

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Term: 3 | Week 10 | Date: Friday, 25th September

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Bethany Families,

Calendar time this year could be classified as either **BC (Before COVID)** or **AC (After COVID)**. Many news cycles and alerts have focussed on the latest and most immediate developments in living with the virus pandemic.

In what may seem like an eternity ago, on Saturday 1 February at approximately 7.50pm four children walking along a footpath in leafy suburban Oatlands, on their way to buy ice creams were tragically struck and killed when an intoxicated driver lost control of his ute and mounted the curb.

Parents **Danny & Leila Abdallah** lost three of their six children – **Antony 13, Angelina 12 and Sienna 9**. A fourth child was also killed; their cousin, **Bridget Sakr's daughter, Veronique 10**. A fifth child **Charbel Kassas** was hospitalised in a serious condition and was discharged after 3 months while two other children also suffered physical injuries.

From a distance we could all sympathise with the pain and sorrow being experienced by these parents. In reality only those who have walked in similar shoes would understand the life changing despair, trauma and grief that such a loss brings.

The media reports immediately after the tragedy were striking not only due to the devastation of the incident but by the words of one of the mothers, **Leila Abdullah**. Even in the rawness of her grief she spoke with such faith and lucidity in **The Ways of The Cross**.

Leila Abdullah's words captured by the nation's news cameras were both **prophetic and counter cultural** in their **courage, clarity & civility**:

We start with forgiveness.

We forgive the driver that killed our innocent children. His actions will be met before the earthly and heavenly judge. We have decided, in our hearts to forgive him – for our sake, for the sake of our children and more so for Christ's sake.

The term **counter-cultural** in the Christian context is often bandied about in abstract terms. Here was a mother in the midst of suffering and grief able to summon herself to express her faith with such lucidity and she did so from the starting point of **forgiveness** rather than **revenge**.

Earlier this month after the initial court hearing **Bridget Sakr, Veronique's mother**, echoed these words:

Forgiveness is about being able to live in the present.

Being able to show our families and loved ones and particularly our children they can't have hatred in their hearts, that we have to live by the words of Jesus and act them, and to love one another."

This weekend I was moved by watching a livestream conversation with the **Abdallah and Sakr families** hosted by Sydney Catholic Schools. The livestream entitled **God, Grief and Grace** was part of SCS's **Annual Life Week** focus.

In viewing the conversation, one cannot help reflecting on the lessons of **love, kindness, forgiveness and care** articulated by **Danny and Leila Abdallah and Bridget Sakr**. I would thoroughly recommend watching this hour-long live stream interview during the holidays if you are interested.

Often, we think that the prophets and saints exist only in history. That modernity and affluence means that prophetic voices are no longer part of God's plan. **Danny, Leila and Bridget** prove that true saints do walk amongst us – **we just need to notice them above the chatter, pettiness and noise.**

God, Grief and Grace can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3kpRUhK>

Wishing all a peaceful and safe school holiday break. We look forward to all students returning rested and enthusiastic for the final term of learning and life at Bethany.

Go gently,

Sergio Rosato



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Tell Them From Me Survey Results

As parents may recall, earlier this term a variety of stakeholders (parents, teachers and students) were asked to participate in the Tell Them From Me Survey. Thank you to all who took the time to take part in this survey and to offer their feedback about various aspects of the school and its processes.

We are pleased to inform you that the results are in!! Following is a snapshot of the data gathered in the survey. It provides some great insights into students' thinking, teachers' approach to teaching and learning and parent perspectives about the intended mission of the Catholic school.

Student Survey Snapshot: Data Gathered across Years 4-6

Affirmations:

91% of students have friends at school they can trust and who encourage them to make positive choices.

94% of students believe that schooling is useful in their everyday life and will have a strong bearing on their future.

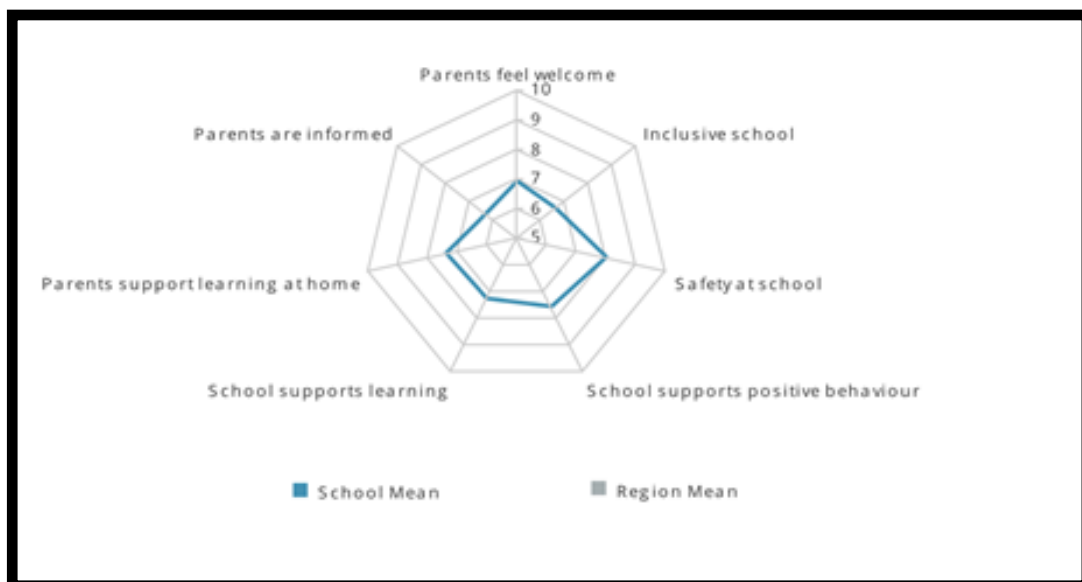
88% of students try hard to succeed in their learning.

Areas for development:

44% of students do homework for their classes with a positive attitude and in a timely manner.

36% of students have intense feelings of fear, intense anxiety, or worry about particular events or social situations.

Parent Survey Snapshot:



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Affirmations: (On a 1-10 scale)

Parents perceptions of their child's experience at school and at home.

9.1 - My child is clear about the rules for school behaviour

8.5 - My child feels safe going to and from school.

8.5 - I encourage your child to do well at school.

Areas for development:

5.4 - I am informed about my child's social and emotional development

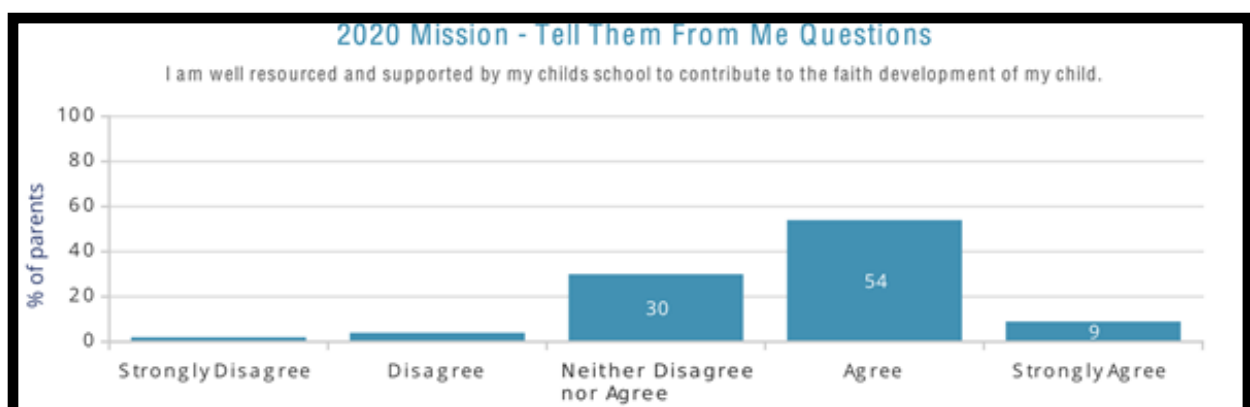
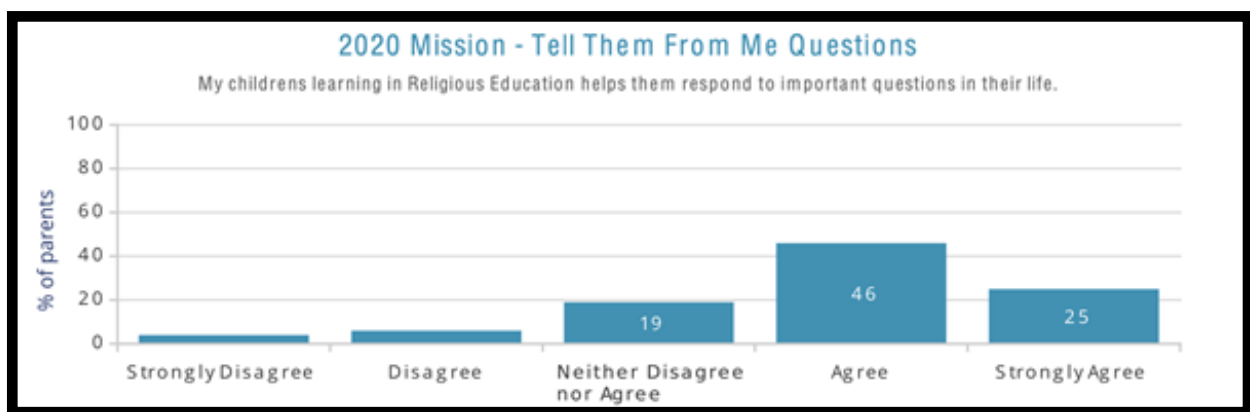
5.7 - Parent activities are scheduled at times when I can attend.

6.1 - Teachers devote their time to extra-curricular activities.

Survey 'Mission' Responses at a glance:

- 40% of parents strongly agree that the school has helped their child grow in their understanding of Jesus.
- 38% of parents agreed that the school provides parents with meaningful opportunities to engage in prayer.
- 38% of students agreed that they have the opportunity to contribute to the design of their learning in Religious Education.
- 41% of students agreed that the school is providing them with meaningful opportunities to engage in prayer.

Open Responses from Parents:



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Open Responses from Parents:

"I love the school. I have always felt that my children are strongly supported, both academically and emotionally."

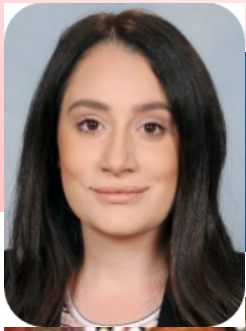
"What an interesting year in which both the school and teachers have handled and adapted as required. Thank you."

"Teachers are friendly and very approachable, providing lots of fun and important learning activities for the kids and great involvement in religious activities."

"I believe that a review of the school uniform would be a change for the better."

"Wish to be able to know more often what my child is learning in class to be able to revise/support them in that topic at home."

"Using a communication app such as Seesaw would help working parent feel more connected to the learning and school community."



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



ST PADRE PIO FEAST DAY - Wednesday 23rd September

Born Francesco Forgione, Padre Pio grew up in a family of farmers in southern Italy. At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After he was discovered to have tuberculosis, he was discharged. In 1917, he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, 75 miles from the city of Bari on the Adriatic.

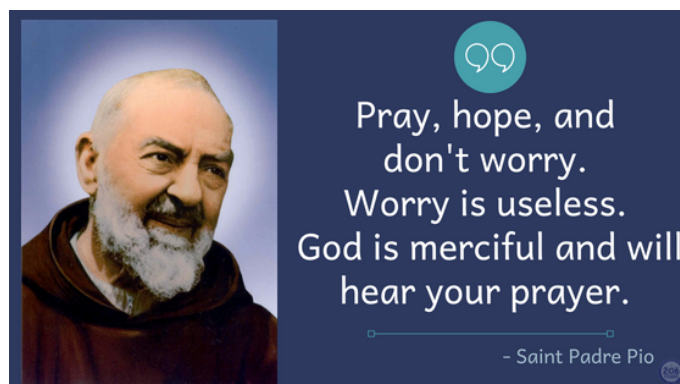
On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side.

Life became more complicated after that. Medical doctors, Church authorities, and curiosity seekers came to see Padre Pio. Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of people soon began coming to see him. Each morning after a 5 am Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions.

He died on September 23, 1968, and was beatified in 1999. In one of the largest such ceremonies in history, Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina on June 16, 2002. It was the 45th canonization ceremony in Pope John Paul's pontificate. More than 300,000 people braved blistering heat as they filled St. Peter's Square and nearby streets. They heard the Holy Father praise the new saint for his prayer and charity.

(Excerpt from: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-pio-of-pietrelcina/>)

As a community we celebrated St Padre Pio's Feast Day with a livestream Mass and visit by Father Suresh who spoke to the grades about St Padre Pio the patron saint of our parish and school.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CEDP - Trial Of Draft New Curriculum Learning Cycle - Year 3 (Mrs Wakim)

As we have come to the end of the term, Year 3 have voiced to teachers their enjoyment throughout our learning cycle focusing on being merciful. Surveys have been completed by teachers at the start, middle and end of term to gauge how we are finding the learning cycle. Students have also had the opportunity to complete a survey of how they feel their learning is travelling. There have been many opportunities for the students to transfer their knowledge and what they have learnt, to their own everyday lives. We look forward to next term's learning which will focus on Respect and Responsibility whilst identifying why people sometimes do the wrong things.

SOCKTOBER - Term 4 Week 1 - FRIDAY

Participation in Socktober is a way we can engage with mission in a holistic way within the **head, heart, hands** model: encouraging a learning mind, an open heart and hands for action.



On Friday of week 1 next term we will be celebrating Socktober, so over the holiday period please organise your crazy socks to wear in support of Catholic Mission.

Donations will help make a difference to the lives of children just like them around the world.

More information to come in week 1 as to how we can make cashless contributions due to covid restrictions.



ST PADRE PIO OF PIETRELCINA

On Wednesday 23rd September we celebrated the feast day of our Parish Patron Saint, St Padre. Padre Pio was recognised as a saint in 2002. He is the patron of civil defence, volunteers, adolescents and the village of Pietrelcina in the Campania region in southern Italy.

My late grandfather Ercole DeLuca, like many Italians was very devoted to St. Padre Pio and in 1998 was one of the instigators of a statue of the Saint, placed in a niche created in stone at the entrance to the tiny Italian village of Pietraferrazzana.

The epigraph at the foot of the statue contains a poem dedicated to St Padre Pio written by Ercole. Our Parish will be celebrating the feast of St Padre Pio during masses this Saturday and Sunday.

Sergio Rosato

English Translation

To Padre Pio

I found you when confessing
I came to you and you taught me to pray
my promise to you I kept.

You have left this world
but you still live amongst us,
every day you are remembered
with the prayer you need.

Your gaze and your smile remain with us
but the scent of your hands
lives with you in Heaven.

Together we invoke you,
gaze a little on this world
your peace we seek
and let this conflict cease.

Italian Version

A Padre Pio

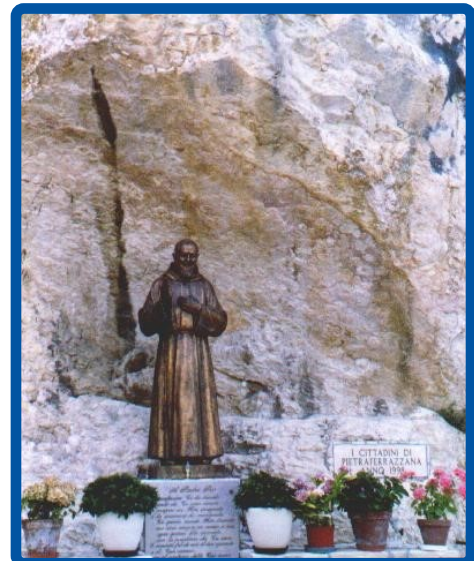
A confessare Ti ho trovato
quando da Te sono venuto
a pregare mi hai insegnato
e la promessa ho mantenuto.

Tu questo mondo hai lasciato
ma vivi sempre in mezzo a noi,
ogni giorno sei ricordato
con la preghiera che Tu vuoi.

e' rimasto fra noi il tuo sguardo
e il Tuo sorriso
ma il profumo delle Tue mani
vive con te in Paradiso.

Tutti insieme ti invochiamo
guarda un po' su questa Terra
la Tua pace noi vogliamo
e Fà che cessi questa guerra.

Ercole DeLuca



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 26th September	St Padre Pio Feast Day Vigil Mass 5:30pm
Sunday 27th September	St Padre Pio Feast Day Masses: 8:00am and 10:00am
Monday 12th October	First day of Term 4
Thursday 15th October	Eucharist Practice 7pm
Friday 16th October	Socktober
Friday 16th October	Eucharist Practice 7pm
Sunday 18th October	First Eucharist Mass 2pm
Sunday 25th October	First Eucharist Mass 2pm
Sunday 1st November	First Eucharist Mass 2pm
Sunday 8th November	First Eucharist Mass 2pm



SPORT



EAT MORE VEGETABLES and fruit

Vegetables and Fruit taste great and keep us healthy. Everyone should eat Fruit and veggies every day. Most kids eat Fruit each day but they don't eat enough veggies.*

*Australian Bureau of Statistics (National Health Survey, 2014-15)

HOW MANY VEGETABLES SHOULD KIDS EAT EACH DAY?

2-3 YEARS

2½ Serves

4-8 YEARS

4½ Serves

9-18 YEARS

5 Serves

A serve of vegetables and legumes/beans is:



½ cup vegetables (Fresh, Frozen or canned)



1 cup green leafy vegetables



½ cup legumes/beans/lentils



1 medium tomato



8 vegetable sticks



These count as a vegetable serve

HOW MUCH FRUIT SHOULD KIDS EAT EACH DAY?

2-3 YEARS

1 Serves

4-8 YEARS

1½ Serves

9-18 YEARS

2 Serves

A serve of Fruit is:



1 medium (apple, banana, orange or pear)



2 small (apricots, kiwi fruit or plums)



1 cup diced or canned fruit

*Recommended intakes have been rounded based on the Australian Dietary Guidelines (NH&MRC, 2013).



This resource has been developed by Western Sydney Local Health District, published November 2018

Other names for Sugar

Fructose

Lactose

Raw sugar

Molasses

Sucrose

Maltose

Brown sugar

Sorbitol

Dextrose

Honey

Castor sugar

Agave Syrup

Glucose

Malt extract

Cane sugar

Corn Syrup

Galactose

Maltodextrin

Mannitol

Fruit Juice Concentrate

Did you know: kids aged 2-18 should have **LESS THAN 25 GRAMS** or **6 TSP** of **ADDED SUGARS DAILY**



Live Life Well @ School

Mrs Neilly

COMMUNICATION

The following information has been advised via the SkoolBag App:

25/9/20	REC Announcement
24/9/20	eSafety's Parent Guide to Popular Apps Transactions
23/9/20	Automated SMS system for Whole School Absences
22/9/20	Lowes 20% off sale Be Kind 'Yellow' Mufti Day
17/9/20	Error in School Photos - 4R and 5W
16/6/20	School Photos
14/9/20	Birthday Invitation Protocols



OTHER MATTERS

ATTENDANCE

A skoolbag notification was sent earlier this week regarding the Automated SMS messages. A reminder that the one-time link is to be used to enter **WHOLE DAY absences only** and should not be used to explain partial absences.

The automated SMS notifications are sent each day at 11am. If your child is arriving late to school please do not use the one-time link to explain the partial absence; we ask that you sign your child in accordingly at the school office.

Our aim at Bethany is to work in partnership with parents in promoting the regular attendance of students. This includes a whole day at school, as well as striving to ensure that students arrive on time and leave at the conclusion of the school day.

Parents are encouraged to make appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

Please note that our school gates will be closed at 8:35am. Any student who arrives after this time is considered late for the day and parents will be required to sign them in at the office.

We thank you for your support.

BETHANY COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES HANDLING

If at any time you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, Assistant Principal and / or Principal to find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience of our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Further Information, including how to lodge a complaint, can be obtained from the Bethany Complaints and Grievances Handling Policy available from the Office.

LOCKDOWN DRILL

On Tuesday the school completed a Lockdown Drill. This involved staff and students being instructed to remain in their rooms, (or if outside, to move to the nearest classroom/room) until further notice. Well done to staff and students for carrying out the Lockdown Drill in a calm and timely manner.

All schools have an obligation under Work Health Safety legislation to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe and healthy working and learning environment for all students and personnel, including employees, volunteers, visitors and contractors.

YEAR 5 NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Year 5 students at Bethany would like to invite you to read the current edition of the

"Bethany Year 5 Student Newsletter".

Please scan the QR Code below to access the newsletter,



<https://sites.google.com/parra.catholic.edu.au/bethany-year-5-newsletter/>

COMMUNITY



BOOK NOW 2-DAY OLYMPICS
ST CLAIR - OCT 1ST-2ND
NEPEAN - OCT 6TH-7TH
HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES
TO WIN GOLD
IN THE ULTIMATE 2-DAY
MULTI-SPORTS CHALLENGE
2-DAYS / 8 30AM TO 3 30PM
USE YOUR \$100 VOUCHER
BOOK NOW! LIMITED TICKETS
motivesports

OLYMPICS IS COMING.....GET MOTIV8ED DURING THE SEPT/OCT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT THE MOTIV8SPORTS OLYMPICS!

Held only once each year the Motiv8sports Olympics is the heart and soul of our multi-sports calendar year. Campers will be treated to an incredible array of our trademark team sports in an environment full of energy, motivation and unbelievable guidance from our professional team of coaches.

if you have what it takes to complete all 2-days including 12 x team sports, 12 Olympic Individual events and 3 x mega sessions then we will be hanging that gigantic finishers medal around your neck. We will be creating an atmosphere full of colour, culture, and energy as 12 x countries battle it out.

Like all Motiv8sports events, there will be music, prizes, crazy competitions, and non-stop entertainment. This event caters to all ability levels and we would love the opportunity to motiv8 your child at our legendary multi-sports camp.

CHECK OUT THE CAMP DATES BELOW

CAMP #1 SEPT 28-30 - SOLD OUT
CAMP #2 OCT 1-2 - St Clair HIGH SCHOOL
CAMP #3 OCT 6-7 - Nepean Christian School

motivesports



CODECAMP

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NSW
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Your child can design, code and create apps and websites these school holidays!

- New programs**
Get exclusive access to brand-new, instructor-led videos delivered over five days to keep your kids engaged at home.
- Live tutor support**
Our Australian-based instructors will be on hand via our live chat to assist your child with anything they need.
- Your own pace**
New tutorials will be released each morning - your child can choose when to complete their daily challenges.

Book now at codecamp.com.au



Sarah Forsyth
Owner

0407077307
sarahscakecreations.com.au
srowles@internode.on.net

Sarah's Cake Creations

COMMUNITY

2 DAYS ONLY - 8TH & 9TH OCTOBER



ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS

**20%
OFF
SCHOOLWEAR
& EVERYTHING ELSE!**



SHOP IN-STORE & ONLINE

On the day of the event, Lowes will have measures in place to restrict customer numbers and movement throughout the store. Thank you for your support. Lowes will be enforcing social distancing. Marshalls wearing hi-vis vests will be on site. We ask for your support in limiting the number of people you take with you into the store.

DON'T HAVE A CARD? APPLY IN-STORE OR ONLINE & START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS.

*Offer ends midnight (AEST) 9/10/2020. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount. Excludes gift cards, all suit packages & Schoolwear laybys. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Floor stock only. Styles and colours may vary from store to store. No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount. Savings off original prices.