



MEMBRE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ
DE SAINTE-VINCENT DE PAUL



SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

News in Brief

April 2014 | Issue 1

Welcome to our first e-edition of 'News in Brief', where we will bring you up-to-date with what is happening around the country in our society.

Thank you to everyone who sent us information, we hope throughout the year that you find inspiration from what your fellow Vincentians are doing in their community and, in turn, share with us what initiatives and programmes you are running or are involved with.

Look out for 'News in Brief' in your in-box every couple of months. We look forward to hearing from you.

This e-newsletter does not replace the 'Society News' which is produced twice a year by our Editor Jim Norris. Please continue to forward Jim information for inclusion at jenorris@xtra.co.nz

'Picton House' – Holiday Home

Picton House, run by the Picton Conference, St Joseph's, is available to all districts and conferences for people in need. Anyone who comes under the criteria of needy, irrespective of race or creed is eligible to stay. All Society members and shop volunteers are also very welcome to use the house when it is available.

The bulk of families who stay at Picton House come from Nelson and Christchurch, with the busiest times being school holidays and the summer months. However, as a lovely 90 year-old lady, who drove herself from Nelson said, "I don't care if it is cold or raining. It's so restful to sit back and read a book, watch TV or stroll to town. And do what I want to do."

Many of the Christchurch-families who have stayed at the house have lived through the trauma of the earthquakes. Their stories were heart-wrenching. One family seeking respite from the quakes wrote this in the visitors' book: "A heartfelt thanks to SVDP Picton. The wonderful home and beautiful Picton surroundings gave us relief and new energy to face more days in Christchurch."

Congratulations to the Christchurch Area Council and Conferences for their involvement with these families.

Other families from around the country who have stayed at Picton House have made these comments:

" Thanks you so much SVDP for us to have our first holiday ever. We love Picton." **Hastings.**

" The home is amazing – very warm and comfortable." **Auckland.**

For information, conditions and availability for Picton House, please contact Ron Peters, PO Box 585, Picton or 03 573 7472, or please refer to the 'Picton House Policy and Procedure' handbook which is available from the Conference of St Joseph, St Vincent de Paul, Picton.

" Thank you SVDP for your hospitality and kindness. Continue in your good works in helping others such as ourselves by providing this wonderful facility." **Wellington.**

Rotorua Papal Medal – Eddie Dibley

A special Mass was celebrated by Bishop Denis Browne at St Mary's Catholic Church, Rotorua, to honour Eddie Dibley who is a stalwart of the faith and a long serving and faithful member of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Eddie also has a long, close association with John Paul College and the two colleges Edmund Rice College and MacKillop College that preceded the current college.

The Benemerenti Medal is a medal of high honour, instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, it is conferred on those who have exhibited long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and the community.

Thank you, Eddie for your dedication and commitment on behalf of all Vincentians in New Zealand.

St Joseph's New Plymouth supporting local Foodbank

A new fridge will greatly help the New Plymouth Community Foodbank thanks to a generous donation from St Joseph's, St Vincent de Paul in New Plymouth. The Foodbank will be able to store more fresh fruit and vegetables for the 1,115 clients that they help. The Foodbank is generously supported by St Joseph's and the Fitzroy branch of St Vincent de Paul in New Plymouth.

Greymouth Get-together

Under sunny summer skies in late February, Greymouth shop volunteers and local St Patrick's Conference members gathered together for a mix and mingle in the garden area behind the St Vincent de Paul shop. Conference President, Mark White said the volunteers took pride in making the shop look attractive and kept it neat and tidy. Mr White said they had been in the present premises for three years but hoped to be there for many more. The volunteers appreciated the spaciousness and excellent location of this shop, which was a vast improvement on their previous premises.



Group photo of volunteers and staff, Greymouth Conference



From left to right: Lucina Brady, her friend Sue, and Tony Sullivan

New premises for St Anne's Vinnies Shop, Manurewa

After 20 years trading from a poky little shop in a side street, the St Vincent de Paul Society Op Shop recently relocated to the corner of the main street in Manurewa.

"What a pleasure to have four times the space!" said Margaret Warren, the Conference Secretary.

The former business which occupied the space was a school uniform shop so the shop fit-out was largely intact, with additional shelves and fittings transported by the society van from Otahuhu. Everyone pitched in to help with the shift to the spacious new premises and the shop's takings were boosted by the new location and fresh environment.

The new shop had the honour of being blessed by the Conference's Spiritual Advisor, Reverend Father Michael O'Donnell SM on Sunday 16th March, 2014.

The blessing was followed with a shared lunch with Conference members and shop volunteers.



Rest in Peace

Brian Fitzsimmons

Brian Fitzsimmons, Past Area Council President of West Auckland and loyal Vincentian for 54 years, died on the 24th of March. He was farewelled at a requiem Mass held at Holy Cross, Henderson, which was attended by many Vincentians. The National President Des Mulhern, Peter Courtney Auckland Central, Frank Heffernan National Vice-President and Arthur Mann past President of Auckland West Area Council led the Vincentian prayer beside the casket.

Nina Wilkins

It is with sadness that we report the death on 21st March 2014 of Nina Wilkins, a foundation member and first secretary of the Papakura Conference. Nina was farewelled from Saint Mary's Church, Papakura on 26th March.

Vonnie Bayliss

Also Vonnie Bayliss, who was a long-time shop volunteer and faithful member of Papakura Conference. Vonnie died on 17th February 2014.



Quick-fire News:

A quick round-up of news-snippets from around the country, taken from the minutes of the National Conference held on March 15th, in Wellington:

Wellington – Interest from potential members to set up a new conference in Karori.

Dunedin – A farmer offered land to grow vegetables and interest in the project had been received from the community.

Nelson – Installing Eftpos has resulted in a 40% increase in shop income. The shop has also been rated as earthquake safe.

Western Bay of Plenty – Gained seven new members for the Te Puke conference. Opened a new shop in Katikati. 'Loaves and Fishes' programme underway and has been given food from New World and Pak n Save in Tauranga.

Kapi-Mana – Food wholesaler now delivering damaged goods to the food bank. Established a school garden and some vegetables go to the food bank. Has ongoing issue with dumping of rubbish. A volunteer has taken over managing the shop.

Manawatu – New shop in Palmerston North has been operating for 12 months and has had a huge increase in donations. 'Just Released Trust' has a home that they lease rooms to released prisoners.

Christchurch – Starting a van for delivering food. Getting their wood costs down but electricity costs are very high. Rubbish dumping costs are also high. Still have people living in unsuitable conditions with the earthquake damage and floods.

West Auckland – 9th Conference is up and running. Has a Food bank. Talking to another Parish Priest about another conference. Experiencing food shortages in some conferences. Shop opening at Pt Chevalier.

South Auckland – Four shops and hoping to have a record year because of the renovations.

Hutt Valley/Wairarapa – Shop in Carterton is a huge success and have employed a full-time manager. Masterton conference has sprung back to life. Awards for window displays in Petone and Carterton. Get food from Pak n Save in Hutt Valley to distribute. Running a student assistance fund.

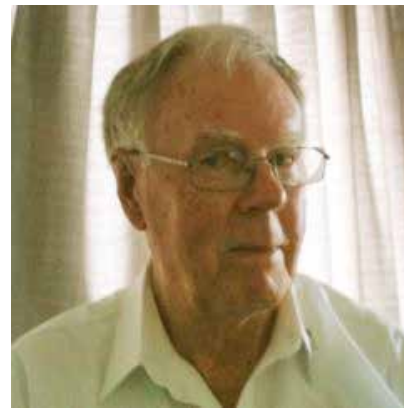
Marlborough – 20 members in the conference and most work in the shop. A Food bank that runs in conjunction with other charities. Working with Marlborough budgeting service. Help out at the local schools. Young Vinnies in Picton is going well. Assist with supplying uniforms. Looking forward to hosting the 2014 AGM.

New Aprons for Volunteers and Staff

All shop centre staff will now wear smart Vinnie's aprons. The new aprons will also be worn by Youth Co-ordinators in their activities with the youth. The aprons will make it easier for customers to identify staff or volunteers, and to make the Society's logo and branding more visible to the general public. All Area Councils can place their orders direct with Arthur Schultze judart@xtra.co.nz

National Council Meeting 15th-16th March, 2014

We were especially honoured to have Bishop Owen Dolan, the Society's new Spiritual Advisor attend Saturday's meeting. Bishop Owen addressed delegates and encouraged them to become familiar with *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel) by Pope Francis.



Bishop Owen Dolan

Closing Quote from Pope Francis:

Pope Francis writes in his letter, Evangelii Gaudium:

“there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbours or complete strangers. This is the informal preaching, which takes place in the middle of a conversation... Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.”

News in Brief

Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand

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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