

GREEN CROSS PROJECT INC NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2025
EDITION

A WELCOME FROM GCPI'S CHAIRMAN

As 2024 draws to a close and 2025 begins, it is a fantastic opportunity to reflect on Green Cross Project Inc.'s (GCPI) achievements over the past 12 months.

The most recent highlight is the new partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. With the official launch of the GCPI vehicle in April 2024, this new partnership has ensured that GCPI is now a genuinely whole-of-Victorian operation.

I have also been impressed with how our partners have proactively used our vehicles to help promote key health messages to sub-sections of the population or leverage the health services provided with other services such as clothes washing and drying services and mobile showers.

It was wonderful to receive another significant donation at the Lazarus Day Event in early December 2024 and to outline how these funds make a difference to the operations of GCPI. I was equally delighted that our healthcare partners could attend the dinner and share in this wonderful and important event with us.

This newsletter provides a few examples of how our vehicles are used by our healthcare partners (VACCHO, Monash Health, and cohealth), illustrating the value added and the additional impact GCPI has on the broader Victorian community.

Finally, as the Committee of Management began exploring a new partnership with a rural and regional healthcare service provider, we commenced the task of raising additional funds for our next vehicle.

I once again reiterate my thanks to those who have taken out membership for 2024-25 and encourage those who have not done so to contact the Hon. Treasurer, Chev David Richards KLJ, at dcrich1945@gmail.com or visit <https://greencrossprojectinc.org/donate/> for further details.

Anthony Kennedy OAM
Chairman
Green Cross Project Inc



OUR HEALTHCARE SERVICE PARTNERS IN ACTION

Over the past 12 months, our healthcare service partners have been providing health services to parts of the community that might not always receive the necessary healthcare they need. To demonstrate examples of how GCPI's vehicles are used, below are several case studies:

VACCHO

Case Study 1 - rural and regional Victoria

Over the past six months Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation VACCHO has been using GCPI's vehicle across many towns in rural and regional Victoria.

With a focus on delivering healthcare messages to Aboriginal people as well as providing key health diagnostic services, VACCHO is able to leverage key local activities and events. Towns benefiting from the service include Seymour and Echuca.

Below: VACCHO healthcare staff member with GCOB 3 at an event in Seymour June 2024.



Monash Health

Case Study 2 - Cornerstone May 2024 (Church of Christ, Dandenong)

The week prior at Cornerstone, a gentleman engaged with Monash Health staff at GCOB-1 and wished to speak privately with a male clinician. He chatted about his experience with a previous urology complaint for which he had not sought medical care.

As an expert on foot and ankle matters, the male podiatrist can provide generalist advice (as a Prostate cancer survivor himself). This is not an isolated experience, as men ask male staff members about urology matters.

The client had no current involvement with his GP. Subsequent follow-ups revealed the issue was not urgent, and, with assistance, the patient engaged with a GP for a proper assessment.

Case Study 3 - Cornerstone June 2024

During Men's Health Week, Monash Health staff organised a session highlighting Men's Health issues. The conversations about health, pamphlets and booklets helped increase awareness of significant challenges associated with Men's Health.

In a particular instance, it is simply about encouraging people to make healthy choices. Community members were asked to check in with Monash Health staff next month to help monitor their progress. Key issues raised during these conversations included Blood Pressure Management, Clotting Disorders, Diabetes, Skin Checks and Prostate Health.

cohealth

Case Study 4 - Honey Hush Caravan Park Laverton North

cohealth attends Honey Hush Caravan Park every fortnight using the GCOB-2 vehicle to deliver food relief parcels and offer support services such as nursing, dietetics, and social workers. The residents who reside at Honey Hush tend to be vulnerable individuals, young families, and older people.

They have various unmet needs and are disconnected from services and the broader community. The cost-of-living crisis can significantly impact these individuals. cohealth staff work towards linking these individuals to services and supporting them in exploring six more suitable housing options, including referrals to the Victorian Housing Register.

The GCOB-2 vehicle runs BBQs at Honey Hush, designed to foster community and connection among the residents. The residents at Honey Hush were also grateful to receive Easter gifts donated by the Green Cross.



Above: cohealth staff ready to assist and engage with vulnerable resident at Honey Hush

Case Study 5 - Harm Reduction Outreach

cohealth City Street Health Team utilises GCOB-2 to create a mobile drop-in space in the CBD to improve engagement with people experiencing homelessness, focusing on overdose prevention, harm reduction, and health promotion.

The team stops at various locations in the city and creates a mobile clinic at the Pentecostal Church on Franklin Street. The AOD outreach team also use GCOB-2 to engage in overdose prevention and harm reduction in Footscray and Melbourne's western suburbs.



Above: cohealth staff working with residents in Melbourne's western suburbs



Above: Honey Hush resident with her Easter gift along side with cohealth staff



FUNDRAISING BEGINS FOR THE NEXT GCPI VEHICLE

Over the past few months, the Committee of Management has focused on exploring new partnership arrangements with new healthcare providers.

Generating additional funds to purchase a new vehicle and refurbishing has begun in earnest. Thankfully, GCPI has been fortunate to receive some significant donations from:

The Order of Saint Lazarus

Once again, the Committee of Management was delighted to receive a cheque for \$6,000 from the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem—Victorian Commandery. GCPI members and the management committee thank the Order for its ongoing interest and support, noting that these funds will significantly contribute to purchasing a new vehicle.

Eirene Lucas Foundation

Earlier this year, the Eirene Lucas Foundation advised the Committee of Management that it had successfully applied for funds. GCPI Committee of Management and members were most pleased to learn that the Eirene Lucas Foundation provided \$20,000 for a new vehicle.

Also, a special thank you

Debretts Antiques in Moonee Ponds has kindly donated several beautiful pieces of porcelain for sale on GCPI's Gum Tree account. This lovely collection of European items (Spain and Germany) has already received some interest.

Again, if you have something too good to throw away but no longer need it in your house, please consider donating it to GCPI.



Above: porcelain items generously donated by Debretts Antiques

SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUNG AND OLD

Finally, while receiving significant contributions from organisations such as the Eirene Lucas Foundation and the Order of Saint Lazarus, it was equally encouraging to see a donation from Master Andrew Kennedy.

With the support of family members, he has been collecting bottles and cans (at 10 cents each) to cash in at the local container deposit scheme for the past few months.

Andrew said, "It was not hard to collect the bottles and cans ... it just takes time." He also said, "I was surprised to see how many bottles and cans I could collect when walking the dog; however, Dad was very good at seeing bottles and cans."

Not only was he helping with his local environment, but he was happy to help the poor. With over 570 bottles and cans collected, his donation of \$57.40 was most welcome.



Above: Andrew Kennedy with some of the 574 cans and bottles that were taken to the local container deposit recycling scheme centre



**KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBER:
PETER NEWMAN OLJ**



Above: Mr Peter Newman

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

I have been a member of the Committee of Management for around 24 months. During this time, I served 12 months as a general committee member and was elected the Honorary Secretary.

What achievements of GCPI have you been most proud of?

As to GCPI's achievements, the most significant is purchasing, fitting out, and providing a new GCOB-4 bus to the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

This bus will help deliver preventative health checks such as life-saving cancer screening and increased access to eye diagnostic services. This initiative responds to urgent concerns highlighted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, indicating a widening gap in cancer mortality rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the wider community.

It also relieves some of the pressure on the Hospital system and is vital to those Aboriginal people who are not comfortable visiting hospitals.

What do you like/value most about GCPI?

I firmly believe that the GCPI provides the most 'tangible' evidence of what the Order represents in its wide-reaching assistance to the needy in our community. I find these grassroots activities and the real results on the ground to be the most rewarding aspects of serving on the Committee of Management.

What encouraged you to join GCPI?

The active role that GCPI plays attracted me to participate. Commencing on February 25, I intend to promote it further by conducting monthly presentations to groups such as Probus and Rotary.

VISIT OUR REFRESHED WEBSITE

During 2024 GCPI refreshed its website, seeking to make it more streamlined. Many thanks to Marnie Wylde for her assistance and expertise.

If you have not visited the website, please visit: <https://greencrossprojectinc.org/>

DONATE NOW

As outlined earlier, GCPI is now actively fund-raising to generate funds for an new vehicle.

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

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Are you LinkedIn?

If not please visit the GCPI page, by clicking on the the following link: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12464138/>

