



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21 April 2016

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New Vinnies store rises out of the ashes

The new Vinnies Store and Offices will be officially opened today on a site adjacent to where the store burnt down in April 2012, marking the completion of a long-standing commitment to replace the store that fell victim to an arson attack.

Don Jones, Wagga Wagga Central Council President said the opening of the new store represented a very proud moment for him.

“When we acquired the land next to our old site it felt like Vinnies was coming home. Peter Street is well known by locals as the place to find the Vinnies Store,” said Mr Jones.

Except for some technical pieces of equipment like the lift, every bit of carpentry, electrical work, paintwork and fit-out was carried out by local firms and tradespeople.

“We rely on local people to support us through their generous donations and to shop at our store. We wanted to give something back to the community by ensuring local tradies were involved every step of the way. This was a priority for us and we thank all those who were involved with the design, development and construction of this new addition to the city of Wagga Wagga.”

The store was officially opened by Denis Walsh, President of St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, and Ray Reynolds, Past President, NSW State Council and blessed by the Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Hanna, Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

Mr Walsh said the new building incorporated many innovative features.

“There were three key objectives for this building: that it was an environmentally-friendly, maintenance-free design, that we provide a work friendly environment for volunteers and staff and that it boosts the local economy by supporting local business and employment. On all three counts we have exceeded expectations,” Mr Walsh said.

“We hope the people of Wagga Wagga will treat the new facility as one of the town’s most prominent buildings. The staff and volunteers look forward to seeing our existing customers returning to find treasures, as well as meeting new customers who come and shop here,” said Mr Jones.

Official opening

When: 11am Thursday 21 April 2016

Where: 15 Peter St, Wagga Wagga.

Blessing of building: The Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Hanna, Bishop of Wagga Wagga

Fashion show: Students from local Catholic high schools will be modelling Vinnies clothes

Attending: Michael McCormack Federal Member for Riverina and Wagga Wagga Mayor Rod Kendall

There will be a tour of the new building.

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