



Newsletter

May 2019

In this issue

The President's Pen	1
Executive's Update	2
Cyclone Trevor	3
New National President	4
Vin Victory	7

Events

All Year

1st & 3rd Saturdays The Vintertainers music group visits the Tiwi Nursing Home.

May

6 May Day

15-20 National Families Week

20 – 26 National Volunteer Week

24 Our Lady Help of Christians

25 NT Council meeting

27 May – 3 June National Reconciliation Week

June

1 – 31 Winter Appeal

2 The Ascension

2 – 9 Week of prayer for Christian unity

9 Pentecost

10 Queen's Birthday holiday

23 Corpus Christi

23 Frederic Ozanam and Amalie Soulacroix marry

July

1 Territory Day

5 Alice Springs Show Day

7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

7-14 NAIDOC week

12 Tennant Creek Show Day

19 Katherine Show Day

22 1945 - First Society meeting in the NT

26 Darwin Show Day

Next issue: Aug 2019. Deadline for contributions: 22 July

Email: admin@svdpnt.org.au

The President's Pen



Fay Gurr, NT President

Edited notes from the President's report to the NT Council meeting on 2 March 2019.

I would like to welcome Fran Avon as our CEO. It is good to have fresh eyes look at our operations. Fran has met with staff to how to work more efficiently and listen to their hopes for the coming year.

Fran has visited Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. In Alice Springs Fran met with Fr Raass who I visited earlier to build some connections with former Vincentians and parish members with a view to forming a new conference. I plan to visit Alice Springs soon and hopefully will begin the process of forming a conference.

On a sadder note I would like to farewell and thank Jade Garrard who has been our Treasurer providing Council with professional and accessible information on our financial situation.

Angela Martinez is stepping down as Youth Representative. Angela has brought a strong connection to the Catholic community and worked hard at raising the profile of Vinnies in the youth community.



If you would like to be considered for the role of Treasurer or Youth Representative or know of a possible nominee, please contact your Conference President or me.

In reviewing our strategic plan, Council agreed that growing our membership will be a priority in 2019.

Council met for the first time in our new Casuarina property. The move went smoothly and whilst there are still some areas to be worked on, it is a great start for staff. We may be able to start moving the archive material into the members' room so that it can be sorted and archived properly. Conferences can also use the meeting rooms and facilities at our new Territory office.

Regrettably, the Council determined that we will not be in a position to hold a CEO/Community Sleepout this year due to having insufficient lead time for our small team to pull the event together and make it a success as well as pursue other priorities.

The Council also determined that items available for sale in our Vinnies shops would not be available to Conferences to provide to Companions.

Council is aiming to have two to three training and formation days in 2019 for members, volunteers and staff. More information to come.

In May we celebrate National Volunteer Week. I want to extend a warm thank you to our volunteers who come from all walks of life and backgrounds. Your selfless actions enable the Society to provide support and assistance to so many Companions.

It is shaping up to be another big year. In this newsletter is a letter from our International President, Renato Lima de Oliveira, outlining what lies ahead in 2019 for the Society internationally.

May your heart and soul be blessed with the holy spirit of Easter time! Rejoice and celebrate the miracle and triumph of Christ's resurrection. ■

Executive's Update



Fran Avon, CEO

Having commenced in the role of CEO on 27 January 2019, I am thrilled to be here, and am excited about our focus for the future. We have a great team and I am looking forward to building our services, skills and expertise in fulfilling the mission and vision of the Society. I spent my initial period learning the organisation by travelling to Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, working in the stores and meeting with staff. A workshop was held with the Management team to assist in the preparation of the business plan and budgets for FY19/20. I was able to share with Council the 2019/2020 Business Plan.

In our homeless services, clients have continued to achieve their goals with several engaged in training and education providing them with forklift tickets, driver's licenses, and basic computer skills. We have recently purchased a new lounge setting and BBQ for the communal area which has brought a sense of community.

Our family accommodation centre, Ted Collins is at full capacity with a larger number of enquiries daily with families looking for accommodation.



Centres

Our Vinnies stores are performing significantly better than last year and have seen increases in both average sales and number of customers. Well done to our staff and our volunteers.

The Coolalinga Centre turned one year old at the end of September and the Fannie Bay Centre marked a year of operation on 26 October 2018.

The Society has signed the lease for the 39 units to provide much needed accommodation for families in need in Katherine.

Depot

The Depot, formerly known as the Warehouse, is now air-conditioned and has been refreshed with a coat of paint and new signage. ■

From the Pen of St Louise de Marillac



I beg you for the love of God to show great tenderness to the poor.

St Vincent de Paul Society NT springs into action to support those impacted by Cyclone Trevor

With the pending approach of Cyclone Trevor, Territory Families co-ordinated the evacuation of coastal and island communities to centres in Darwin and Katherine. As part of the emergency support network, the St Vincent de Paul Society was on hand to provide clothing for the evacuees. The Society appealed for donations through Katie Woolf (104.9) and Mel Little (104.1). By 2.00pm that same day

over 200 donations had been received and donations continued to roll in.

The following morning, heavy rain inundated the outdoor living areas. Our team delivered approximately 800 items of clothing. It was heart-warming to witness such gratitude under these difficult circumstances. Some ladies offered to pay for the clothing and young boys helped to move and load the empty racks.

More baby and toddler clothing was required and a post on our social media page resulted in the Palmerston stores being inundated with donations. Colin Bird, our Retail Operations



Sarah Morrisey, a volunteer at the Palmerston Vinnies store sorting donations for those impacted by Cyclone Trevor.

Manager, commented, "It was touching to see the generosity of Darwin and how quickly people responded to the call". We were also blessed to receive an extremely generous donation from Sitzler Construction of 440 new single mattresses.

"It is at times like these the strong sense of community spirit and compassion of individuals comes to the fore. It is encouraging that with the support of our volunteers and the community, St Vincent de Paul were able to help at this time", said newly appointed CEO to the St Vincent de Paul Society, Northern Territory, Fran Avon. ■



New National President

Adelaide solicitor Claire Victory has been elected the first female national president of the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council.

Ms Victory has worked in private practice for a small Adelaide law firm since 2008. She has been a member of the Society since age 10 and brings 25 years of experience serving and supporting the Society in various roles, including extensive involvement in Vinnies Youth programs and eight years on the national council.

Ms Victory has the honour of several firsts for this role. She is the first woman elected to the role in Australia; she is the first South Australian to fill this role; and she is the Society's youngest president in the 165 years it has existed in this country.

In her new role, Ms Victory said she was looking forward to continuing and strengthening the Society's work towards building a more just and compassionate society.

"In a context of persistent poverty and new forms of inequality, I look forward to supporting the Society in its role as a leading voice for social justice and change," Ms Victory said.

"A key challenge for the future of our organisation is ensuring the dynamism of our membership so that we can continue to respond with hope and love to those bearing the brunt of poverty and inequality.

"A priority for the new council will be reviewing governance across the Society – everything from training, formation and succession planning for our members in conferences to looking at legal structures and reporting standards for councils. We need to ensure that we are operating in the most effective way possible while retaining our mission at the heart of all we do.

"We want members across Australia to feel informed, supported and empowered to continue doing good works in new and creative ways, and through evolving conference and program structures, in order to best meet the needs of our companions and our community."

Ms Victory succeeds outgoing president Graham West. She will officially commence in the role on Friday for a four-year term. Ms Victory will be supported by new Deputy president Warwick Fulton.

Briefing: Raising the rate of Newstart

The stark inadequacy of Newstart is pushing many recipients into poverty, contributing to housing insecurity, financial stress, and diminished health and wellbeing.

For more information visit the Society's Factsheets and policy briefings at:

https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Publications/National/Factsheets_and_policy_briefings/Briefing_Raising_the_Rate_of_Newstart/

Happy Easter



The Easter season reminds us that our struggles are not the final word. The final word is new life in the Risen Christ.



RIP Charles Geoffrey (Geoff) Littler

Geoff Littler, the father-in-law of John Tobin, President of the Holy Family Conference, passed away on 7 December 2018. Geoff was a member and supporter of the Society. Just a couple of weeks prior during preparation for the Christmas Appeal Geoff noted the somewhat 'sad' condition of the parish's Christmas Giving Tree. Geoff paid for a new tree and assisted in its decoration. As John commented at Geoff's funeral Mass there will be a memory of Geoff's service to others at Christmas time in the years ahead.



Enjoying some refreshments L-R: Carmel Ong, Margie Littler, Geoff Littler, Henrietta Dempster, Sebastian Kattampallil, John Tobin, Molly Kattampallil, Seng Ong.



Hard at work preparing the Christmas Giving Tree.

L_R: Molly Kattampallil (obscured by tree), John Tobin, Henrietta Dempster, Geoff Littler and Carmel Ong.

Cyclone Idai

Message received from a member of the Vincentian Family of Mozambique: "My dear brothers and beloved sisters in Christ and St. Vincent de Paul, Mozambique was devastated by the devastating Cyclone Idai that left traces of destruction and mourning. In order to alleviate the suffering of those affected I ask each of us to join the movement of solidarity with the populations where we have members of the Vincentian Family."

Source: Society of St Vincent de Paul Society Malaysia Facebook page.

Perspectives of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for 2019

Published on: 25 January 2019

During 2019 the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will initiate a number of activities that are intended for the National Councils, the worldwide membership and the General Council itself.

At the beginning of the year, we will participate in the International Meeting of Vincentian Youth in Panama. This will be held a few days before the celebration of World Youth Day ... hundreds of members of the SSVP will be present at this important event.

On January 31, the Circular Letter of the General President will be published. This letter will inform the members about the work of the SSVP; sharing ideas, impressions and experiences. We are certain that the Circular Letter will have a great impact on the Conferences and on the brothers and sisters of the SSVP.

On February 8, the International Literary Contest, "The First Conference," will be initiated. The focus will be placed on Paul Lamache, one of the seven "founding fathers" who had the divine inspiration to create the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (1833).



Participants will have four months to prepare their essays on the life of Lamache (maximum length is 15 pages).

In June, in the city of Oporto (Portugal), the General Council will organise its annual plenary session with the presidents of the National Councils. This year, the Council celebrates its 180th anniversary. At this gathering the song, "The Seven Founders," will be presented in Portuguese and Spanish (for other languages, an international contest will be launched). Also, for the second consecutive year, the "Charity in Hope" Medal will be awarded, in recognition of an institution that provides humanitarian service.

The plenary session, which will last a week, will offer a series of workshops, including: the International Structure, the General Board of Directors, the Permanent Section, the International Executive Committee and, for the first time, a workshop on the Vincentian Thrift Shops. These stores, which offer second-hand products, are very common in several countries and provide additional income to the SSVP. At the same time these stores help people in need to acquire clothes, furniture and footwear at very economic prices.

In July a hearing is scheduled at the United Nations (UN), in New York, when a report on the activities and projects of the worldwide SSVP will be delivered.

In September we will visit the tomb of Paul Lamache, located in the city of Grenoble (France). The tombs of the co-founders Ozanam, Bailly de Surcy and Lallier have already been visited and in the course of time we hope to visit the seven places where the mortal remains of our founders' rest.

In November, the General Council meeting will be held in Milan (Italy), the place where Ozanam was born. In the same month, the "Panasco 9" Encounter will be held in Hong Kong (China). There, the leaders in Asia and Oceania will meet to discuss ways to improve Vincentian service/ministry. Also in November

the Vincentian youth of Oceania will be host a regional seminar.

In the field of communication, the General Council will publish the "Manual of Application of the International Logotype of the SSVP," which was slightly updated during the Salamanca meeting, in 2018. A new institutional video is also being prepared and will include statistics and activities of the worldwide SSVP.

With regard to expanding the Society to new countries, the "SSVP Plus" Project is intended to reach to new places so that the worldwide network of charity might become a reality. This project has bold objectives and its own budget. Within a brief period of time, the Cayman Islands, Greece, Gabon and Morocco (just to mention a few places) will be able to count on the presence of the SSVP

In the area of formation, several modules of the "Universal Program" will be initiated. New books will be published, including "Quick Guide" which contains guidelines for the work of the Conferences, as well as an ethical code with regard to the use of social networks. We will also publish a protocol that will deal with the matter of raising resources through the internet.

These are the primary activities that the International General Council will initiate during 2019. We ask you to pray that God will bless us and allow us to achieve our goals. We thank all the members, brothers and sisters, who serve in the International Structure of the SSVP. They have gifted us with their talents and are most enthusiastic in exercising their ministry.

I am very happy to be the General President of worldwide Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I ask you to pray for me and my family and I assure you of my prayers. ■

Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th General President



Vale Vin Victory



Many people were saddened to hear of the death of Vin Victory on Saturday afternoon, 23 March, after a sustained battle with cancer.

Vin is survived by his wife, Gayle, and two children, Emma and Luke. One of Vin's wishes was for him to see his first grandchild. This was not to be, missing out by about one week. Nevertheless, he thoroughly enjoyed the photos and videos of Beatrix which were sent on an almost hourly basis.

Emma and her husband, Jony, and their new baby, along with Luke and his fiancé, Anisha, all live in Adelaide. Emma and Luke went to Holy Family Catholic School, Karama, and then to O'Loughlin College. Both Vin and Gayle came from South Australia. Vin was from Peterborough and was one of eleven children.

During his life, Vin had various jobs. In his early life he joined the National Australia Bank in his hometown. As a banker, he worked in Darwin before Cyclone Tracy. After the Cyclone he volunteered to return to Darwin and continue working in the Bank. Through these moves he made several friends from among the Bankies. Members of this group continued to meet regularly, and some visited Vin right up till his last days. It was also because of them that he met Gayle and later married her – the start of their 41 years together!

Another job was as a Real Estate Agent. Only recently, he was stopped by a person in the street and thanked by the happy home buyer for

a transaction about 25 years before. Vin spent about ten years with the Australian Taxation Office. For about the last ten years, he was the main contact person in the St Mary's Cathedral Parish office.

Vin, Gayle and family attended Holy Spirit Church for many years. Vin joined the Holy Spirit St Vincent de Paul Conference and for about six years was its President. In addition, he was a member of the Vinnies NT Council for eight years.

Over recent years, Vin and Gayle took it upon themselves to be responsible for erecting the Holy Spirit Giving Tree at Christmas time.

Within the parish, Vin also accepted the responsibility of being the "go to" person for those wishing to make enquiries and bookings for a niche in the columbarium at the back of Holy Spirit church.

Vin would often ride his special bike to the Conference meetings and elsewhere – lying back and pedalling along. One can't forget his other mode of transport – the loud motor-bike.

Vin was always interested in Social Justice; he was a member of the NT Vinnies Social Justice committee. His name would often be seen at the end of a Letter to the Editor in the local NT News.

The Victory family have been involved in wheelchair basketball for years – although none of them needed a wheelchair. This was another example of putting Social Justice into practice. He was very proud of the fact that a Darwinite, Tom O'Neill-Thorne, represented Australia in the Paralympics in wheelchair basketball. Another example of his interest in social Justice was his involvement in trying to do something practical for the many boat refugees who came to Darwin.

I wonder what your memories are of this special man? ■

Eulogy given by [Gerry McCormack](#) at Vin's funeral Mass.



Council General launches the International Competition for writings on Paul Lamache

Published on: 8 February 2019

As a way of promoting further the “International Year on the Theme of Paul Lamache”, the Council General of the SSVSP hereby opens the International Literary Competition on “The First Conference”.



The procedures, with the rules and the appendix for this competition, are available on the CGI website (www.ssvpglobal.org). The written entries must be no more than 20 pages long. Cash prizes will be awarded for the three best entries (1000, 750 and 500 euros, respectively). The SVP Conferences to which the winners belong will also receive a cash award to the same value, to be spent on behalf of the families and individuals they help, or on Vincentian works.

The closing date for sending in dissertations / studies will be 8 July 2019. The organizing committee will announce the final result on 9 September 2019, and the prizes will be sent to the winners immediately afterwards.

For more information visit:
<https://www.ssvpglobal.org/en/actualite/council-general-launches-the-international-competition-for-writings-on-paul-lamache/>

Lenten Retreat

On Saturday 6th April 2019, the Mary Mackillop Youth Conference hosted a Lenten Retreat for all members and volunteers of the Society in NT. The purpose of the retreat was to support the spiritual development of the

society by offering an opportunity for renewal during this Lenten season.

The retreat was divided into 3 broad sessions. The first session focused on sacrifice, giving and charity. The main speaker was Bishop Charles Gauci who led the session with an excellent balance of scripture, practical advice, personal experiences and humour. The second session focused on Reconciliation and was delivered by Brother Lawrence. He delivered a powerful talk on how it is important for us to reflect carefully to receive the sacrament with reverence. Brother Lawrence’s thoughtful insights into how we may use the Beatitudes to prepare for the sacrament, was well appreciated by all. Fr Peter Hendricks was available for reconciliation. The last session on Service was led by few members of the Mary MacKillop Youth Conference. This session led members to reflect on Christ’s example of a servant leader, whilst looking at examples of servant leaders in the bible.



In between the sessions, there were opportunities for conversations, games and music. Overall, a fantastic effort on part of the youth conference. Keep up the great work.

Justina Fernandes
Vice President – Mary Mackillop Youth Conference

Did we miss something - An event, an achievement, an important piece of Society news, something from a Conference or special work? Don't let us do that again. You can get your news to us via: Email: admin@svdpnt.org.au



Make your legacy live on

Have you considered including the St Vincent de Paul Society in your will? A bequest to the Society makes lasting positive change. It is a powerful reflection of the values and principles you treasure. It enables you to create a legacy of love and care for those who most need assistance and it will continue your life's aims beyond your own lifetime.

If you would like to consider making your community a better place through a bequest to the Society, please contact us for a fact sheet or brochure detailing the Territory's specific requirements.

Alternatively visit our Wills and Bequests site at:

https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Donate/Wills_and_Bequests/NT/



Make a difference today

I would like to make a gift to support the work of the Society

\$50 \$75 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible

Please debit my card:

Visa Amex Diners MasterCard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Name _____

Name on card if different _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Expiry ____/____

Email address _____

I would like a receipt emailed to me, providing your email address allows us to email your tax receipt to you, minimising postage costs and paper usage.

My cheque or money order is enclosed, cross 'Not Negotiable' and made payable to St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory

Mail to: St Vincent de Paul Society

PO Box 1468

Nightcliff NT 0814

THANK YOU!

The Society collects your personal information to process your kind donation and to provide you with direct marketing materials. We may not be able to process your donation or provide you with direct marketing materials without this information. We are strongly committed to protecting your personal information. We only share your personal information with third parties who provide us with technology services based overseas. We can provide you with details of the privacy policy if you would like further information. Our privacy policy is available at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/content/Document/QLD/NT/NT%20Privacy%20policy.pdf>



Acknowledgement

The Society acknowledges the Traditional Owners, elders past and present, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.