 participants. We received a big welcome from the mayor and then spent the next four days getting to know each other. Sleeping on the floor of the gymnasium and experiencing the school cafeteria were definitely not highlights. Getting to know different people and cultures definitely was a highlight.

Amanda organised a display showing her work relating to the environment including the seed bank, beach clean-ups etc. Her display was really well received with a lot of visitors and a lot of Google Translate!

It's always amazing to see how similar the Society's work is in different countries. We all visit the sick and lonely, provide food parcels, help people access medical care etc. A highlight was the Indonesian initiative called "Oxygen cylinders for humanity". Run by the Daughters of Charity, the initiative has so far delivered oxygen cylinders to more than 2,500 people.

Homelessness and unaffordable housing is an issue around the world. Speakers from the Famvin Homeless Alliance (a branch of the Society) told their stories about helping people worldwide – they even have a project in Auckland called De Paul House. We were all invited to take part in their 13 Houses Campaign with resources available on their website vhomelessalliance.org. The aim is to transform the lives of 10,000 people who are homeless, refugees, internally displaced and slum-dwellers within five years.

During the day we battled the heat-wave and attended workshops all over the town. The evenings were for adoration, Mass and prayer. Different countries displayed their talents, dancing and singing well into the night.

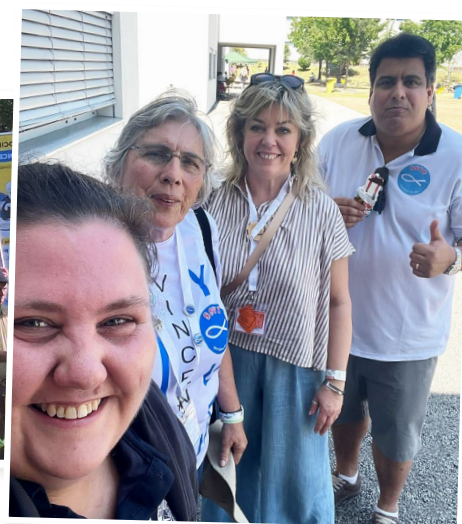
We made great connections with the English-speaking groups. We are all very much on the same journey taking the Society into the future. There was a focus on appointing youth coordinators to ensure members continue to have a positive experience. These people take responsibility for the legislative and regulatory requirements that our countries have and which provide the frameworks to work in.

Youth Directors oversee the development of Vinnies in schools, and the employment of youth coordinators and facilitators to animate our programmes. Countries with this nationwide initiative and structure had groups who came from a variety of places and backgrounds.

Our next stop was World Youth Day. As members of St Vincent De Paul, we joined England/Wales as hosts at the parish church of Santa Engracia. Every morning we welcomed Bishops from different places such as Texas and Johannesburg. They led us in prayer, reconciliation, adoration and the Mass. The different Bishops had their own fan clubs that followed them. Some young Catholics followed the new "Trad movement", wearing veils etc.

The Pope went past us a few times in his Pope-mobile which was a highlight. But it was meeting and getting to know so many different people that made the event for me. They counted nearly two million of us Catholics in Lisbon. It was exciting to be part of such a huge event. We were a bit famous coming from such a long way away and everyone welcomed us warmly.

I hope to send a large group of Vincentians to the next international meeting in South Korea so they too can see how international the Society is and how youth are such a vital part of its future.



1. Amanda and I with youth leaders from Canada. 2. Opening ceremony - spot the NZ flag! 3. L to R: Cass Bull - National Manager - Membership, Mission & Youth, SVdP President of Portugal, me, Renato - immediate past international President.



Ruth Powell (1929 - 2023)

Ruth was always a busy woman with a big family of nine children. It was only after the children grew up and left home that Ruth had time to join the SVDP Hawera Conference and become part of the Friday team at the shop.

Ruth liked style so she was perfect in decorating our shop window. This enticed people to come in and browse and frequently purchase the article just put on display. Ruth could quickly move to replace the item.

She showed a genuine interest in customers and she liked to chat with them as they did with her. Not only that, but Mary Frank, a school friend of Ruth was part of the Friday team and over a cup of tea, they would frequently regale us with stories of that time. Great giggles would often result.

In the school holidays, Rachel, one of her granddaughters really enjoyed the shop experience and loved being useful. Maybe a seed was sown!

Ruth attended our monthly meetings with great interest. With deteriorating hearing she withdrew as she couldn't hear well enough to contribute. Reading the Minutes had to substitute for the genuine experience.

Ruth walked with Jesus in her every day life and was a great prayer. She was a woman of deep faith and true to the Vincentian spirit.

Ruth died peacefully, surrounded by love, at Annie Brydon Lifecare on 31 August 2023.

May she be at peace.

Peter Williams

Peter Williams joined the Richmond Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul in Nelson in 2013. He was President of the Conference from 2015-2018.

In 2017-2022 he was elected the Nelson Area Council Treasurer of St Vincent de Paul. He was an innovative Treasurer who brought our IT and Financial systems up to date.

Peter was compassionate and generous to those in need.

Peter showed tremendous courage and unshakable belief in his faith and the journey he was on. He was a great example of a Christian heritage which guided him in his life on Earth.

Peter was a gentleman.

He will be sorely missed.

FAREWELL FAREWELL FAREWELL

– Jos Pattison

Rosa Hoogeveen - our Valiant Woman (1923 - 2023)

Rosa's beginning was not that of a typical Kiwi. She was born in Indonesia of Dutch parents. During the Second World War when the Japanese invaded the country she was incarcerated for five years in a Prisoner of War camp. After the war ended, freedom came, but without the benefits of any financial help. Thanks to a friend, Rosa, Sake (Bill) her husband, and their two boys were able to leave Indonesia, and come to New Zealand. Life was a struggle. Eventually, they settled in Hawera and both gained employment.

In 1968 Rosa began her volunteer journey in our SVDP shop in Hawera. Rosa worked there for 40 years and for her it was a happy place; it was a place of both giving and receiving kindness. Regular visitors to the shop over those years would greet Rosa if they saw her in the street or met her in a cafe when she was with a friend enjoying a coffee.

Rosa was a volunteer from 1968 until 2008. Those early years were spent in several rented premises until we were in the position to purchase our own shop on High Street in November 1995. Rosa was very much a part of the transitions in our shop history and she loved being part of it all.

Rosa Hoogeveen passed away peacefully at Trinity Home and Hospital on 24th August 2023 in her 100th Year. We give thanks for her long life. May she rest in peace.

Holy Name conference in Ashburton has lost a number of members and others associated with the conference this year. Your prayers are requested for them all.

Former conference treasurer **Bart O'Brien** died in Auckland on January 28. In recent years he had lived between Auckland and Ashburton, and when in Ashburton was a volunteer on the furniture team.

Gerald Dolan who was a conference member, helper on the furniture team and supplier of quantities of eggs to the food bank, died on May 23.

On March 6 **Lindsay McDonnell** died, followed on June 23 by her good friend **Margaret Prendergast**. Both were not only conference members but were also part of the shop's team of volunteers.

On July 30 **Kathryn McKendry**, a long-time member of the conference's satellite group in Methven, died.

Hazel Benke who had been a shop volunteer for more than 25 years died on August 6.

August 25 saw the death of conference member and furniture team helper **Austin Lysaght**.

Del O'Connor



Del O'Connor of Westport passed away after a short illness on 6th April 2023, aged 88. An end to a life that was typical of many of her generation with a similar faith – total commitment to family, Church and the numerous visitors who called in over the many, many years.

On leaving Sacred Heart Girl's College in Christchurch as Dux and athletics champion, she had aspirations of becoming a nurse. This was not to be, as her ailing father needed help on the dairy farm at Seddonville. This set a pattern in her life of putting others first before herself.

She met her husband John at the local athletics. Damien her oldest son said in the eulogy it was the start of a resolute direction to Dad and family. They began farming in Buller Gorge, isolated but always connected – dad with his meetings and Mum through the Legion of Mary, Westport Harriers Club, St. Canices Church and latterly the Society of St Vincent de Paul. She performed countless acts of kindness that made people's days just that little better, and if we strive to do the same we will keep her memory alive.

Del had 7 children, one passing away not long after birth. She and John, who dies 5 years ago, loved travelling around the countryside watching the grandchildren play all their sports. The main thing is to have a go, she would say.

Del has had her go and her pew now has one less parishioner in it. May you Rest in Peace Del.

Fr Mervyn Hanifin (1946 - 2023)

Society of St Vincent de Paul Dunedin

Bernard Hall (August 2023)

Society of St Vincent de Paul Christchurch

Pat Consedine (June 2023)

A many decades long member of the St Vincent de Paul Society Christchurch Conference, Pat was a holy good man, with a great heart for justice, who did his best all his life.

Russell Williamson (July 2023)

Society of St Vincent de Paul Christchurch

Mick Alder (September 2023)

A long serving, dedicated and committed Vincentian, Mick joined the Society 44 years ago in Nelson and acted as an Area Council President and Conference President many times over the years. Mick also took an active interest in supporting and promoting the Young Vinnies.



From the Archives

Prepared by Anne-Marie McCarten



HOSPITAL VISITATION 1904

Visits to the sick and aged have been an inherent part of the special works of the Society in New Zealand.

In a report to the 1904 Australasian Catholic Congress, Mr JJ Wilson of Christchurch wrote in *in alia* 'The hospital and other institutions are regularly visited, Catholic literature is distributed to patients who are also subsequently assisted in various ways'.

There have been restraints on male members of the Society visiting women in hospitals and homes and, for that matter and in honesty, ladies are better than most men in hospital visiting.

The Ladies auxiliaries were active in the special work and it will be noted that both Wellington and Hutt Valley Councils had auxiliaries specifically for hospital visitation.

Without the intention of singling out one individual out of the many ladies who have in dedication visited hospitals, one lady, Mrs Margaret Healy, is mentioned solely as an example. Mrs Healy, a member of the well-known Lawlor family and a sister of writer Pat Lawlor who died in 1958. In the December 1958 Bulletin there is a tribute 'Requiescat' written by Eileen Duggan. It includes the following passage:

"At the De Marillac Home for the aged she would sing or recite or tell a story with a glint in it and that stayed long after she was gone. For twenty five years, as hospital visitor for the St Vincent de Paul Society, she went the rounds of the wards, the patients kept an eye on the door for her coming, with anecdotes of her three pilgrimages to Europe which greatened mind as well as soul."

**IN MY LIFE I WANT TO
BECOME BETTER AND DO
A LITTLE GOOD.**

Blessed Frederic Ozanam
FOUNDER, SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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We'd love to read your stories:

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Anne-Marie McCarten
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