



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sutherland gala success for Vinnies

Over \$50,000 was raised at a community gala fundraising dinner and auction hosted by St Vincent de Paul Sutherland Regional Council at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre on Friday 29 April.

Frank Tierney, Chairman of the Events Organising Committee and vice president of the Sutherland Regional Council, said that with the increased demand from the local community a plan was put in place last year to organise its first fundraising night.

“We are very conscious of the increase in need among the people in the Shire. I worked with a fabulous team and together we have seen what began as a dream turning into reality,” he said.

“The Gala was our first ever fundraising event and we were overwhelmed by the response, with almost 300 guests attending.

“The support we received from the local community for the auction – including shops and individuals – was amazing. That we managed to raise in the vicinity of \$50,000 to support Good Works in the Sutherland region was due to the high calibre of the donated items. To mention a few, a weekend hotel and BMW package, a painting by local artist Catherine Harry, exclusive wines, helicopter rides and a Red Bull Hot Lap Experience .

“One of the highlights of the evening was the performance by the St Patrick’s College Stage Band and the String Ensemble. We were treated to virtuoso performances by piano soloist Nathaniel Gleeson and gifted singers including Nicola de Sensi, Sarah New and Ethan, Jordan and Sian Fuller.

MC Mike Bailey, a former ABC TV personality and executive assistant to the Chancellor Catholic Archdiocese, entertained the crowd through the night. Chis Walsh, Newton Real Estate Caringbah handled the live auction with his usual professional skill.

All of the proceeds raised will be entirely spent on the needs of the poor in the Sutherland Shire supported by the Sutherland Regional Council.

“On behalf the St Vincent de Paul Sutherland Regional Council I would like to thank those who attended for their support and generosity – it was an overwhelming success and the committee looks forward to organising more events in the future,” said Mr Tierney.

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