

GREEN CROSS E-NEWS

WINTER 2020

THE GREEN CROSS PROJECT INC
BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER



Image: GCPI Committee of Management officially launching its third bus with Ms Julia Oxley and Ms Sara Edwards from Monash Health.

GREEN CROSS PROJECT INC FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and supporters of Green Cross Project Inc (GCPI),

Welcome to the first edition of GCPI's bi-annual newsletter. With three buses servicing Melbourne's northern, western and now south eastern suburbs, there is plenty happening to warrant a bi-annual newsletter.

A particular highlight thus far this year has been the launch of our third bus in March 2020 at Monash Health's Cranbourne centre. We provide an overview of the launch, and the new service on the following page.

Despite the CoVID-19 lockdowns our buses have been in active use, particularly by cohealth's mobile GP services in the city. We outline the range of services cohealth is offering on page 3.

I have been impressed by the reports from cohealth and Monash Health regarding the large numbers

large numbers of people benefiting from the services offered from our buses.

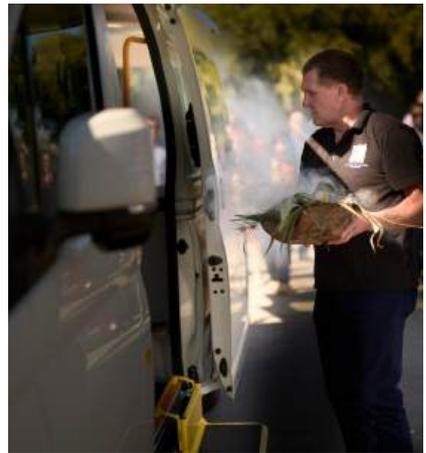
Our annual report will be released shortly and I encourage everyone to read it to witness just how extensive these services have been.

I also encourage everyone to forward this newsletter on to friends, family and neighbours who might be interested in GCPI's achievements. If you would like to be included on the mailing list, please email me via vicsecretaryolj@gmail.com.

In the meantime, enjoy reading the progress of GCPI.

Anthony Kennedy OAM
Chairman, GCPI





Images: GCPI's new bus, official Aboriginal smoking ceremony and in use.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BUS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

On 10 March 2020, the GCPI Committee of Management and Monash Health celebrated the launch of the Green Cross Community Outreach Bus at the Cranbourne Integrated Care Centre.

The Community Outreach Bus, which was officially launched with a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony, will be used by different teams across Monash Health to provide clinical services for clients within our community.

Monash Health aims to improve client access and the health and social well-being of people experiencing vulnerability. "We hope that this community-based outreach service will create more holistic health care by meeting people in their own communities, developing relationships that encourage improved connection with our services" said General Manager of Community, Ms Julia Oxley.

The Aboriginal Health team is one of many that will use the bus to conduct health screenings at local Aboriginal events and visit local schools to work with Aboriginal children.

GCPI's Committee of Management was delighted to be able to meet Monash Health's various healthcare teams over morning tea. Many of the staff members were keen to be able to incorporate the new bus into their community outreach services, particularly in areas with poor public transport services.

Vice President, Dr Walter Uhlenbruch AO, was encouraged to hear that based on the results of GCPI's first bus, Monash Health is keen to potentially request an additional bus. Dr Uhlenbruch said that "GCPI stands ready to work with Monash Health to organise an additional bus to meet the needs of disadvantaged people in Melbourne's southern and eastern suburbs".



GCPI & COHEALTH

MOBILE GP SERVICE

In 2019-20 GCPI continued to provide financial assistance to cohealth to operate the mobile GP service, which operates from GCPI's buses.

As part of this initiative, cohealth has employed a GP (and associated support staff) to support disadvantaged persons, particularly those in northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. Benefits of this service include helping to prevent these people from falling through the health and funding systems gaps.

The mobile GP service can respond to people's needs by delivering a wide range of low cost, high-quality, accessible health care and support services. So often, these people face significant health disadvantages as well as having ongoing and complex health and support needs.

GCPI buses will be used to improve access to health and support services, particularly in areas of significant disadvantage i.e. caravan parks, social housing and areas with poor public transport.

This initiative would not have been possible had the Vera Moore Foundation not provided the initial seed-funding in 2018-19. GCPI's Committee of Management thanks the Vera Moore Foundation for its generous support.



Image: Monash Health staff ready for patients.



Image: The mobile GP service in action. Courtesy, ABC News.

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

DR WALTER UHLENBRUCH AO

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

I joined the Committee of Management in 1999 and as I am still a member. It has been 21 years by now.

What roles have you played as a member of the Committee of Management? What do you consider your most valuable contribution to have been?

Chev. Tony Sallmann AO LVO and Chev. John Herbig asked me to join the Committee of Management way back in 1999 and I was elected Chairman and President in 2000. I served in this position until 2019, when Chev. Anthony Kennedy OAM took over as Chairman. I remain on the Committee as Vice Chairman and hope that I shall be able to continue to serve as long as I am able to.

As to most valuable contribution: it is difficult to determine just one single contribution as there are many. I list them as follows.

I was fortunate in having been able to have so many members of the Committee serving for so many years. This ensures stability. I was able to manage, with the valuable help of the Committee, to change GCPI from an organisation that converted second-hand school buses into quasi mobile clinics to one that now operates three state-of-the-art mobile outreach buses, operating in the Western and Eastern suburbs.

During my term of office, we were fortunate to see GCPI change from an organisation that literally lived from day to day to one that is free of debt and has considerable funds for future operations and is well-placed for adding future outreach buses to its fleet. And most importantly, the fact that I have been able to find a younger, gifted, and devoted successor in Chev. Anthony Kennedy.

What do you like/value most about the GCPI?

It's aims and charter and the fact that the future of the organisation lies in the hands of such a dedicated team of able and well-meaning Christians.

What encouraged you to join the Committee of Management?

Apart from the initial encouragement provided by Chev Sallmann and Chev Herbig the challenge of making a contribution to the betterment of the dismal situation of Melbourne's homeless.

What is your view of the future?

My ultimate wish is to see continued and substantial support of GCPI by its members and ultimately all members of the Victorian Commandery, a continuing flow of donations from both within GCPI and from outside sources, e.g. Charities and Foundations.



CONGRATULATIONS

COHEALTH WINS SAFER CARE VICTORIA AWARD

In late 2019, our friends at cohealth were formally recognised for their good work when they were announced as winner of the Safer Care Victoria Award for Excellence in Quality and Safety.

The award recognises the partnerships between cohealth's Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS), North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network and GCPI. It recognises the quality and safety in the healthcare sector and innovations, processes and procedures that improve the delivery of safe, quality care. The award highlights the dedicated work of health professionals in partnering with consumers to enhance health care services and patient outcomes, and celebrates the collaborative efforts and roles many areas have made to improve the experience of healthcare in Victoria.

GCPI Vice President Dr Walter Uhlenbruch AO commended cohealth for the award, saying "the excellence in cohealth's quality of care is very evident in their work ... we at GCPI are delighted to partner with such professionals in bringing services to the disadvantaged members of Melbourne's western and northern suburbs."

For further information on the awards, please click [here](#).



GCPI PATRON

LADY POTTER AC CRMI

The appointment of Patron Lady Potter AC CRMI has been a major blessing for GCPI, particularly with her strong interest in GCPI matters. Lady Potter is well known for her commitment to charitable work. As reported in CBD News she is "out regularly, with all the charitable things I do. I like to support them and be seen to be supporting. The day always seems to be busy".

Lady Potter is the recipient of the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for leadership and support in community growth through philanthropy in arts, sciences, social welfare and education.

She has been recognised by the Italian Government, receiving the Commendatore of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, for her work promoting Italian culture in Australia. She is also Grand Prior Emeritus of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.

CONTACT

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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
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