



MEMBRE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ
DE SAINTE-VINCENT DE PAUL



SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

News in Brief

December 2014 | Issue 5

Welcome to our last e-newsletter for the 2014. In this issue, we bring you stories of fashion parades, trash recycling in unexpected ways, services for great work offered to the community, and tributes for the great work those who have recently died have contributed to the society and much more. Thank you for sharing your stories in 2014 and we look forward to sharing your new stories in 2015.

Have a Blessed and Holy Christmas.



Christmas Message from Bishop Dolan



The fact that Jesus was born poor must be saying something to us, his disciples.

As Vincentians, may it be that at Christmas time we will remember the poverty of Christ's birth as we seek him in the poor who we will be privileged to encounter at this time.

Turning Waste into Good – Nelson Young Vinnies

Over a hundred and fifty soft drink bottles were transformed into a school's community meeting place by the enterprising and eco-friendly actions of the Young Vinnies at St Paul's College in Nelson and other students from their school.

The Vincentian spirit of meeting the needs of others, meant that the school now has a purpose-built earth bench for students to use if they need a quiet place to visit.

The Young Vinnies, came up with a design for the earth bench that they submitted to a natural earth builder. After consultation the final design was a cross which was to be made out of brick bottles and cob. The Young Vinnies and school students filled every recycled bottle with non-biodegradable rubbish, to form the basis of the earth bench.

A shelter was then constructed over the earth bench and a school time capsule incorporated into it. The school community planted natives, laid bark and tidied the surrounding area.

The earth bench at St Paul's is only one of a number that have been built around the world since the Peace on Earth Bench Movement began in 2011. If you would like to find out more, then go to www.earthbench.org

This project was made possible by a community grant from the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Coca-Cola Beverage Container Recycling programme, the school community of St Paul's College and the Young Vinnies of St Paul's College, Nelson.



The Earthbench at St Paul's College, Nelson. An inspiring and eco-friendly initiative of the Young Vinnies from St Paul's.

Fashion Parade with a Twist

An enthusiastic crowd of over 50 people from across all parishes in Palmerston North were treated to a fabulous night of fashion, music and entertainment at the Vinnies shop at 52 Rangitikei Street on November 11th.

The evening was kick-started by the wonderful 'Manawatunes', an all-male barber shop group, which also included one of the shop volunteers who far preferred to sing than to model.

MC Jonny Boon kept the mood light-hearted and humorous as six models, including one brave chap, showcased what was available in stock in the shop, from 'After Five Wear' to 'Formal Wear' and 'Sleepwear'. In between walking down the 'catwalk', spot prizes and lucky ticket prizes were up for grabs for the audience, affording the models enough time to change into their next ensemble.

Raffle tickets for Christmas hampers donated by volunteers, as well as a Christmas cake made by another volunteer were also available to purchase.

This wonderful evening finished with supper and a chance to mix and mingle, and purchase anything in the store.



The Manawatunes providing the musical entertainment



Model showing off the latest in-store looks.



Vinnies Op Shop fashion parade.



MC Jonny Boon.



Model showing off the latest in-store looks.

Citizen's Award for Vincentian Jill Davenport

Jill Davenport, President of the Waihi Conference, St Vincent de Paul, was recently awarded a Citizen's Award from Mayor John Tregida from the Hauraki District Council.

Jill received her award for her many years of service and involvement with St Vincent De Paul. She is a warm, caring and compassionate person who is prepared to battle for the good of others and is never afraid to contest the boundaries for those who need help or who don't have a voice. Jill works tirelessly and is a huge asset to the community.

She is also a driving force behind the 'Waihi 50+ Cycle Group' and arranges rides and trips for a growing group of enthusiastic cyclers.

St Patrick's Napier - Farewell to Four Vincentians

Four dedicated and long-serving Vincentians have died in the past year from the St Patrick's Napier Conference with more than a century of serving their community between them. The four were Monsignor Tim Hannigan, John Cornwell, Brian O'Rourke and Brian Parker.

'Father Tim' Hannigan became Parish Priest of St. Patrick's in 1979 and was fully involved with St Vincent de Paul as the spiritual director of the conference until his sudden death whilst celebrating Sunday Mass in April 2013. He had a great affinity for people from all walks of life, especially those who were struggling with day-to-day living, and never refused a request for help.

A few weeks later, John Cornwell, the then current President died and in July 2014, Brian O'Rourke, a past President died, followed by Brian Parker in September 2014.

John Cornwell and Brian Parker were brothers-in-law who formed a close bond with St Vincent de Paul and were instrumental in getting others to join the conference. They will be remembered for going the extra mile to organise and deliver assistance for those in need, and often at their own personal cost.

Brian O'Rourke visited the poor and needy with food and other essentials on almost a daily basis until his health declined, and for some years was the regular banker for the Vinnies Op Shops.

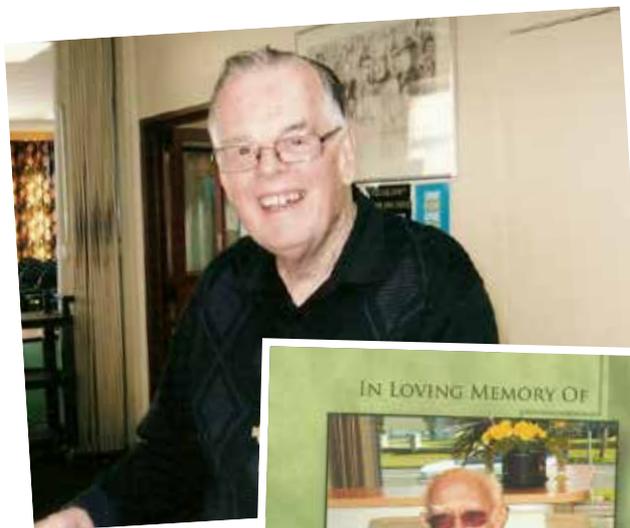
All four men visited many elderly, sick, lonely or housebound people within the Napier area, and also used their own vehicles to transport people to appointments and Mass.

They are all greatly missed by their confreres, their families and friends, and those they have helped. They served in faith and in love and now they will be knowing the joy of the Lord's presence.



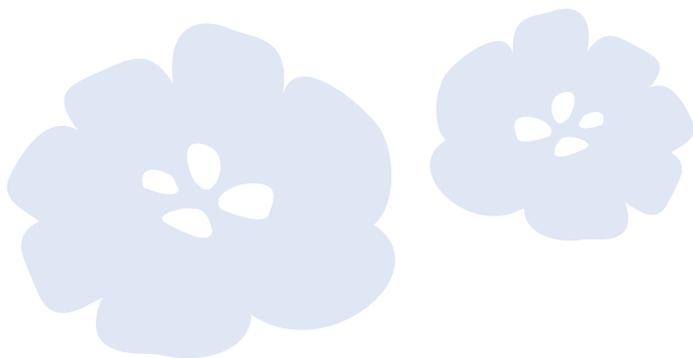
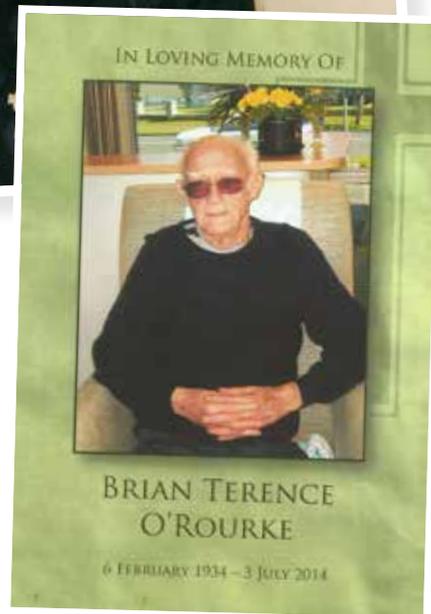
100th Anniversary for St Patrick's Conference

L to R: Brian Parker, Margaret Minehan (Past President), Nell Mitchell (long-term Vinnie's shop volunteer) and John Cornwell.



Pictured above:
Monsignor Tim Hannigan

Right: Vincentian Brian O'Rourke



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 Ann-Marie Parker, Communications Officer. Email: jamparker@xtra.co.nz