HMAS Success and St Leo’s Set Sail

St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga and HMAS Success have joined forces to raise funds for Fr Chris Riley’s Youth off the Streets. Various crew members, ranking officials and HMAS Success Captain Commander Simon Brown were on site at Wahroonga one day in September, manning stalls with Year 8 students and partaking in other activities to launch this unique fundraising partnership.

Youth Off The Streets is a community organisation working for young people aged 12 to 21 who are facing challenges of homelessness, drug dependency, exclusion from school, neglect and abuse. They also provide a range of services to support young people as they work to turn their lives around.

Following a recent visit to Chapel Campus, Merrylands, students heard stories from teenagers roughly their age and were inspired to raise funds to help these young people.

Year 8 students are hoping to raise $5000 over the next 12 months covering the cost of an education scholarship for a disadvantaged teenager. “If we could just help to change the path of one young person it will be worth it”, said one Year 8 student.

Organiser and St Leo’s teacher, Erin Overton, said “the aim of this unique relationship is to demonstrate an ongoing act of service and not simply something students do at school.”

A reciprocal visit to HMAS Success is being organised later in the year for a group of selected students to be ‘sailors for a day’.