

GREEN CROSS E-NEWS



WINTER 2022

THE GREEN CROSS PROJECT INC
BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER #5

Chairman's welcome

Once again, as we come out of a cold and wet winter, I am encouraged by the good work done by Green Cross Project Inc's partners (cohealth and Monash Health). It has been a challenging season with Covid and flu returning as particularly virulent viruses.

Happily, in early May 2022, cohealth started to focus on flu vaccination as well as an on-going booster shot for Covid. Much of cohealth's focus has been on rooming housing, caravan parks, etc. While our bus being used by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation has now concluded, with our bus being returned to cohealth, our discussions with VACCHO have turned into an ongoing discussion on how mobile health services can be provided in rural and regional Victoria.

I am pleased to advise that GCPI and VACCHO have signed an MoU and will progress Green Cross Outreach Bus 4. This vehicle will primarily focus on providing eye and ear diagnostics as well as cancer screenings. Hopefully, this proactive healthcare will improve healthcare outcomes and reduce costs in our health system.

This project has only been made available by the wonderful support we have received over the past six months, specifically from the Vera Moore Foundation and Alfred Felton Bequest, the Will and Dorothy Bailey Foundation and the many individuals that donated money following the passing of former Chairman Dr Walter Uhlenbruch AO.

I once again would like to personally thank all our supporters and members for their generous and ongoing support of GCPI.

Anthony Kennedy OAM
Chairman, GCPI



GCPI signs MoU with VACCHO

In October 2021, GCPI was delighted to announce that it has organised for its larger bus to be made available to support the Victorian Government's vaccine rollout in regional Victoria. GCPI and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) agreed in late October 2021 to make GCOB 3 available for mobile vaccination in regional cities such as Mildura and Morwell.

GCPI buses have played an important role in assisting Monash Health and health with vaccinations and managing Covid patients. We were delighted to extend our help to rural and regional Victoria and to help some of the most vulnerable members of the Victorian community.

Hundreds of Aboriginal people have been vaccinated during the last few months of 2021 and early months of 2022. VACCHO has stated that a mobile clinic (like what GCPI provides) operating from their existing health centres into the small towns within the catchment will not only help access more patients,



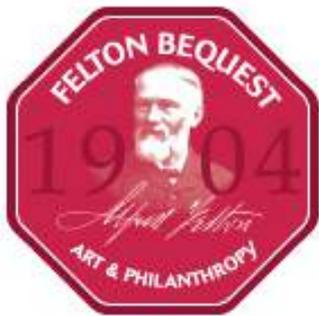
IMAGE: GCPI bus in Mildura

... but hopefully will be able to provide more timely health interventions that prevent more serious illness.

In mid-2022, GCPI signed an MoU with VACCHO to secure a new mobile clinic to support a range of health services for Aboriginal communities, specifically rural and regional cancer and eye diagnostic services. GCPI is keen to help VACCHO with this project because:

1) Research shows that every day around five Aboriginal people are diagnosed with cancer. Aboriginal Australians have a higher rate of cancer diagnosis and are approximately 40 per cent more likely to die from cancer than non-Indigenous Australians. GCPI and VACCHO seek to lower Aboriginal cancer deaths in Victoria by increasing the number of cancer screenings undertaken by VACCHO by 10 per cent and increasing the number of early cancer treatments by a similar proportion.

IMAGE:
TOP: VACCHO Logo
BOTTOM: Felton Bequest Logo



2) While Aboriginal people are born with better eyesight than most other Australians, at the population level, Aboriginal people over the age of 40 have rates of vision loss three times that of other Australians. Rates of blindness are six times higher among Indigenous adults. GCPI and VACCHO seek to increase the number of eye treatments undertaken by VACCHO by 10 per cent and hopefully decrease the number of severe eye disease cases by a similar proportion within three years.

GCPI Chairman, Mr Anthony Kennedy OAM, said, "these are exciting times, and GCPI is looking forward to extending its mobile clinic services across rural and regional Victoria." Already GCPI has been raising funds for its next vehicle, GCOB 4. After a comprehensive review by the Trustees, the Felton Bequest was pleased to confirm that GCPI's application for its next project has been successful. The Funds from the Felton Bequest will significantly contribute to the purchase of GCPI's next vehicle.

Mr Kennedy encouraged members, friends and supporters to make a tax-deductible contribution to this important and worthy project.

GCPI receives Felton Bequest's support

Since VACCHO and GCPI have been working towards signing an MoU to establish a new health service for aboriginal people in rural Victoria, the Committee of Management has been seeking support from various trusts and foundations to support an additional bus.

In the middle of the year, the Committee of Management was delighted to learn that after a comprehensive review by the Trustees, the Felton Bequest confirmed that GCPI's application for its next project had been successful. The Funds from the Felton Bequest will significantly contribute to the purchase of GCPI's next vehicle, which will be used for VACCHO's rural and regional cancer and eye diagnostic services.

The Committee of Management once again reiterates its deep appreciation to the Felton Bequest and its Trustees.

GCPI's Welcome two new Committee members

Mrs Heather Sanderson

Mrs Heather Sanderson joined the Order of Saint Lazarus in 2017. She has been an active member of St Andrew's Anglican parish in Brighton for more than 40 years.

She has also held various leadership roles in St Andrew's parish over several decades, including Pastoral Care, Outreach, Events, Social and Fundraising, as well as 30 years of service at the church Opportunity Shop and for the past 20 years has been responsible for restoration work at St. Andrew's Historic Graveyard.



IMAGE:
Mrs. Heather Sanderson



She served as a parish Warden for six years and completed 4 years of EFM study. She is currently assisting with Sacristy work at the church.

Heather has played a very active role within the Order of Saint Lazarus by joining the Almoner's committee, specifically supporting a couple of successful Gala Dinners (2019). In more recent times, Heather has been an active member of the 2020 National Chapter Working Group and helped to coordinate several specific projects.

Mr Peter Newman

Mr Peter Newman has recently been invested as a Member of the Order of Saint Lazarus and has elected to joint Green Cross Project Inc's Committee of Management. In joining the Committee of Management Peter is keen to apply his fund-raising skills and experience, which is extensive. Some of Peter's experience includes:

Communication Aids Users Society -

An organization to promote awareness of the problems confronted by Disabled People and to raise funds to assist them in their lives.

The Lasallian Foundation-

Established in 2004 by the De La Salle Brothers to support educational works and initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region (including Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and South Sudan).

Health Habitat -

Designing programs to improve Indigenous housing and environmental living conditions in Australia, which required him to work with Ministers and policy makers.



IMAGE: Mr. Peter Newman

Monash Health reflects on the value of GCPI's Bus

The flexibility and reach into the community during Covid were some key advantages of GCPI's bus. Monash Health advised that during the early waves of Covid, caravan parks were hot spots, particularly where caravan parks had shared facilities and many children.

The bus was a fundamental tool for Monash Health to have a base to undertake swabbing/testing activities. Priorities for swabbing were for cancer patients and those with compromised immune systems. The bus was an ideal resource to help patients requiring medications, food drop-offs, and welfare checks for the elderly and frail.

Vaccinations:

In addition to these activities, the bus was used for vaccinations seven days a week for many months. During the first half of 2022, the bus was used four days a week, mainly targeting homeless people.

Emergency Department Support:

One of the challenges for Monash Health was the pressure placed on Emergency Departments. Monash Health has trialled various approaches to manage the homeless.

The bus was a game-changer for the clients as it enabled Monash Health to be very responsive. So successful was the use of the bus that Monash Health is now considering changing its model. With mobile services, Monash Health can potentially reduce the number of cases presented to Emergency Departments.

Experts:

The skilled people going out on the bus include:

- Nursing staff. · Welfare Officers - Physios
- Admin staff to help with paperwork, etc.



IMAGE: GCPI's Bus in action

Know your Committe Member- David Richards

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

About five years. In my 2nd year as the honorary Treasurer. As the Treasurer, we have sought to open the gate to discovering ways and means, for long-term funding, given a greater awareness of the dependence of the GCPI services on long-term funding for its perpetuity.

What achievements of GCPI have you been most proud of?

A more encouraging relationship with the Order. The concept of introducing a "Philanthropic Resource Committee" with the intention of splitting funding into two areas:

- First sourcing recurrent expenditure from annual.
- commitments together with resulting revenue from the establishment of a 'corpus' capable of meeting day-to-day needs.
- Second, the identification and commitment of Philanthropists able to make substantial contributions to finance subsequent vehicles to further the work.

What do you like/value most about GCPI?

- Involvement with agencies directly working with marginalised people.
- The potential of the Street Doctor program although Covid has significantly impacted the program at the moment.

- The idea GCPI is an initiator of activities otherwise ignored by the government and or other service providers to the marginalised community.
- Funds are applied directly to the targeted goal not being consumed in the Overhead admin of agencies.

What encouraged you to join the Committee of Management?

I have been a member of the Order for a long time, and this project is the most significant project it is involved in and I am proud to be a part of it.



IMAGE: David Richards

Cohealth uses St John Ambulance and GCPI vehicles for vaccinations

During the warmer months of 2022 cohealth was extensively using GCPI's vehicles (and a vehicle from Saint John's Ambulance) to vaccinate many people with pop-up clinics across Melbourne's northern and western suburbs.

It was profoundly encouraging to see these vehicles getting extensively used, particularly as the then-new variant Omicron was starting to spread rapidly across the community. The Committee of Management was greatly encouraged to see our vehicle in action via Channel 7 News.

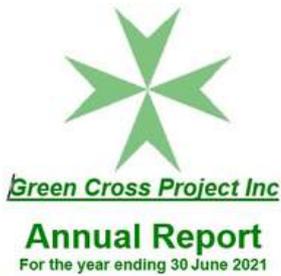
Please visit GCPI's LinkedIn pages to access the full news article <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12464138/>

IMAGE:
TOP: GCPI's Bus as shown on 7 News
BOTTOM: GCPI Bus being used for COVID treatment and vaccinations



ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman of GCPI is pleased to advise that GCPI's Annual Report for 2021-22 is now available. For those that wish to obtain an electronic copy please visit <https://www.greencrossproject.org> or for a hard copy please contact the Secretary at: vicsecretaryolj@gmail.com



Green Cross Project Inc is an incorporated body established by members of the Victorian Commandery of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem to oversee some of its charitable works in regions of the State of Victoria.



C/- JAMISON ALLIOTT
Suite 2,
1949 Malvern Road
MALVERN EAST VIC 3145

Email: jamisonalliot@bigpond.com
Phone: (03) 9002 1267
Fax: (03) 9002 0418
ABN: 28 596 233 099
www.greencrossproject.org



Since 2016 GCPI has maintained authorisation to use the registered tick from the ACNC.

IMAGE: Annual Report Front Cover

DONATE NOW

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

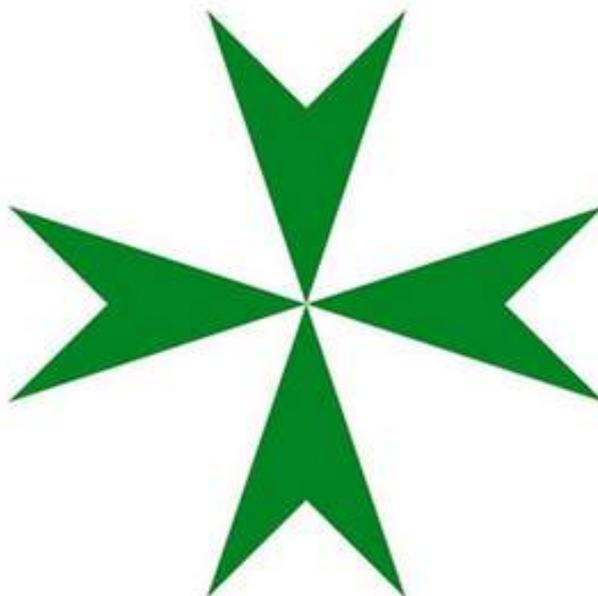
BSB: 013 030

Account: 4404 37353

Honorary Secretary: vicsecretaryolj@gmail.com

CONTACT GCPI

Green Cross Project Inc.
C/o Jamison Alliott
Suite 2, 1949 Malvern
Road MALVERN EAST VIC
3145



Newsletter designed and compiled by Mr Matthew C. Bannon, 'Friend of the Order' and Psychology/Law student at Melbourne University".

