



**Parramatta  
Mission**

August 2016  
Spring Issue

Transforming Lives

## Together, We Have Achieved Milestones!

**Donations have increased 10% from the last fiscal year.**

Thanks to your generosity, Parramatta Mission in closing the recent fiscal year, is delighted to announce that donations have increased by 10%, and we recorded the highest number of donations in several years.

Not only does this mean we can secure the current levels of

support for our services in mental health, accommodation and meals, we can now continue to extend and grow these works in our community.

Parramatta Mission would like to especially thank our supporting congregations, donors, staff and corporate partners for their generosity and ongoing support.

We may say this often, but never enough, we could not do the work without you - **thank you.**



**We have launched our fresh new website – with new branding!**

With the increasingly fast pace and change in technology, Parramatta Mission, like any other first class organisation, is not exempt from needing to keep up with “the times” and has decided to update its website, and user experience.

With our clients and friends of Parramatta Mission in mind, users can now readily access all of our services with a few simple clicks from the homepage, and read all about our various programs in mental health, accommodation and community services.

In fact, our new service brands have been colour coordinated to help identify the relevant areas more easily, with “Uniting Recovery” (mental health) in teal, “Uniting

Hospitality” (accommodation) in orange, and “Uniting Hope” (community services) in blue.

Supporters and donors of Parramatta Mission will also find that our donation process has evolved.

In addition to the donation pages being more user-friendly, and streamlined (with fewer clicks required), donors are also now able to manage their own regular contributions.

Donors are now able to log in (details automatically provided after their first online donation) to the website, and increase or reduce (preferably the former) their monthly donations. They are also able to pause, and restart monthly giving when convenient.

**[www.parramattamission.org.au](http://www.parramattamission.org.au)**



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# Sisters of Mercy on a (Parramatta) “Mission”

The Sisters of Mercy, our friendly neighbours and partners in Parramatta, have recently pledged a gift of \$30,000.00 to support Meals Plus.

The Sisters of Mercy have been long time supporters of Parramatta Mission, but have recently really taken the partnership to new heights, by pledging their support of \$30,000.00 over the next three years.

In a short interview, Sister Catherine Ryan, congregation leader at the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta, had the following to say regarding their committed support.

## Explain the connection between the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta and Parramatta Mission?

*The Sisters of Mercy arrived in Parramatta in 1888. We first of all responded to the needs of the poor in Parramatta. Now as the years have gone on of course, our numbers have declined, and there is work we can no longer reach on and we know that Parramatta Mission is doing that work and we're very proud of being able to support them in doing the work that we believe is close to the Gospel of Jesus.*

## Why have you considered really elevating your support?

*It is the extraordinary year of Mercy (in the Catholic Church), and as you know Pope Francis declared that for the Catholic Church, but indeed for the whole world. Pope Francis, as you know, is a man of action and he wants all Christians, but particularly the Catholic Church to express their following of Jesus in practical action.*

*Now the work here in feeding the poor, feeding the needy, supporting them in anyway (through legal aid, housing aid), and people of great need because of domestic violence, all the work that Parramatta Mission does are really works of Mercy.*

## What has your experience been like donating and volunteering at Parramatta Mission?

*I can only say that our experience here is very positive. There's nothing like rolling up your sleeves and doing it yourself; its like Mercy "blesses him that gives and him that takes. 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest." So it is a real practical expression of sharing the goods we have with those who are more needy than ourselves.*

*I'd encourage any group in the Parramatta area who is thinking of joining this partnership, to get on board – it is really a worthwhile adventure and you'll find a lot of satisfaction, but you'll also do a lot of good.*



Above: Sister Catherine, the Sisters Of Mercy and volunteers at Meals Plus



## CONSIDER A BEQUEST

The lasting impact of bequests—both large and small—have helped shape Parramatta Mission today, and will further go on to secure its future tomorrow.

For many supporters of Parramatta Mission, a charitable bequest is the easiest and best way to make a gift. Consider leaving a portion of your estate to Parramatta Mission, to secure and advance our work of helping the homeless, feeding the poor and aiding mental health.

For more information, contact Parramatta Mission's Director of Development, Michael Mendieta [michael.mendieta@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:michael.mendieta@parramattamission.org.au) or call 0422 259 305.

# Ford Revs up Support within Community

Thomson Ford, in Parramatta, has long supported Parramatta Mission, and has recently pledged \$30,000 to various works to benefit the community.

David Webster, Ford's Principal dealer at 87 Church St Parramatta, has been committed to giving back to the community in recent years, and has again renewed his commitment, with a pledge of \$30,000 over three years.

In a short interview, David had this to say:

## Why do you support Parramatta Mission?

*Parramatta Mission do a great job in the local community. We can see where our support goes at Meals Plus. You can see the direct benefit when you're in there, getting your hands dirty, helping set up – it's great to see where the money goes that you contribute.*

## Why have you decided to increase your support?

*We have decided to commit and pledge \$10,000 a year, for three years, to support Meals Plus. We think it's a great initiative and we want to provide security, and have Parramatta Mission know the funds are coming their way over the next few years.*



Above: David Webster and the team from Thomson Ford serve lunch at Meals Plus

*"Parramatta Mission do a great job in the community and Thomson Ford are part of the local community and we'd like to give a bit back."*

David Webster,  
Ford's Principal Dealer at 87 Church St Parramatta



## Lifeline WS Receives Dooleys' Gift at GUS

In June, during our last Gloster Udy Society (GUS) luncheon, we were fortunate to hear from Lifeline expert, Poppy Krallidis, who shared her experience and insights into issues surrounding mental health.

Not only did we learn that 1 in 4 people are likely to experience mental health issues, but also Western Sydney had some of the highest rates of mental illness and suicide, across NSW.

**Fortunately, during the GUS lunch, Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club kindly donated \$25,000 to support the work of Lifeline Western Sydney.**

When asked why they have opted to support Lifeline Western Sydney, Julie Milsom, Dooleys' Community Relations Manager said:

*"Suicide and mental health are universal issues, regardless of your gender, faith or cultural background. Dooleys strongly believes that we all have a responsibility to be involved in these issues and encourage these difficult yet important conversations throughout our local communities. Suicide and mental health must be openly addressed in our community to remove any potential stigma and shame that people can feel when faced with crisis situations. Dooleys is proud to work with a number of local service providers and community organisations, such as Parramatta Mission, who inspire us with their passion to make our community a better place to live."*

We would like to thank all the staff, like Poppy, who have worked tirelessly in helping people with mental health issues, particularly surrounding suicide.

Furthermore, this work could not begin without the generous support of our donors, and we take this opportunity to say a special thanks to Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club for their very generous gift of \$25,000.00 which will go a long way in helping thousands of people across Western Sydney, and will literally save many lives.

# A Special Week for Homeless Persons

On Monday August 9, Parramatta Mission was involved in Western Sydney Homeless Connect, an annual event which aims to connect those who are homeless, or at risk of being homeless, with many support service providers in one place, on one day, to achieve real outcomes that help put an end to homelessness.

This year Homeless Connect

- provided around 2600 meals including 500 salads, 1100 bacon and egg rolls and 1000 burgers as around 1500 coffees
- provided over 250 health checks
- provided around 90 haircuts
- gave out around 1000 hygiene and care packs
- gave out 7000 muesli bars and 4000 oranges
- gave out hundreds of items of clothing and put countless smiles on faces and offered assistance to people in real need.



Each year in August, Homeless Persons Week (HPW) activities bring together a number of church, welfare, government, motorcycle and other community groups, who organise activities that encourage a positive appreciation of the issues and needs of those who are homeless in the Parramatta Region.

HPW this year was launched on Sunday August 8, with the Annual Bikers Blanket Run from Penrith to Parramatta. Blankets collected along the way, and at the launch event, are distributed to people and services locally.

During the remainder of the week there were musical performances, morning teas, a memorial service and a free lunch at Meals Plus.

For those who are homeless or facing crisis, HPW events give access to, and provide information about, the services available that may be able to assist in improving someone's situation. Being public events, it is also a reminder to all of us that there is a real need for these services in our community and that homelessness continues to be an issue for many.

