

[A SNAP SHOT OF MINI VINNIES ACTION IN WILCANNIA FORBES, SEPTEMBER 2020](#)

2020 began in Wilcannia Forbes with fourteen Primary School Groups, one High School Group, much enthusiasm and exciting plans for the year BUT then came COVID and many changes to school life and of course to what could happen with Mini Vinnies.

Now we are in Term Three and some of our groups are back up and running, thinking about how they can help others AND doing just that!

Here are just some of the things that have been happening with Mini Vinnies!!!!

[St John's Cobar](#) began Vincentian Activity for 2020 by the members of Mini Vinnies reciting their pledge in front of their school community early in Term One. The school plans to hand out Certificates at the end of the year assembly in recognition of the children's work in Mini Vinnies.



[St Michael's Deniliquin](#) showed true care and service to their community. Their coordinator, Mrs Fiona Waters wrote that, "In May 2020 vandals took the blue bows our local health team had put on the bridge coming into town. Some of our Mini Vinnies team volunteered to put all 100 of them back on." What a wonderful effort showing care and giving service to others!

[St Mary's Hay](#) held a Mini Vinnies fundraiser to support the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. All the children and staff wore their pyjamas to school and brought a donation of either: money, blankets, clothing or non-perishable food to donate to our local conference of St Vincent de Paul Society.

[Holy Family Parkes](#)

On the last day of Term Two, our Mini Vinnies Group organised a wonderful Winter Appeal day. The students donated warm clothing, blankets and gold coins to the St Vincent de Paul cause. We raised over \$300 on the day. To finish the day we had our Term 2 Disco. Thank you to Mrs Payne and Mrs Shambrook for their donations of empty bottles and cans. Thank you to Mrs Herring for her organisation of the day. Donations were presented to Mrs Fran Scurfield of Parkes Holy Family SVdP Conference.



[St Laurence's Forbes](#)

Our Mini Vinnies Group and Mrs Wright organised for the school to collect non perishable food to help Vinnies 2020 Winter Appeal. We presented Mrs Val Maunder and Mrs Helen Smith from Forbes Sacred Heart SVdP Conference, with a lovely collection of food to help those in need in the cold winter months.



Mrs Julie Jones of [St Michaels Conference Trundle](#) reported that Mini Vinnies at St Patrick's Trundle had raised \$158.50 to help with Vinnies work in Trundle. How did they do this? They made and sold Hot Dogs to the school community The children learned lots. They cared for and served others and had lots of fun doing so!!!!

[Red Bend Catholic College Vinnies Team Update Term 2](#)

The Vinnies team met up at recess on Wednesday in Week 9 to badge all new members of the team. We discussed all the events we've been involved in so far, including the swimming carnival fundraiser, Easter egg donation, Winter appeal BBQ, Central West Region Meeting and the voting and commissioning liturgy. We also looked at future events we could host to promote, maintain and adhere to the mission, vision and values Vinnies stand for. Being a part of Vinnies is important because it's recognised as supporting the most vulnerable in the community. The Badging ceremony in Week 9 symbolises our team's devotion to helping the community with commitment, compassion, integrity, respect, empathy, advocacy and courage. With over 100 Red Bend members and growing, Vinnies certainly is alive and well here.

Emma Jones (Vinnies Publicity Officer)

[More From Red Bend Catholic College!!!!](#) ...Helping Others! A Project supported by the College Vinnies Group. Thank you to Sr Elizabeth, Sue Wu and Maddie Lewin Howard for this report.

Students (and Teachers) Making Their Mask

On a Thursday recess in May, Red Bend students and staff could be found working hard in the textiles department. They had given up their time to contribute to a project of the Sisters of Mercy to make face masks for Papua New Guinea (PNG). While few people in Australia have been wearing masks during this pandemic time, in PNG, often it has been compulsory to wear a mask to return to school. The country also generally has very little protective equipment to deal with viruses of this kind or any other, and an acute shortage of intensive care beds. This is what two students who participated had to say:



“Being a part of the face mask project was a very rewarding experience as I felt like I had contributed to the community. It gave me a sense of connection and helped me to understand the importance of support for those who are currently in need.”

Sue Wu

“Being part of the face mask project was something I have been wanting to do since Covid started. I feel that it is a way of showing the health care workers and people in countries who don't have access to the medical facilities we do that we care. It lets them feel better about their days as the world fights this virus away. I love making a difference and this is part of it. Being part of this project meant so much to me as I would like to be involved in medicine some day and help people who can't help themselves. If something like this happened when I am older, I would hope people do the simple things like make masks.”

Maddie Lewin-Howard

The masks will go to a Mercy boarding school in Wewak, in the north of PNG.