

Volunteer

NEWSLETTER

Dec 7, 2022 / Vol 6

Welcome to Meals Plus!

I am pleased to announce that **Sue Rogoimuri** will be starting as our Community Meal Co-Ordinator as of the 1st December.

We have been patiently, seeking, waiting, and praying that God would bring the right person for this role and I am incredibly excited and grateful that Sue has responded to the call.

I know that Sue is no stranger to many of us being a key leader in our Leigh Fijian Congregation as well as the leader of our partner service, Bula Feed Ministry.

She brings with her a wealth of experience in a variety of different roles she has held in the aged care and disability sector and has already been hard at work looking at what we can do to become a more impactful and sustainable service going forwards.

She has a big heart and passion for serving those in need and is someone who seeks the will and heart of God above all else.

Davyn De Bruyn

(GM) Community and Fundraising



Pop-ups Adventures!

For all our volunteers who came out and helped with our pop-ups, we say:

THANK YOU!!!

We had two more popups on 1st December and 4th December. During these events, members of the public could donate \$10 for a Christmas plate – then they get to write their messages of love and support for those in need.

We were impressed by the generosity of people, not to mention their creativity! As you can see, some went all out.


Imagine our Meals Plus hall being decorated by these messages of love and more on Christmas Lunch day on Friday 23rd December!!



Meals Plus with another Plus

We had our second Community Hub Day on 23rd November. A big thanks as always to Jenny for organising everything and leading on the day. Saw plenty of happy faces on the day for sure.

The next one is on 21st December 2022. Don't miss it!

*"Be there for others,
but never leave
yourself behind"*
-Dodinsky 



Christmas Decorations by Brightlight

Thanks for the team from Brightlight that visited us on 17th November, we now have our Christmas trees up and our hall decked full with festivities.



"Kings" in our house

In last week of November, we had 135 Year 10 students from the King's School visiting us at Meals Plus and our Leigh Memorial Church to learn about our service and history, and to do some hard work for the community.

We have received some incredible feedbacks from all involved on the good work done at Meals Plus by you all.

For me personally, it was an amazing experience to be learning about the rich history of the Uniting Church in Parramatta from our very own congregation scholar and historian.



*From the
Fundraising
Team...*

The fundraising team would like to acknowledge the great work of our volunteers and the valuable contribution that you make to the operations of our services. We regularly send out newsletters with updates from Parramatta Mission and also our appeals at certain times of the year.

If you would prefer to be taken off the mailing list for these things please email fundraising@parramattamission.org.au and let us know.

And a Good Night was had by all!

The evening at Meals Plus on Wednesday 30 November was like any other...

...except for the part we had an assembly with the NSW Treasurer and Minister for Energy, Matt Kean and 200+ community leaders.

That night, people made our stories and their voice heard, both figuratively and literally. Thundering were our calls and passionate our advocacy - and even the most powerful man in NSW Cabinet had to "throw away his notes" and acknowledge power of our community.

If you had missed it, there will be another in March 2023, with 800+ people. Hope to see you there.



*"Those who can do, do.
Those who can do more,
Volunteer"* 



The Quiet Spot.



*"You and I are old;
Old age hath yet his honour and his toil;
Death closes all: but something ere the end,
Some work of noble note, may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods.
The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks,
The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs:
the deep
Moans round with many voices. Come, my
friends,
'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die."
— Alfred Tennyson, Ulysses*

The topic this week is humbleness, inspired by a friend reflecting on his life lessons.

It is a subject quite dear to my heart. It goes without saying that one should be humble, as we have all learned that life can be full of wild fortune and turbulence while oceans rise and dynasties fall. So be ready when the dice are rolled against you.

I do think there is more to it than that. Being humble is a necessary part to a spirit of adventure through life's journey.

For a start, being humble is not merely supplication nor subservience. It is an awareness of our own place within this world, or as the 17th century ethics philosopher Baruch Spinoza phrased it, *sub specie aeternitatis* – as if through the eyes of eternity.

I am increasingly convinced that it is not intended that we should take the centre stage in life when our lives are fleeting and our sight narrow, easily obfuscated and diverted.

In my youth, my eyes were often clouded by pride, yet still I thought myself able to see beyond my sight. Life has since given my many lessons, some painful and long-lasting – I consider myself fortunate.

I have seen and heard of people living for happiness, in pursuit of wealth, pleasure, power and honour. In time, all shall pass, and only the journey remains, in search of love, of new worlds and ever greater glory to be discovered.

I hope Lord Tennyson's words serve as a reminder of the above to those who find themselves enduring life's many vicissitudes at this moment. Give not your tenderness to melancholy and resentment, but to a greater world that your kind, humble heart has opened up for you.

Thank you 

From everyone on the Parramatta Mission team, we hope you stay healthy and happy always! Please accept our sincerest thanks from us to you, for all that you have done and are doing, forever grateful.