

GREEN CROSS E-NEWS



SUMMER 2024

THE GREEN CROSS PROJECT INC
BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To start this edition, I hope and trust that you all have had a Holy and safe Christmas break and have made a positive start for 2024. Last year, following the signing of the MoU with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), the Committee of Management has been busy organising the fund-raising and purchasing a new vehicle GCOB-4.

I am pleased to advise that we have secured an LDV V80 van. Given the supply chain problems associated with importing vehicles into Australia, this task was difficult. However, it was worth the wait! The LDV was transported to Mader International to undertake the necessary alterations to meet VACCHO requirements as a mobile clinic. It was terrific to receive considerable financial support from members and supporters of GCPI to make this possible.

With this support, purchasing and refurbishing our next vehicle is also possible. I was most pleased to receive a cheque from the Order of Saint Lazarus – Victorian Commandery in late November 2023. Thank you to Mrs Trish Cameron OJ, Mr Warrington Cameron, Lady Potter AC CRMI, the Vera Moore Foundation, Mr Peter Doyle and others for their generous support over the past 18 months.

GCPI SECURES FUNDING TO PURCHASE GCOB 4

Over the past 2 years, GCPI has sought to raise funds to purchase a new vehicle to support its next project. During this time, GCPI signed a MoU with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACHHO) to extending its services in rural and regional Victoria. This initiative stemmed from GCPI's VACCHO support during the Covid vaccine(s) rollout in 2021.

Expanding services into rural and regional Victoria represents an opportunity for VACCHO to target its efforts into eye diagnostic services and early cancer detection activities. In addition, this project helps to make GCPI a genuine Victorian project as it extends its activities beyond metropolitan Melbourne.

In March 2023, the Vice President of GCPI secured an LDV V80 vehicle as GCOB 4. Refurbished into a mobile clinic by Mader International, ensuring it is fit for purpose for VACCHO's needs.

The Chairman of GCPI said, "This is an exciting project which not only extends the reach of GCPI but also has the potential to showcase how pro-active health measures can improve health outcomes for those living in rural and regional Victoria and reduce costs on the health system".

After a hiatus of 2 years (or son) it is most pleasing to learn that cohealth has re-established the Street Doctor program. Given the impacts of Covid and the need for vaccination, it is only now that cohealth has been able to re-commence this service using a GP connected with the Royal Melbourne Hospital for two to three days a week.

During the Winter months of 2023, GCPI was also pleased to be able to provide over 100 pairs of socks to the homeless and those in need and reiterate that despite the importance of socks, they are one of the least donated items. Our partnership with Underworks can make a small but significant difference to those in need.

Finally, I would like to thank all GCPI members, supporters and friends for their interest in and support of GCPI. With this, it is possible to achieve the successes of GCPI.

Anthony Kennedy OAM
Chairman, GCPI



IMAGE: Chairman of Green Cross Project Inc and Committee of Management, Mr Max Carr receiving a \$5,000 cheque from the Order of Saint Lazarus



Image above: with GCPI's Treasurer, Mr David Richards and Vice President, Mr Chris Prior and Mr Phil Mance - Director of Allan Mance Motors.



Image: Side view of the LDV V80 vehicle

OUR NEW PARTNER: THE VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION

While GCPI has previously worked with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), GCPI is delighted to now formally have VACCHO as a partner. VACCHO is the peak representative for the health and well-being of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. VACCHO was born on the grassroots, community-driven level and has 33 member Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations supporting over 65,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the state.

VACCHO lead and support Aboriginal Community Control and the broader health and social services sector to deliver health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal communities in Victoria. VACCHO's role is to support members in delivering high quality, culturally safe health and social services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities across the state.

This is achieved by advocating on issues related to Community health and wellbeing, strengthening support networks, increasing workforce development opportunities, partnering with government and mainstream health organisations to embed self-determination and culturally informed approaches across health services and systems.

VACCHO CEO Jill Gallagher paid tribute to Green Cross Project Inc. for its valuable partnership and support. "VACCHO are incredibly proud to be working in close partnership with GCPI, with both organisations having an unwavering commitment to enhancing the health and wellbeing of local Communities."

"The GCPI / VACCHO health van is an exciting collaborative initiative that will deliver vital cancer screening and eye health support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Victoria."

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria continue to face significant inequities and barriers when trying to access cancer care – and are more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with cancer than non-Indigenous Victorians."

"The GCPI / VACCHO health van will provide the community with greater access to vital cancer screening, treatment and preventative services."

"This important collaboration will improve access and engagement with health services and help support positive health and wellbeing outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community in Victoria."



Map: of the 32 member organisations that make up VACCHO



GCPI ALSO 'GIVES A SOCK

Once again, GCPI has secured a supply of over 100 pairs of socks from Underworks. GCPI was pleased to be able to make these socks available to those assisting Monash Health with critical outreach services.

Socks are one of the least donated but highest-demand items amongst the homeless community in Australia. Underworks noted a critical need for personal essential clothing donations.

Underworks is committed to donating essential material aid, including underwear and thermals, alongside sock donations to those who need it most, especially during the coldest months of the year.

CEO of South East Community Links said that socks are "practical support for dozens of at-risk individuals and families over the cold winter period. We see firsthand people going without essentials as they cope with the cost-of-living pressures, and it's safe to say all the socks will be allocated to people in need."

To assist with this year's sock appeal, please get in touch with the Treasurer, Mr David Richards KLJ, by email rob.dave@bigpond.com or by mobile: 0400 545 011.



Image: an image of the staff at South East Community Links with the donated socks

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBER: DR ANN TOMLINSON DLJ

1) How long have you been a member of the Committee of Management?

I have been a Green Cross Project Inc member for over ten years. However, I only joined the Committee of Management in the past three years.

2) What achievements of GCPI have you been most proud of?

While Green Cross Project Inc is the only charity established by the Order of Saint Lazarus Commandery (within Australia), I was particularly pleased with how our buses were used during Covid. To vaccinate so many people with no ongoing accommodation, a limited understanding of the value of vaccination or even a Medicare card - it was deeply encouraging to see how our buses could be used to access this problematic part of the community.

3) What do you like/value most about GCPI?

GCPI provides a unique service not offered anywhere else across the state. The focus is crucial to me, as it seeks to assist the most disadvantaged and marginalised community members. Green Cross Project Inc also provides a simple but practicable type of support. In these instances, getting medical assistance out to the vulnerable is more accessible than getting the vulnerable to the service.

4) What encouraged you to join GCPI?

As a committed Christian and lay deacon in the Anglican Church, I have always had a strong focus and interest in outreach and mission activities. I have also had a strong interest in social issues.

As an Order of Saint Lazarus member, I welcomed the opportunity to join Green Cross Project Inc. I enjoyed learning more about the achievements and was delighted to be invited to the Committee of Management by the then-new Chairman. It is lovely to join my professional expertise (50 years as GP) and altruistic nature.



Image: Dr Ann Tomlinson DLJ



DONATE NOW

To make a tax-deductible donation to GCPI please email the Honorary Secretary, advising of the amount and your contact details.

BSB: 013 030
Account: 4404 37353

Honorary Secretary: vicsecretaryolj@gmail.com

ARE YOU LINKED-IN?

Are you on LinkedIn and not following the developments at Green Cross Project Inc? If so, please visit:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12464138/>

to link in with GCPI. Those that are interested in establishing a LinkedIn account or for more information please feel free to email Committee of Management member Mr Cesar Lopez OLJ at Cesar.Lopez@cam.org.au

CONTACT GCPI

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ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT GCPI

Do you have items that are too good to throw into the rubbish, but no longer want them cluttering up your house? Then consider donate these items to GCPI.

GCPI will happily accept the items and sell them items via Gumtree, with all proceeds being donated to GCPI.

For futher information please email: vicsecretaryolj@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER DESIGNED AND COMPILED BY MR MATTHEW C. BANNON, 'FRIEND OF THE ORDER' AND PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT AT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

