

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS IN NAUIYU

In June, members of the Order of Malta in the Northern Territory visited St Francis Catholic Primary School on the banks of the Daly River, two hours south of Darwin.



The local community has a population of around 510 people and is 86 percent Aboriginal. Whilst English is spoken by most residents, Ngan'gikurunggurr is the most prominent of ten local languages. In 1884 the Jesuits established a mission in the town and as a result, 75 percent of the population are Roman Catholic.

Through the through the Principal Mrs Kellie McGinley, staff, and Fr Peter, the Order of Malta provided blankets, pillows and socks for the local community and educational materials for over 60 students at the school.

In addition, a new school has been established in the area, and the Order of Malta has donated children's books to form the basis of their small school library and provided 11 students with a pack containing exercise books and other classroom necessities.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN

Members in the Northern Territory have been funding a project to distribute children's bibles to schools.

"The project originated as there are far fewer nuns and brothers now than in previous years, who provided a lot of education that would otherwise not have been available", explains member of the Order of Malta, Dr. Frances Booth. "The present generation of parents, and consequently children, have lost the benefits of this education and there is a serious concern that the Catholic faith is dying in Australia. The Priests do not have time for this important work, and in many cases the children at the schools come from countries where English is not a first language".



The project not only intends to provide religious education for children aged six to nine years old, but is also a useful tool for children and parents, for whom English is not their first language, to learn to read and write.

To date, members have distributed over 2,000 books and there is demand from schools and kindergartens for more.

NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE ONLINE STORE



SPIRITUAL COMPANION PRAYER BOOK (SECOND EDITION) \$65

Second Edition of the Prayer Book of the Australian Association. Updated with colour pictures and dedicated to our former Principal Chaplain, Archbishop Philip Wilson.



ORDER OF MALTA ROSARY \$20

This Order of Malta Rosary is made with olive wood by the pupils of the Salesian Art School in Jerusalem. The olive tree is traditionally believed to be the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden.

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NEW PROJECT - NURSING HOME VISITS

With COVID-19 restrictions easing in New South Wales and the Nursing Homes opening, our Order of Malta volunteers in Sydney will be starting a new Nursing Home Visitation initiative.

We currently have two Nursing Homes in the Sutherland Shire region interested and we are keen to get some other Nursing Homes around Sydney involved.

If you would like to be a part of our Nursing Home Visitation team or if you know of a Nursing Home that would be interested in having Order of Malta volunteers visit please email cervolunteers@orderofmalta.org.au



CASE STUDY: COATS FOR THE HOMELESS DISTRIBUTION IN NORTHERN NSW

Northern NSW has in recent years experienced a massive influx of people. The holiday hotpots of Ballina, Lennox Head, Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads have not only transformed into year-round holiday destinations, but desired places to live. As a result real estate prices and rents have soared to levels that far exceed affordability for even high-income earners.

Local renters have been forced out to the inland towns where poverty is already high. They also lose their social networks

and ties and become strangers in new places where support services are missing. Unemployment, homelessness, domestic violence, family dysfunction, alcoholism, drug abuse and mental health issues are all on the rise. People sleeping in vans now includes not only backpackers, but locals that are no longer able to afford the increased rents.

The Order of Malta has been active in the area and spoken to many people afflicted by the new situation. Our members and volunteers have distributed winter coats, warm socks and toiletries to the homeless on the streets. They have also formed contacts with the local Vinnies Conferences and workers at Byron Bay Community Centre, where they have spent time there talking to the homeless and distributing coats, beanies, toiletries and socks.

Volunteers and members note how being involved in the project has enriched their lives and have shared anecdotes from their distribution:

A homeless man who accepted a warm winter coat from Order of Malta indicated how important it was that it was a Velcro fastening rather than a zip, but also that it was a long dark jacket that doesn't stand out commenting that "I have to watch out because it is very dangerous for me and who I am, and I stay away from others".



WE HAVE BEEN SERVING THE SICK AND THE POOR FOR OVER 900 YEARS.

HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK BY LEAVING A BEQUEST TO THE ORDER OF MALTA.

By leaving us a legacy, no matter what size, you allow us to plan for the future. With guaranteed funds in place, we can look to expand and develop our humanitarian activities with confidence.

If you would like to receive a copy of our bequest brochure, please complete and return the form on page 5.

A lady living in her car for many years explained, "I can no longer even afford to pay for petrol to leave Brunswick heads." She has formed a community with other homeless people who live in the bushes at Brunswick heads and they lay nets for crabs in the morning for. I spent several hours with them enjoying their company after I had handed out coats and they invited me to a lunch of crab.

One local sold her house to pay medical bills and care for her mother, who then passed away. She could not secure new accommodation locally and bought herself a van to live in and a year has passed like that.

"Despite once having a good bank balance, I could not find anything to rent as I don't have a job or a husband who works and property managers continually decline me. They don't even consider my applications anymore."

When asked why she does not move to another town she said, "I don't know anybody anywhere else as I have lived here all my life. This is where all my friends are who help me. All my support is here".

Help us continue our work. Visit orderofmalta.org.au to become a volunteer or make a donation



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

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Australian Association President, The Hon James Douglas, talking with recipients of our hygiene packs distributed around Darwin.



Coats for the Homeless distribution team in Dandenong, Victoria.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS AND HYGIENE PACK DISTRIBUTION UNDERWAY

Our 2021 Coats for the Homeless distribution is underway! Our Order of Malta volunteers and members have been busy distributing our Coats and Hygiene Packs to the homeless and with the unprecedented cold snap in June affecting much of the country, our homeless recipients have been very grateful for the extra protection.

Furthermore, with the constantly evolving COVID-19 pandemic, our Hygiene Packs continue to be popular and a special mention to the students at Notre Dame University who volunteered their time to assemble these.

We must also thank Oxford Shop in Sydney and Simons National carriers for their warehousing and freight assistance again this year. We are extremely grateful for their long-term support of this project.

For everyone who has donated to this project – thank you. We still have a way to go to cover our 2021 costs for this project so please consider a tax-deductible donation to support this work.



Our friends at Rosies who provide services to the homeless in Queensland with Order of Malta Regional Hospitaller, Danny Higgins, who have assisted with the Coats distribution.



Oxford shop staff Bob Assoni and Max Wolgramm, who have provided warehousing assistance for the project.



Nursing and medical students at Notre Dame University in Sydney assembling hygiene packs to be distributed to the homeless.

Visit coatsforthehomeless.org or complete and return the donation coupon on page 5.

TIMOR-LESTE FLOODS – RESPONSE UPDATE



Following the devastating floods in Timor-Leste at the beginning of April, which took 44 lives and made thousands homeless, the Order of Malta have been providing assistance to families in Hera who found refuge in a local school after flood waters drove them from their homes.

Our initial support response, ensured these families were provided with basic necessities, including hygiene items, nappies for children, bottled water and food.

At the beginning of May, the families were able to return to their homes, however these and their belongings sustained extensive damage. Much beyond repair.

The Order of Malta has identified households without means to rebuild following the floods and is providing aid and support.



Martinha da Conceicao (pictured) has no source of income after the floods destroyed the bananas she grows and sells. Her kitchen was also washed away and although she has built a temporary one, it is in a very bad condition.

Living with her is daughter Maria, who is nine months pregnant and unable to return to her home due to COVID-19. Sadly all of the baby clothes she had brought were washed away during the flood. The Order of Malta is providing support with kitchen material, baby items and food.

Please help us support people like Martinha and Maria.
Tax-deductible donations to our Natural Disaster Fund can be made on page 5.

FOOD SERVICE FOR DISADVANTAGED SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS IN DARWIN

On the last Sunday of every month members of the Order of Malta volunteer at a food service in Fannie Bay, Darwin.

The monthly commitment with the Missionaries of Charity involves members purchasing, preparing and serving the food to those who attend. The nuns deliver a prayer before the meal and the people we serve are most appreciative.

“Whilst we have only been involved in the project for six months, we are keen to increase the frequency”, explained Order of Malta Regional Hospitalier, Seán Parnell OAM. We welcome donations and volunteers who would be interested in supporting this project”



Anne and Ivan are a couple from Maningrida (a remote town on the coast of Arnhem Land) attended a recent service with 70 other adults from disadvantaged circumstances.

Anne and Ivan had travelled to Darwin to visit relatives and do some shopping; however they were unable to return home by road as they have become impassable during the wet season.

Whilst they try and get the airfare to return home, they live in the long grass around Darwin. They regularly attend the foreshore at Bundilla Beach to receive a meal from the mobile Meal service delivered by the Missionaries of Charity in conjunction with the Order of Malta. The meal they receive is a godsend as otherwise they would not be able to afford to eat when in Darwin.

Interested in volunteering?
visit the 'Volunteer' section at
orderofmalta.org.au or email info@
orderofmalta.org.au

Want to make a tax-deductible
donation? Complete and return the
coupon on page 5.

MEMBER INVESTED AS INVESTED AS A KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF ITALY



Member of the Order of Malta Australia, Carlo Randazzo and Italian Ambassador, Her Excellency Francesca Tardioli

On 21 May 2021 Confrère Carlo Randazzo was invested as a Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy with the prenominal title of Cavaliere for his long, devoted service as the Honorary Vice-Consul for Italy in the Northern Territory.

The Ordine della Stella d'Italia was originally instituted in 1947 as the Star of Italian Solidarity, to recognise those expatriates and foreigners who made an outstanding contribution to the reconstruction of Italy after World War II. In 2011, it was reformed and recognises those who preserve and promote national prestige abroad, promoting friendly relations and co-operation with other countries and ties with Italy.

CARING FOR PEOPLE IN NEED - TOGETHER

2021 ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CAMP

Planning and implementation for the 2021 Youth Camp has entered an exciting phase as Expressions of Interest have been received from many parts of Australia for guests with carers and volunteers.

Guest applications have come from as far afield as Tasmania and the Northern Territory and the volunteer applications express real enthusiasm for the program we have outlined; both in giving them opportunities to be of service and the prospect of having fun.

The theme parks and leisure activities on the Gold Coast are some of the highlights that caught peoples' attention, however richer themes of being together and sharing in each other's participation (the true purpose of the Order of Malta Youth Camp) has been their predominant motivation.

It has been unfortunate that due to COVID-19 restrictions the usual coming together of the Asia Pacific's Order of Malta Associations cannot be achieved due to border restrictions. There has been an endeavour to find participants already residing in Australia from those nations, to fly the flag on behalf of their Order Association. As a result, one of the camp's aims, of bringing cultures together, will still be achieved.

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to support this project. We are still seeking funding to ensure unexpected contingencies are allowed for. Donations can be made on page 5.

* GARDENING PROJECT

Order of Malta Volunteers in Sydney have been busy in the Sutherland Shire providing gardening assistance to elderly parishioners.

Kath, a lifelong and active member of the St Aloysius Parish Community in Cronulla, recently started having joint problems making it harder for her to do simple tasks in the garden, like weeding and removing plants. It quickly became overgrown, to the point she dreaded going out there.

Our volunteers got to work, returning the overgrown garden to its former glory. Kath is excited to sit in her garden again and play with her grandson.

"Thank you so much, the work that OMV has done in my garden has really made a difference. At my age I just don't have the strength anymore to get down in the garden, so I am so grateful to have the team come and help me. I now can go into the garden and play with my grandson in the sun. I will be forever grateful for this."

The gardening volunteers are currently meeting quarterly and welcome any new recruits interested in joining them.

* FOOD SERVICE AT EMMANUEL CITY MISSION

On the second Sunday of each month, Order of Malta members and volunteers, serve a welcoming breakfast and signature sausage-sizzle lunch to people visiting the Emmanuel City Mission (ECM), in South Brisbane.

ECM provides a safe, friendly, daytime sanctuary for homeless and vulnerable people and offers free food, clothes, shower, washing facilities and uplifting engagement.

* TIERNEY HOUSE VOLUNTEER BBQS RECOMMENCE

Our volunteer BBQs at Tierney House that had been on a prolonged hiatus following the implementation of COVID-19 restrictions, recommenced in March.

Tierney House is part of St Vincent's Homeless Health Service and is a 12 bedded residential unit assisting the inner-city homeless population to access health care. Tierney House provides a safe and stable environment whereby residents can access assessment, treatment and support from St Vincent's Hospital and local health and support services.

The weekly BBQs see residents and volunteers working together to cook and serve the food. In doing so the volunteers provide camaraderie and support to the residents, who enjoy the social interaction during their time at the unit.



If you would like to learn more about any of the volunteering opportunities detailed, visit the 'Volunteer' section at orderofmalta.org.au or email info@orderofmalta.org.au



2021 Asia Pacific Youth Camp



Gardening Project



Emmanuel House Food Service



Tierney House Volunteer BBQ



Tax-deductible donations to our Natural Disaster Fund can be made on page 5.

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH DINNER TO SUPPORT BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

In May, 38 guests attended the Lake Conjola Bowling Club for a Men's Mental Health evening, co-hosted by the Order of Malta and the Shoalhaven Rising from the Ashes centre.

The event brought together men from the community, impacted by the bushfires. Guests enjoyed a meal and talks from guest speakers.

Dr Tad Tietze, a psychiatrist who works at Shellharbour hospital and is responsible for psychiatric crisis response for acute presentations to the Emergency Department, was one of the speakers. Tad spoke about the need for men to look after their mental health and the importance of sharing their feelings and concerns with a trusted friend.

The second speaker of the evening was Stuart O'Neill, author of the bestselling book "Just One Reason" – a personal account of his battle with depression and suicidal thoughts on the breakdown of a relationship. Stuart spoke from the heart and captivated the audience with his honesty and openness. Stuart's message supported that of Tad's, encouraging men to stop and seek help if needed. Stuart provided all who attended the evening with a copy of his book.

Finally, Stephen Chinnock, a local poet from Conjola recited one of the poems that he had written since the fires. Stephen spoke about the importance to have an outlet to express your feelings, and how his had been through the art of his poetry. The evening concluded with a few speeches of thanks, and hours of conversation amongst the crowd and speakers.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event. The evening was a great success and was very much appreciated by the community members who attended.



I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the reply paid envelope provided.

☐ I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; or

I would like to support:

- ☐ Coats for the Homeless
- ☐ Natural Disaster Fund
- ☐ Asia Pacific Youth Camp

REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

☐ Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
☐ Please remove me from your mailing list.

Donations will be allocated to projects as requested by the donor. However if the needs of a project have already been met, we will allocate funds to another Order of Malta charitable activity.

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