

Vinnies Corner



Drop-in Centre

Following a flood earlier in the year, the drop-in centre has been repaired and is now being set up for use by community groups and individuals who may need help or companionship. A variety of possible uses is under consideration at present and it is envisaged that it will be very well used when preparations are completed.

In Grateful Memory

We have been saddened by the death of Patrick James Hannan (Pat), former president and stalwart supporter of the work of the St Vincent de Paul. He and his wife, Margaret, started our foodbank from their shed and progressed to the presbytery garage. He was delighted to witness the expansion of our work this year. His cheerful presence and willingness to oblige are legendary, and we miss the sight of his van gracing the church carpark and moving around Levin with loads of food and furniture, both collecting and delivering these as required. Pat was always ready to heat up a barbecue and provide nourishment for helpers on the spot.

We feel privileged to have experienced his generosity and will strive to live up to his legacy as we continue his work for those in need. RIP.

Baby Assist

This programme provides free clothing and bedding etc for needy families with children from new-borns to 5 years of age. A large amount of wool has been received from the shop. Knitting has been collected from individuals as well as from the MiLife Retirement village. A StVdeP member has visited the Teen Parent Unit to distribute some items to the young mothers there and she will have an ongoing contact with the Unit. Midwives have also been contacted and we hope to hear back from them, in order to assist any families they may know who would appreciate this kind of help. A large container of clothes and blankets has been taken to Taitoko Kindy, another relationship we see as ongoing.

Meet our Mayor, Bernie Wanden



Bernie has been part of the Levin scene permanently since 1984, although being connected to it through his marriage to Sharon in 1979. His in-laws owned McLeod's Book Centre and were looking to retire, so offered the couple a partnership in the business, a decision Bernie has never regretted.

At that time, there were 5-6 bookstores in Levin. In due course, McLeod's became part of the Paper Plus group and remains that today. For a locally owned small business, membership of the larger group had obvious advantages in being able to access marketing support and in the area of purchasing of stock and the like. Bernie is a familiar figure around Levin, both in and outside of the shop, taking an active interest in what is going on in the community. He is a Justice of the Peace, a Rotarian and been involved in various community organisations over the years.

He loves living here, the most attractive drawcards being the lifestyle and convenience Levin offers, as well as being a great place to bring up children. Although a relatively small town, Levin is conveniently situated being a manageable distance from Palmerston North and Wellington.

Bernie was first elected as a Councillor in 2016 and then Mayor in 2019 and has put his name forward for a second term as mayor in this year's elections. As he says, the job is a complex one and it takes a while to feel comfortable in the role. He feels much better equipped to deal with the issues which may arise for our district in the future.

He is excited about the prospects for our district. Not so long ago, Levin was regarded as something of a 'zombie' town, but this has changed and growth is happening rapidly, with the huge increases in house and land prices further south. The completion of Transmission Gully and the prospect of O2NL make our district much more appealing to those looking for lifestyle at a reasonable price. Our district has been undervalued for a long time and it is now moving forward into its future.

Foodbank

To date, food for seven days provided by the Levin Conference to those in need has increased by 64% over the past year.

This is just part of a rising trend of assistance provided by the Society.

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