

# 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



## FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**On 27 September hundreds of thousands of members in 153 countries round the world celebrated the patronal feast of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.**



The Society as we know it was founded in Paris 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam and his young friends (aged late teens and early twenties) as means to develop their faith.

They formed a Conference of Charity but very quickly learnt that they had to do more than just talk, realising they needed to take positive action by actually visiting and helping the poor. The Conference of Charity rapidly became the Society of St Vincent de Paul after they adopted him as their Patron Saint. Frédéric and his young friends were inspired by Vincent's life and work for the poor some 170 years earlier. As a priest Vincent had been working as a Chaplain to wealthy Catholic families. He lived a worldly way of life until one day he was called to give the Last Rites to a very poor dying man. In that encounter he personally experienced the love of God and became a different person, devoting his life to the service of the poor, helping them with love and practical assistance.

For most people the face of the Society in New Zealand is food parcels and Op Shops and yes, we do those things. But they are a means to an end and there is much more to Vinnies.

The Society, which is unique in that it is a totally independent lay organisation, came to New Zealand in 1868 the Society seeking to achieve the same goals as its parent body; growing the faith of its members and putting that faith into practice by assisting

the poor in a practical and personal way. On his very first visit to the poor in Paris in winter, Frédéric took some firewood to help them heat their home in the slums of Paris; and even today in New Zealand we still bring firewood to those need of home heating.

The Society is structured in such a way the focus is always on the Poor and Marginalised members of our community. The local Conference is the kingpin, and its members are the apostles at the "coalface" and it is through them that we carry out our Mission of offering practical and personal help. Like St Vincent de Paul, we want our members and the people they help, have the opportunity to experience the love of God through their actions.

As Pope Benedict XVI said " people discover Christianity not because of learned talks or books, but because they have experienced God's love in a practical way."

Local Parishes have always been and still are very supportive and nearly all our Conferences have a connection with the local parish. Today, in New Zealand we have approximately 1100 Members, 1735 Volunteers and around 3000 in our Young Vinnies groups which are mainly school based.

**Gerry Stevens**  
– National President

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## THE JOURNEY FROM TARANAKI TO SAMOA/TONGA

### To support the Tongan/Samoa appeal the Conferences of Taranaki joined forces.

Six local members from Hawera met one evening and sorted good clean mainly cotton clothing into 16 banana boxes. These were taken to New Plymouth and loaded into their van along with 36 clothes boxes, 12 linen and bedding boxes, some medical equipment and school desks that New Plymouth had prepared.

My husband Barry and I drove then to Auckland where we were welcomed by Del and her team at the Hub in Auckland. While the most obliging young men took care of unloading the van, Del took us for morning tea. Afterwards she showed us the Hub and all the marvellous work that they do there. The men had put all our banana boxes on two pallets glad wrapped them already to be loaded into the shipping container for Tonga and Samoa.

We in Taranaki would be more than happy to do this on a more regular basis with our surplus clothing. Thanks to the Hub for coordinating this project.

**Annette Orchard**  
Taranaki Area President



Left to right: Del Soti, Annette and Barry Orchard.

## ASHBURTON CONFERENCE

### It has been a busy year for Holy Name Conference, Ashburton.

Conference membership stands at 30, with about five new members joining this year. Associate members in Methven and Rakaia contribute to Society work locally, supported by the conference. Around 30 others assist in operating the Conference shop.

From July to December, about 360 people received food deliveries, clothing, and furniture. We also funded septic tank and vehicle repairs, accommodation for three families, and medical bills. Several referrals were made to "Reducing Power Bills and Energy Poverty" education. We've seen an increase in requests for help from Pacifica families, often large households.

Our share of the annual Lions Club Toot For Tucker appeal was 200 banana boxes of food, with the Salvation Army getting a similar number and Presbyterian Support getting about 50 boxes.

Several members completed training to "test and tag" electrical goods, creating another shop income source. A six-month trial of opening the shop on Saturdays began in January.

There have been several highlights recently, including hosting the annual Anointing Mass for the Parish and buying a large new furniture van for the shop, but the biggest highlight is the opening in December of what we are calling The St Peter's Centre.

For more than two years the conference has been planning,

fundraising and working towards completion of this project which has seen the former St Peter's Anglican Church purchased and converted into a short-term refuge for domestic harm victims. This will be operated by the Police and He Waka Tapu, the agency that holds the Police family harm contract in the area. The conference will be responsible for housekeeping only after each person leaves and will have no actual contact with people staying there.

This aspect of the project came about because over the past few years He Waka Tapu has involved us increasingly with supplying welfare care to their clients, and we became aware of the level of the problem in the area. The late Mick Hanham saw the church advertised and before we knew where we were we owned it.

About 80% of the building stores oversized furniture for the shop. While we can't sell from this site, items are viewable via shop cameras. We now have storage for Toot For Tucker food, pre-packed emergency welfare supplies, a garage for vehicles, and a small office for country clients.

Food Rescue Aoraki will operate from St Peter's Centre two days a week, supplying food for eight Ashburton-area food banks. Their support has been invaluable, making this collaboration a natural fit.

*More on the St Peter's Centre project can be read in the article on page 3.*

## NEW MULTI-USE COMPLEX IN ASHBURTON

**Ashburton's Holy Name Conference opened a new multi-use facility in December last year that has a number of advantages for the work the conference carries out in Mid Canterbury.**

The conference's new shop was opened in 2016 to replace its earthquake damaged one, but even though it was larger than the original shop it soon proved to be not large enough, with insufficient storage for some of the larger items such as furniture. We were using a borrowed parish building for overflow storage and another parish building for our van, but that arrangement had a limited life.

In addition, the annual Toot for Tucker food drive, run by a Lions Club, provides several district food banks, including St Vincent de Paul, with several hundred banana boxes of canned and dry food that has to be stored until it is used. We had been using a private building for storage for our share, but that arrangement was about to come to an end.

We had also started working in with He Waka Tapu, the organisation that locally holds the Police contract to help family harm victims. They would come to us for food and other necessities for people they had rehomed. That working partnership led us to learn more about the family harm issue, how prevalent it is in the district, and especially the fact there are no residential facilities in the town for victims, with refuge accommodation having to be arranged in either Timaru or Christchurch.

The search began for an additional building that would meet these needs, but without a lot of luck until, in September 2022, St Peter's Anglican church in the suburb of Allenton, on the opposite side of town to the shop, was put up for sale by tender for only three weeks. Conference members inspected the building and decided it was ideal. Thanks to Terry Jordan a loan was arranged from the Common Fund, a tender put in, and after some adjustment, accepted. Then the hard work began.

The church had been built in 1952 as a church hall, so it could be used for social functions as well as church services. Because of that it had a large kitchen, a big foyer and two toilet blocks. It was obvious that part could be converted into an accommodation unit for family harm victims. The nave of the church was large enough for furniture storage, the former chancel was large enough for food storage, another room was ideal for pre-prepared welfare packages that were taking up shop space, and the property was large enough to build a garage for the vans.

All of these activities could happen without a resource consent because the zoning was residential. The main work that had to be done, other than building a garage and fencing,



*The front door of the St Peter's Centre is the entrance to the flat for family harm victims. The side doors give access to the storage and food handling areas.*

was earthquake strengthening. This was not a local authority requirement but a requirement of the SVdP national board. It involved re-roofing, re-piling and installing transverse walls. As it turned out much of this work was to our advantage as things such as the transverse walls were required in any case.

The other large part of the job was raising the finance. We were helped with a significant bequest and grants from several funding agencies such as Lion Foundation, Community Trust, Rotary Club, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation and the Trevor Wilson Charitable Trust as well as a very sympathetic building contractor and very helpful district council.

Because the family harm flat is unstaffed it will only be used for those at the lower end of the scale, with more serious cases still going to the Timaru refuge. The flat has a large bed, bunks for children, a cot and a couch that becomes a bed. Police have the access code and can place a victim and possibly children there overnight. He Waka Tapu will then work with the people and the conference members' involvement will only be to clean the place ready for the next use.

A bonus has been that we are also able to give some space to Food Rescue Aoraki as a base for their Ashburton operation. Two days a week they supply nine food banks in the town, including the conference, with short-dated food rescued from supermarkets.

Our consent does not allow us to carry out a retail operation but we have installed cameras that can be operated from the shop to zoom in on a particular item of furniture if a customer asks for something specific. And a new concrete block garage allows us to house both our vans.

We have retained the original name given the building when it was built in 1952, calling it The St Peter's Centre.

It has been a very successful operation, allowing us to solve several of our storage issues as well as helping two partner agencies, He Waka Tapu and Food Rescue Aotearoa, both of which are also helping people in need.

## FOOD FOR ALL

**Food Rescue Aoraki Trust has a new site for its Ashburton warehouse, enabling it to meet a growing demand from foodbanks.**

The only full food rescue service in Mid and South Canterbury now operates from the Society of St Vincent de Paul's new St Peter's Centre in Allenton two days per week.

Operations manager Helen McKeown said the "lovely clean bright space" was perfect for the service, and was provided free by St Vinnies.

Every Tuesday and Thursday the Timaru based trust sets up the warehouse at the centre.

Staff and volunteers rescue food, check items on site to ensure they meet standards on packaging, best-before dates and freshness.

They then fill boxes and allocate them to organisations which distribute food parcels.

The organisations include Waitahi Primary Health, Base Youth Centre, Ashburton Senior Citizens, YMCA, Hakatere Marae, Salvation Army, St Vincent De Paul, Community House Mid Canterbury (servicing four small non-profit groups), Ashburton kindergartens and early childhood centres.

McKeown said the food was rescued mostly from supermarkets, as well as greengrocers, farmers and food manufacturers.

"The demand has increased because people are really struggling more," McKeown said.



**SORTED:** Food Rescue operations manager Helen McKeown (left) with He Waka Tapu administrator Demanda Clucas loading up food for the organisation's clients.



*NEW SPACE:* Food Rescue Aoraki Trust volunteers Anita Hanara (left) and Amy Prentice at the Ashburton warehouse. Photo Susan Sandys.

The trust previously operated from a former school classroom on Havelock St. In 2023, about 50 tonnes of food was rescued and distributed in the town, then last year this increased to about 70 tonnes.

"Luckily we have had an increase in the amount of food we rescue, and that's mainly because we drive it," she said.

This was by keeping in touch with the Ashburton supermarkets and other providers. The Ashburton and Timaru foodbanks it supplies altogether reached about 2500 people each week.

St Vinnie's president Trevor Wall said demand on the charity's foodbank had increased "significantly" in the last two years.

"I think the economic situation has made it worse," Wall said.

It was a pleasure for the charity to provide the space at the new St Peter's Centre for the trust, as it provided such a valuable service, he said.

The new centre opened about six weeks ago after the charity renovated the former Anglican church building, costing about \$450,000. Part of the building is a one-bedroom residential unit for family harm cases, being managed by police.

Article courtesy of *The Ashburton Courier*.



**Food Rescue Aoraki (FRA)** is a Non-Profit organisation that rescues food from producers, supermarkets and other outlets, donating this FREE food to the community.

[www.foodrescueaoraki.org.nz](http://www.foodrescueaoraki.org.nz)

## AUCKLAND WEST AREA COUNCIL

### Holy Moley!

That's the Holy Spirit I said to my grandson. He looked at me like I was a little crazy while humming the music commonly associated with a horror movie. Then I explained. A chance meeting with a woman sitting alone on a street bench, lead me to help not only her family but 6 others. That's the work of the Holy Spirit. He said, ok nana, you should help everyone who needs help ok – it's not hard.

He's right! It's not hard, it just comes in different ways. Auckland West have just sponsored an U11 Marist Rugby League Team, while preserving the dignity of 5 families, keeping their sons off the street and with brand new gear that they can call their own. Our SVDP Logo will be on the back of their training shirts, hoodies and bags. They play weekly for 4 months all over Auckland, and train twice a week. Most have said they will use their bags for school as well. All giving our Society exposure in random places. As a team they will do 3 projects for Auckland West this season: cleaning up an elderly person's garden; singing at a Rest Home; serving morning tea after Mass. To top it all off I have 6 new Conference members and 2 new volunteers for our shop!

We also helped a few families with Catholic College School Fees. I don't know if it's just in Auckland or not but holy moley how are families meant to pay all these extra charges added to the attendance dues. A public college is \$200 per year. A Catholic College is around \$2000 + a \$700 uniform not to mention the laptop/tablet they now have to have amongst other stationery – it's crazy. I was told Attendance Dues are compulsory the other added costs are not. I paid the Attendance Dues for a family thinking the school would write off the balance. They didn't, the family were sent debt collectors letters for the balance. I tried to find the Holy Spirit to help me with communications with the school but couldn't and we ended up paying the balance.

Please join me in praying for the Catholic Education Services, School's and Boards of Trustees to stand by the right of all Catholic kids to have a Catholic education by having affordable fees, uniforms and stationery! There is no love or compassion in a debt collectors letter!

Keep up the fight for Justice and carry on doing all the good work around your regions.

**Paula Betham**

Auckland West Area Council President

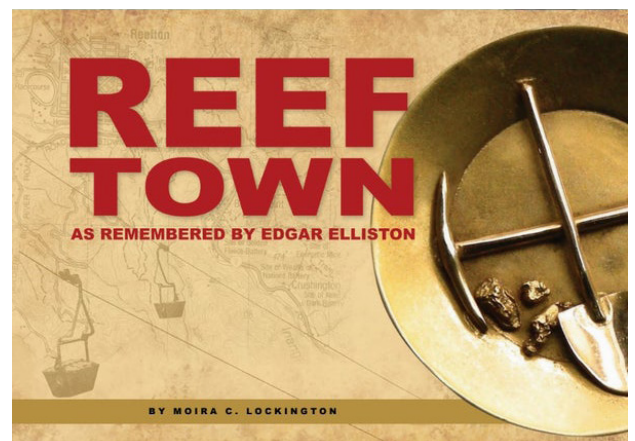
## KINGS SERVICE MEDAL TO REEFTON VINCENTIAN

**The KSM nomination was put forward after Moria Lockington a Reefton Vincentian published a 214 page book including photos called *Reef Town As Remembered by Edgar Elliston* who was born in 1888.**

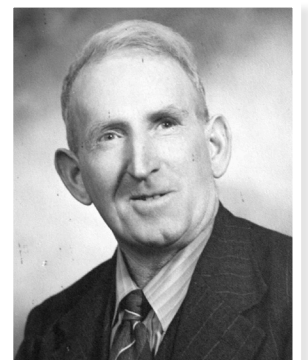
Moria interviewed and recorded Edgar weekly for three years from 1973, amazingly, with her four young children underfoot. Moria remarked that "it was an amazing opportunity because he was lonely and had an amazing memory.

He told me how Reefton was formed in the gold rush days and described wonderful memories and details about the people, the transport, entertainment, businesses and of course the mines and batteries".

Moria has also been involved with various organisations and community groups in the area for many years including the Reefton Sacred Heart Parish for more than 50 years. She plays the organ at Sunday Mass and has been a member of the church cleaning group. She administers Holy Communion to the sick and distributes St Vincent de Paul Food parcels. Moria also bakes homemade treats for those living on their own and gives produce from her garden to those in need.



Moria Lockington



Edgar Elliston

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – PALMERSON NORTH DIOCESE UPDATE

I would like to share the following. I have now visited all four of my area councils and it has been a bit of a mission. My trip to Stratford was back-to-back with the first National Board meeting. Flew to Wellington on the Saturday and then 5 hour drive to Stratford on the Sunday to attend the New Plymouth meeting, and 5 hours home.

The members of the New Plymouth Area council were great hosts, and so welcoming it was a pleasure to be with them. I managed to attend the Hastings area council on the Monday and again what a welcoming council and pleasure to spend time with these Vincentians. The only area left to mention was Napier area council and they represent my conference here in Napier. Napier was my first area council meeting and again a wonderful and very supportive group of volunteers.

This job has consumed a big part of my waking hours. We, the regional representatives, are getting to grips on the role. After the National Board meeting on Saturday the 22 Feb I realised just what the job might involve. Our National president, Gerry Steven, has a vision “refounding” the organisation and a big part of this is to be discussed at the AGM.

The definition of refounding “discovered or obtained again: A party was organized, and harmony was refound.”

Because so many things have changed since Blessed Frédéric Ozanam’s day when he founded the Society we have somehow moved a long way away from our roots. In the words of our National President Gerry Stevens “we have too many flavours”. The change is essential and appropriate to the times. We need

to look back to see how we can grow the Society as we go into the future.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the area councils and the conferences for the most supportive and loving work they are doing. It is just outstanding what is being achieved when you experience the work being done at the coal face in the conferences. God bless every single Vincentian for their dedication and commitment.

I am a Vincentian in the Napier area and I am involved in food distribution. I have people who receive food who are full of thanks and blessings. I asked a friend who is a police officer, what his thoughts were. His answer astounded me. He said you are part of the problem. People on the streets wake up, you feed them, they get tradeable property, money, goods and they then buy the product that impairs them.. How are you breaking the cycle?

Should we be refocusing the way we help in a country that has a welfare system, to assist in the fields working with the social welfare system, mental health, drug addiction services and other like-minded organisations.

That being said, Vincentian visitation and support to our elderly and infirmed and to families in genuine need is heartwarming.

The above is simply my view sharing the thoughts I have as I move through the journey of being a Regional Representative.

**Steve Doohan**

Regional Representative for Palmerston North.

## SOUTHLAND CHARITY HOSPITAL OPENING

**In 2018 Blair Vining was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of bowel cancer, given eight weeks to live but he faced a 12 week wait for an oncologist’s appointment.**

Luckily he had access to private medical care that prolonged his life and helped him to achieve most of the items on his bucket list when he died the next year. Post code lottery was and still is a very real thing for us in the far south when it comes to public health care.

On Friday February 28 we were privileged to attend the opening of the Southland Charity hospital, the completion of the last of his bucket list items. It was a humbling event that made Tony Rae, the Southland council Treasurer, his very supportive wife Mary and me, very proud to be Southlanders. Vinnies Southland’s contribution was a very high tech steriliser for the new hospital.

Southland has a very high incidence of bowel cancer and

the public system is not meeting the need. The

new hospital will do colonoscopy and dental surgery. It’s available to all those who cannot get treatment in the private or public systems.

We hope to continue to partner with the hospital to support the vulnerable in our region who suffer from unmet health care. As Melissa Vining said at the opening, that is not just people on a benefit but includes anyone from families with both parents working to superannuants.

**Bernadette Ford**

Area Council Southland



# Pope to Vincentians: Your founder's vision of service brings renewal to the Church

To celebrate 400 years since the founding of the Congregation of the Mission of St Vincent De Paul, Pope Francis sends a letter to the Superior General, stressing the founder's example of service to the poor.

## VATICAN NEWS

Marking 400 years since the founding of the Congregation of the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul, Pope Francis sent a letter to the Superior General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič. In it, he stresses how "service to Christ in the poor" brings about a renewal in today's Church.

This service can take the form of "missionary discipleship and assistance to those in need and the abandoned in the many peripheries of the world."

## A CENTURIES-OLD MISSION

In his letter, Pope Francis recalls the beginnings of the Congregation – founded on April 17, 1625 – and highlights how St. Vincent de Paul passed down a legacy of spirituality, apostolic zeal, and pastoral care.

"I hope that the celebrations of the fourth centenary will highlight the importance of St. Vincent's vision of service to Christ in the poor for the renewal of the Church of our time," the Pope writes.

He expresses his hope the founder's example will "particularly inspire young people, who, with their enthusiasm, generosity, and concern for building a better world, are called to be bold and courageous witnesses of the Gospel among their peers and wherever they are."

## DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

For 400 years, people of all cultures and backgrounds have been following in St. Vincent's way of life – from St. Francis Regis and St. Justin de Jacobis to St. Catherine Labouré and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Today, the Vincentian Family includes over 100 branches of priests, brothers, sisters, and laypeople. No matter which branch they belong to, their mission remains the same: partake in and create charitable works and assist in the spiritual guidance and formation of the clergy and laity.



A volunteer from the Vincentians distributing food to the homeless near St. Peter's Basilica during the COVID pandemic

One example of this is the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which was founded in 1833 by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. In his letter, Pope Francis calls this organization "an extraordinary force for good in the service of the poor, with hundreds of thousands of members worldwide."

The Pope also takes note of two other expressions of the Vincentian lifestyle: "Confraternities of Charity," now known as the International Association of Charity or Vincentian Volunteers and the "Daughters of Charity."

As Pope Francis points out, the latter is "a revolutionary form of women's community" because St. Vincent encouraged the women to go out and care for the poor and sick.

## MODEL YOUR LIVES ON ST. VINCENT

At the end of the letter, the Pope imparts his apostolic blessing and assures the Congregation of his prayers. He expresses his desire that they may be inspired by their founder and continue to model their lives and work on the mission St. Vincent gave to the first members of the Congregation:

*"Courage then, brothers, let us dedicate ourselves with renewed love to the service of the poor, let us seek out the most miserable and abandoned. Let us acknowledge before God that they are our lords and masters, and that we are not worthy of offering them our humble services."*



## John Collins

RIP 20th January 2025

### President of Motueka Conference.

John was an new and enthusiastic President open to new ideas and who played a key and caring role in the conference. A great loss for his family, parish and community – a man, full of wonderful ideas, energy and enthusiasm, working hard and diligently in all that he did. May he Rest in Peace.

## Margaret Benge

RIP 22nd February 2025

**Margaret Benge was a true Vincentian and dedicated over 50 years of her life to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.**



Much of her good works were in Wainuiomata where she set up the Wainuiomata shop and helped so many families and people in need. Margaret would also visit the lonely and give holy communion who needed support.

Margaret's kindness was unfathomable, and she always helped those in need before herself. She is an amazing woman and truly represents love and generosity and blessed so many people, friends and whānau.

Margaret will be dearly missed.

## Anna Williams RIP – 22nd February 2025

In this individualistic world in which we live it helps to have models, people whose example inspires us to be better people. These models are probably not the rich or famous or the people who make the news headlines. They are much more likely to be people around us who quietly get on with living meaningful lives.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is full of such people who live lives of generosity and service. In Northland Anna Williams was such a person.

She was a wonderful and committed Vincentian for over 17 years and led the Society here with great energy and dedication.

As Area Council President she kept the fires burning, ably assisted by dedicated Conference members and her son James and family.

The Conferences in Whangarei and Northland were very active under her leadership. Her reports showed just how busy they were, distributing food parcels to young families struggling to buy the basics, providing meals and toys on Christmas days for hundreds of families, running Young Vinnies groups at Pompallier College, supporting a food garden programme to educate families on how to grow their own food, visiting the sick and lonely, making sandwiches for schools and kindergartens, doing repair jobs for the elderly. The list goes on.

This care for others extended out though the region, through Conference members and a network of associates who stepped up to deliver food parcels in their local area and support the disadvantaged, especially young families.

The helping hand of the Society benefitted many areas in Northland, including Whangarei, Hikurangi, Paihia, Moerewa / Kawakawa, Ruakaka, Kaikohe, Ahipara and the Hokianga.

Anna played a crucial role in making this all happen. She was inspired by the mission of the Society and in turn she inspired others. She epitomised its values. She put her faith into action through works of love and of kindness. She knew how to get things done.

What better legacy could you leave the world?

Our Society was greatly enriched by her dedication over many years, and so too were the communities she served so tirelessly. In her readiness to engage with the vulnerable, she is a model for us all.

*May she rest in peace.*





# Edmund 'Ted' Maloney

RIP – 15th September 2024



**Our beloved Ted slipped peacefully away on Sunday, September 15, 2024. He died at home with family at his side, as he wished.**

He has gone to be with his dearly loved Marion whom he missed so much. He had a wonderful 100 years, we will miss him terribly.

Ted joined the St Theresa's North Invercargill Conference in the mid 1970s and in time became the president then ultimately the Area Council President. Some years ago at the age of 93 he wrote about his experiences, in the early days, when much of the work of the society was 'visiting homes where a request for financial help (mostly in terms of food) has been made. Coming as I do from a comfortable spacious home, the conditions in which some people live made a grim and lasting impression on me about what poverty can mean.' Another report noted that he had probably been in 500 homes, 'some of which showed Third World poverty.'

As an accountant he was involved with the building of a six flat complex in the Waikiwi parish, which Vinnies still runs. He was also involved with the wheelchair ambulance and the buses which took elderly people from Rest Homes, on outings. For

many years he visited the elderly people in the vast Lorne complex which closed in the 1990s.

In his mid 90s he still banked the money from one of the op shops, daily. Every Christmas when we gave out special food parcels he purchased a large frozen chicken for each of them. In later years when he was not as active he asked one of the other members of the committee to go to one of the Catholic schools which he knew had many struggling families and to anonymously give them money which was to be used for student welfare. He had worked out how much money he needed and this was the excess that he donated. It was only when Sister Maria was away for an extended time that Ted had to go to school himself to hand over the money.

In 2010 he received a Civic Award from the Invercargill City Council for his services to the community and it was early last year that our Conference celebrated his 100th birthday with a morning tea. He was an extraordinary man who lived his faith and has been an inspiration to generations of Vinnies in the South. *Rest in peace, gentle soul.*

**Bernadette Ford** - Southland President



## Leave a Memory, Buy a Book!

**NEW**

**The Staff of Life \$25**

Other Books Available:

- The Bountiful Berry
- Good As Gold
- Queensland Harry

**\$20**



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### 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)