

10 March 2017

NEW VINNIES SHOP FOR FRANKSTON

The St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria (Vinnies) is opening a new Vinnies Shop next week at 82 Young Street Frankston (opposite the train station), after more than 12 years serving the community at its current site on Ross Street and 12 years at its first site in the Clyde street Mall.

The new shop will open its doors for a traditional Blessing Ceremony today with dignitaries from across the region, including St Vincent de Paul Society State President, Mr Michael Liddy; St Vincent de Paul Society CEO, Ms Sue Cattermole; St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Fr Chinua Okeke; State Member for Frankston, Mr Paul Edbrooke MP; Federal Member for Dunkley, Mr Chris Crewther MP; and Frankston City Lord Mayor, Cr Brian Cunial.

“Our first day of trade is Tuesday 14 March 2017, but we traditionally invite a number of respected community leaders to bless our Vinnies Shops prior to opening to the public. This shop will have a strong connection to the local community, providing much needed material support to people in need, selling surplus donated goods, and operating a volunteer-run call centre onsite, to connect people with our home visitation services,” said St Vincent de Paul Society CEO, Ms Sue Cattermole.

The first Vinnies Shop in Victoria opened its doors in Ascot Vale in 1926 and there are now over 100 shops across the state, which remain largely run by volunteers.

“Vinnies Shops are one of Victoria’s original and most respected social enterprises, which play a significant role in raising the necessary funds for our grassroots community support programs; the core work of the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria,” said Ms Cattermole.

In Frankston, 72-year-old Lorraine Auchettl, has been volunteering at the Vinnies Shop for over 17-years as both a Vinnies Shop assistant and Conference member, which is a local group of volunteers responsible for providing assistance in people’s homes and in the community.

In her eyes, customers are the lifeblood of Vinnies.

“People from all walks of life shop here; young people, old people. We’ve got people coming in here with kids in their late teens that we used to see when they were toddlers. We welcome everyone to shop here from the seasoned bargain hunter to people shopping on a budget. We’re at the end of the train line, so we service a huge part of the district,” said Vinnies Shop Manager, Lorraine Auchettl.

Lorraine said the Vinnies Shop has always held a special place in the heart of Frankston locals, which is reflected in their generous donations of quality goods all year round.

“Around 90-95% of the goods we sell are donated by the community. We rarely run out of stock and it is fabulous stuff. The community support is just wonderful.”

The new Vinnies Shop on Young Street promises to offer a large range of new products and preloved bargains, which are sure to excite the community. St Vincent de Paul Society Merchandise Manager, Liz Randle, said it will be a flagship shop for the region.

“We’ve spent all week moving into our new home. We’re now selling new mattresses; more than double the range of clothing for all ages and genders; a homewares section with lots of unique finds; toys for the kids; books; and handbags, jewellery and shoes that will excite style hunters too,” said Ms Randle.

“We’re also hosting a promotion for shoppers during the first week, which will include giving away two gift cards every hour as part of a raffle. It will be fun and we’re encouraging everyone to pop in for a look.”

Shoppers can feel good knowing that funds raised by the sale of goods at Vinnies supports the local community and gives 17+ volunteers at the Frankston Shop a big reason to smile too.

“We have a great level of companionship and wonderful friendships here together. We laugh a lot. I don’t know if it’s because we’re volunteers, but we’re wonderfully supportive of each other and one big happy family,” said Lorraine.

The Vinnies Shop at 82 Young Street Frankston (opposite the train station), will open its doors on Tuesday 14 March at 9:00am. Normal trading hours are 9:00am-5:00pm Monday to Saturday. Community donations are also accepted instore during these hours.

Visit www.vinnies.org.au/shops for more information about Vinnies Shops. Share your finds online and hashtag #FoundItAtVinnies and #VinniesFrankston.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES: St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Marketing & Communications Manager
Haley Price | haley.price@svdp-vic.org.au | 0448 386 917 | 03 9895 5884

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: The media is invited to attend the Blessing Ceremony at the new Vinnies Shop.

When: 10:00am – 11:00am, Friday 10 March 2017.
Where: New Vinnies Shop at 82 Young Street, Frankston (opposite the train station).
RSVP: Merchandise Manager, Liz Randle | liz.randle@svdp-vic.org.au | 0407 086 023

ABOUT THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

The St Vincent de Paul Society and its wide network of members and volunteers provide practical frontline support, advocacy and friendship for the most vulnerable members of our community. Key services include home visitation; Vinnies Shops; youth programs; soup vans; assistance for asylum seekers and refugees; compeer programs for people experiencing mental illness; education and tutoring; and professional accommodation and health services through VincentCare. The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia has more than 60,000 members and volunteers. Internationally, the Society operates in 149 countries and has over 950,000 members. To find out more visit www.vinnies.org.au.