



Newsletter

In this issue

The President's Pen	1
Executive's Update	2
Workshop	4
Festival Mass 2019	5
Christmas Appeal	7

Events

All Year

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

October

November

10th - AGM

11th Remembrance Day

19 – Katherine Christmas Party

26 – Alice Springs Christmas Party

December

14 – Darwin Christmas Party

Next issue: December 2019

Deadline for contributions: 25 November 2019

Email: admin@svdpnt.org.au

The President's Pen



Fay Gurr, NT President

It has been such an exciting year with the Council and I working through our Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022. These plans can sometimes sit on the shelf and then we all get on with our 'usual business'. I feel strongly that if there is a strategic plan which is worked on steadily over a period the Society will move forward.

There are key goals for the Society beginning from this year. The Council works cohesively, and we are also inviting members of the Society to join committees who work between Council meetings and help progress the goals we have set. The committees are working on Growing Membership through looking at different types of membership and providing new options for members to join. Following the recent 'Engaging Membership' workshop with John Vance the committee has some good ideas to work on.

Advocacy and Social Justice Committee is newly formed and is working on ways that the Council and the Society in the Territory can give voice to the position of the National issues of the Society with a Territory perspective. Two current issues which the committee will put



forward to our community as speaking on behalf of the powerless are – Rights for Refugees who are living in the Territory and the campaign which is being led by the National SVDP which is the rights of those who receive welfare payments and the possible introduction of a 'Basics Card' which limits the funds individuals can access and stigmatizes those living on welfare. We are looking for other issues which may be pursued.

We are looking forward to our AGM which is on November 10 at Mackillop Hall at St Mary's Parish. It is an opportunity for the Council and the staff to report to members on what we have been working on for the Society. Also, at the Mass in the Cathedral following the AGM is Mass where the members of the Council will be commissioned by Bishop Charles and the National President, Ms Claire Victory who is visiting Darwin. This is a significant occasion for the Society as we share our achievements and the work of the Council is recognised through our commissioning. I hope to see members, volunteers, families, friends and staff to share these events. ■

PRAYER

*Lord, help me count my blessings.
When I get a glass of clean water from the tap,
When I curl up under my doona
Or spend time with friends.
There are many in the world
Who must continue without these.
It is for them I appreciate these-
The blessings that I have.
Amen.*

Executive's Update



Fran Avon, CEO

Since our last newsletter in July, our members, volunteers and staff have been extremely busy, and we are excited by the new opportunities that have been coming our way.

Our new Vinnies store in Winnellie is doing well with sales figures showing strong trading particularly on Saturdays – looks like it is a Saturday outing destination for many of our loyal customers. Our stores in Tennant Creek, Stuart Park and Palmerston have been receiving some love and attention with a refresh and a clean-up. Tennant Creek was also the beneficiary of a new solar installation. Installation of solar is a trial to determine whether the cost savings meet expectation. Our goal will be to roll out solar across all stores if shown to be feasible.

Our staff are also looking very smart wearing their new uniforms.

Our property team have been busy installing a new bathroom at Bakhita, our housing complex in Coconut Grove, using some of the Government funding received from the Northern Territory Department of Housing and Community Development. Ozanam House,



our day centre in Stuart Park, has also been given a “facelift” with a new paint job and some beautiful gardening work. The companions are enjoying the new surrounds and benefiting from the lovely meals being served from our new stove and fridge, again funded by the Government. Our companions are also actively participating in our new art class and plans are well advanced for a new music program. We have discovered some amazing talent!

Our Emergency Relief centre in Stuart Park is also appreciating a new environment with a move into Ozanam House and the Palmerston team are liking their newly renovated space.

The property team have also hit the road, spending some very hot days painting rooms in Ormonde House, our accommodation facility for men in Katherine, and undertaking maintenance work in our housing complex catering to families and individuals in Bernhard Street, Katherine.

Large group volunteering is gaining momentum with a contingent of over 65 US Navy Personnel giving us two days of their time to do a big clean up at Bakhita. It was a great opportunity for them to meet with our companions and to give back to the local communities that they visit. It was a whirlwind of activity with gardening, painting, demolition, rubbish removal and building of new racking all taking place. It was definitely an example of the old adage, “many hands make light work!”



KPMG, a local professional services firm, also provided volunteering over three days with a team of 15, utilising their skills in unique ways – serving breakfast and lunch at Ozanam House, sorting out our asset register, conducting a singalong with our elderly clients from our Community Home Support Program, and helping us sort out some technology challenges. A highlight was the singalong led by Kristy, a partner from KPMG – we had a lovely morning reminiscing, laughing and sharing some special stories of what each song meant to us.

Our Emergency fundraising appeal has raised over \$30,000 to support those most in need and we are now working on our Christmas Appeal. We have also begun the planning for the Sleepout which is scheduled for June next year.

We have also received the exciting news that St Vincent de Paul Society will be the beneficiary of the ABC Christmas Appeal which will provide a much-needed boost for financial donations. ABC will also advertise the need for food items and gifts for our Christmas Hamper drive. ■

REFLECTIONS

Blessed Frederic Ozanam once said, “Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. It is justice’s role to prevent the attack”.

- How would you describe the difference between charity and justice?
- Which is more important, charity or justice?
- Is your work with Vinnies more related to charity or justice or both evenly?
- How might Vinnies be both the oil that soothes the wounds and also the prevention of the attack, for those who are disadvantaged and marginalised?



Recruitment ready workshop

Are you recruitment ready?

About 12 participants joined John Vance, Director Mission, Spirituality and Membership and Cathryn Moore for the final session in the pilot Formation and Renewal series that began taking shape in November 2017.

John was able to share with us his research into successful recruitment in volunteer organisations. One useful point John made was the importance of Conferences looking inward firstly to ensure they were ready to welcome new members. Only once a Conference could say this was the case should they embark on a recruitment campaign to give it the best chance of bearing fruit. John gave a copy of his work and the resources used in the Canberra Goulbourn to each participant. If you would like to know more, please talk to your Conference president.

The final session was also an opportunity for Conferences to thank Cathryn for her work since 2017 in discerning the feedback from NT members and Council in putting the series together and for the gentle persistence with which she went about her task despite unkind flight schedules from Melbourne to Darwin and her various other commitments. ■



Workshop with Margaret Lambert



On Tuesday 13 August 2019 Marg Lambert, registered psychologist, author and speaker, currently undertaking PhD research and a member and a past President of the Society, provided a two-hour workshop for Society members, volunteers and employees. The workshop focused on times when we have to say 'no' to our Companions or face difficult conversations.

Participants were able to reflect on the dilemmas they face in the course of their service to our Companions working within the policies and the resources the Society has. The workshop considered how to have those interactions with our Companions and to prepare for and practice those conversations. There was also time to practice methods for self-care and gain an awareness of the resources available to members, volunteers and staff to support their wellbeing.

Thanks to Marg for her time and for sharing her knowledge and resources with us. ■



Festival Mass 2019

Members, staff and volunteers of the Society in the NT gathered at St Mary MacKillop Hall on Saturday 28 September 2019 to mark the feast of St Vincent de Paul (27 September), our patron, after whom Blessed Frederic Ozanam named the Society.

The Festival Mass, celebrated by Fr Ched Mloka, is an important annual opportunity for all members, volunteers and employees to reflect on how Frederic Ozanam's legacy lives on today through our good works. The Festival Mass also included the commissioning of five new Conference members with a further eight new members to be commissioned at a later date. The celebration also provided an opportunity for existing members to reflect on and renew their commitment to the work of the Society. During Mass we remembered those Vincentians and friends of the Society who have died in the last twelve months including Vin Victory, Margaret Byrne, Kathleen Lawrence, Margaret MacDonald and Jack Evans.

At the end of Mass there was time for people to catch up and share very tasty catering and it was lovely to see that everyone was able to stay and mingle.

Thanks must go to those who prepared and organised the event, Fay Gurr, Fran Avon, Sr Lucy Kert and Fr Ched Mloka. And Congratulations and welcome to each newly commissioned member. ■

Damian Legg
President - St Paul's Conference



Fr Ched Mloka giving the homily



Commissioning of new members: (From L-R) Fay Gurr, Fr Ched Mloka, Kibazo Rogers, Vijay Daniels, Jemima Fernandes, Geraldine Atkinson and Lovella Paquibot



Spiritual moments

What does Charity mean?

A lesson from the widow



Mark 12: 41-44

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Reflection

Why did Jesus say the widow had put in more when the value of her contribution was not as large as others? What is important about the distinction?

Have there been times when you have provided more (time, money, etc) than you 'had spare'? ■

Employee assist program

Members and volunteers are able to access the Society's Employee Assist Program (EAP). For assistance, a call can be made to 1800 81 87 28 or you can visit the website www.accesseap.com.au Identifying your role in the Society is all that is required. This service provides short term counselling support for staff, members and volunteers across a range of areas such as:

- Personal issues
- Work / life effectiveness
- Improving relationships
- Interpersonal conflict
- Working relationships
- Life goals
- Gambling
- Trauma, grief and loss
- Depression and anxiety
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support
- Financial and legal concerns
- Positive parenting
- Communication skills
- LGBTIQ support
- Drug, alcohol and substance abuse

This resource can help us in a range of circumstances, such as if we feel depressed, anxious, under stress or at crossroads in our lives. Sometimes the work we do as Vincentians might leave us feeling this way and this service is a support for us to access. ■



Christmas Appeal

**BRING JOY TO A FAMILY
AND SUPPORT OUR
CHRISTMAS
HAMPER APPEAL**

You can help by donating food items and gifts (age group 2-17) for our Christmas hampers.

Please leave your donation with your church or you can deliver to any of our Vinnies stores.



For more details please contact:
8948 8100

 **St Vincent de Paul Society**
(NT) Inc. *good works*

Christmas Party – members, volunteers and staff

Katherine

Venue: Katherine Club, O’Shea Terrace, Katherine

Date: Tuesday 19 November

Time: 6pm

RSVP by 14 November to admin@svdpnt.org.au or 8948 8100

Alice Springs

Venue: Casa Nostra Pizza and Spaghetti House

Date: Tuesday 26 November

Time: 6pm

RSVP by 21 November to admin@svdpnt.org.au or 8948 8100

Darwin

Venue: Mantra Pandanus, 43 Knuckey street, Darwin City

Date: Saturday 14 December

Time: 6pm

RSVP by 21 November to admin@svdpnt.org.au or 8948 8100

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 40345

Casuarina NT 0811

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.