

Vinnies Wilcannia - Forbes School Newsletter



Vinnies
good works

Term 2, 2026

I am excited to introduce this quarterly newsletter as a way to bring our school communities closer together. Across our vast region, it can be easy to feel disconnected, but through sharing stories, celebrating the incredible work already happening, and highlighting opportunities to get involved, we can ensure no Mini Vinnies or Service Medallion group feels like it is working in isolation.

At the heart of our school programs is a commitment to social justice, encouraging students to live out their faith through service, to grow in compassion, and to offer a hand up to those in need. I hope this space becomes a source of connection, inspiration, and support, and I warmly invite you to reach out to share your wins or ask for encouragement if you need it.

Thank you to each school who has made a commitment to their Mini Vinnies or Service Medallion program so far. Your *good works* are uplifting!



In my life I want to become better and do a little good. - Frederic Ozanam 🌈



New Schools and Youth Officer

My name is Jess Easthope, and I joined Vinnies just after Easter, having previously worked with young people at headspace and Lifeline.

I have been inspired by the incredible Mini Vinnies, Service Medallion students & School Conferences, along with their coordinators, who so generously support their communities.

Don't be a stranger! Please reach out at jess.easthope@vinnies.org.au or 0433 390 269.



Sharing Resources

After a great first meeting with St Mary's Parish Primary School, Warren we have developed a [Mini Vinnies/Service Medallion Ideas Board](#). a simple, shared space of practical activities using the See, Think, Do model. Take an idea, try it in your school, then give back by adding your own. Click [the link](#) to get started and collaborate with schools making a difference.



Winter Appeal 2026

Vinnies NSW supports thousands of people each year facing financial hardship and homelessness, often just one unexpected crisis away.

Join the 2026 Vinnies Winter Appeal and help make a real difference. Host a fundraiser, collect coins or non-perishables, or take part in a Winter “Stay In” or Sleepout.

Bring your school community together, explore ideas on our [Ideas Board](#) and reach out to Jess for support (jess.easthope@vinnies.org.au).

Find resources:

<https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal/>
[Vinnies Winter Appeal 2026 Video](#)

Start something that matters at your school

Vinnies school programs are all about building empathy, leadership and a real-world understanding of social justice, while giving students practical ways to help others. Bring social justice to life in your school. Reach out to Jess to get started.



Primary Schools – Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies empowers students to see a need and respond. Through simple, student-led actions, they learn the value of compassion, teamwork and making a difference in their local community.

Get started: <https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23>

High Schools – Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM)

The VSM recognises students who step up through volunteering, advocacy and leadership. It’s a flexible program that supports meaningful service while celebrating the impact young people are already making.

Register: <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion/>

What's happening in our Region?



1. "Walk For Water" St Mary's Parish School Warren 2/4/26

1. In the spirit of awareness raising, **St Mary's Parish School, Warren** hosted a Walk for Water event. Students were informed about children and their families having to walk multiple kilometers every day for a basic human necessity - water! They shared meaningful conversations as they walked, considering how difficult the walk would be if they were thirsty too.

2. **St Joseph's Parish Primary School, Condobolin** officially welcomed their Mini Vinnies from Stage 3 at their commissioning mass on 1st May, while celebrating the Solemnity of St Joseph the Worker. We look forward to sharing in your fantastic initiatives!



2. Commissioning Mass at St Joseph's Parish Primary School Condobolin 1/5/26

3. A warm welcome Mrs Kirsty Bell, the new principal at **St John's Parish Primary School, Cobar**. Schools Officer, Jess was able to have a brief visit, working together with Mrs Doris Powell to get Mini Vinnies started in Cobar!



3. Mini Vinnies kicking off at St John's in Cobar 23/4/26

4. Congratulations to **St Michael's Parish Primary School, Deniliquin**, who were nominated in the Australia Day Awards 2026 in the Community Group of the Year category! The school also conducts aged care visits each fortnight with the stage 2 group & each week with the stage 3 group. Also pictured is the advertisement for the annual St Patrick's Day cupcake fundraiser. Great work!



4. Community Group of the Year Nomination - Aus Day Awards St Michael's Deniliquin 26/1/26

5. What a design! Edith from **St Joseph's Parish School, Peak Hill** was a winner of our St Vincent de Paul annual Christmas card decorating competition. Edith's design will feature in the 2026 Christmas card prints. Amazing work!



5. Edith won the Vinnies Christmas card comp!



4. Aged Care Visits St Michael's Parish Primary School Deniliquin 22/4/26

