

GREEN CROSS PROJECT INC NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2025
EDITION

From the Chairman – Strengthening Partnerships and Extending Care

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the passing of our Honorary Secretary, Peter Newman, OLJ. Peter was a dedicated member of Green Cross Project Inc., generously donating his time and energy to support our mission. He will be greatly missed, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work alongside him.

GCPI continues to strengthen its partnerships to deliver essential health and well-being services to those most in need.

This year, I had the pleasure of speaking with Bolton Clarke’s Homeless Partnerships Program Manager to explore collaboration opportunities using our mobile health vehicles. With Bolton Clarke’s increasing focus on the Mornington Peninsula, discussions centered on how shared access to the Peninsula-based vehicle could help extend outreach services to people experiencing homelessness and disadvantages.

A Memorandum of Understanding with Peninsula Health is currently being developed, and further discussions are planned between GCPI, Peninsula Health, and Bolton Clarke.

Closer to home, our Monash Health partnership has expanded to include the Transit Soup Kitchen in Narre Warren, which serves around 300 people each week. Following discussions with the Manager, Monash Health now conducts monthly visits using GCPI facilities—bringing much-needed health support directly to those doing it tough.

We were also proud to donate hundreds of pairs of socks once again, one of the most requested yet least donated items among people experiencing homelessness. These simple gifts provide warmth, comfort, and dignity to many.

Fundraising is underway for our next GCPI vehicle. While we have now just ordered our next vehicle, due to the very generous donations already received from the Vera Moore Foundation, Eirene Lucus Foundation, and The Order of Saint Lazarus Victorian Commandery, we need all the help and assistance we can generate to achieve our \$90,000 target.



Above: the late Peter Newman OLJ

I once again reiterate my thanks to those who have taken out membership for 2025–26 and encourage those who have not done so to contact the Hon. Treasurer, Chev David Richards KLJ, at dcrich1945@gmail.com or [click here](#) for further details.



Anthony Kennedy OAM
Chairman – GCPI

Exploring Partnerships to Extend Health Support on the Mornington Peninsula

The Chairman of Green Cross Project Inc. (GCPI) spoke with Bolton Clarke’s Homeless Partnerships Program Manager to explore potential collaboration opportunities using GCPI’s mobile health vehicles.



Bolton Clarke became aware of the Green Cross vehicles through staff who had previously worked with Monash Health, having seen them in operation at community outreach sites such as Corner Store. With Bolton Clarke’s growing focus on the Mornington Peninsula region, the discussion centered on how these vehicles could support health outreach to people experiencing homelessness and disadvantages.

The GCPI Chairman noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is currently being developed with Peninsula Health, which may present an opportunity for Bolton Clarke to access the Peninsula-based vehicle when it is not in use. Bolton Clarke indicated a strong interest in this arrangement, even on a part-time basis, recognising its potential to enhance their service reach.

The Chairman undertook to approach Peninsula Health regarding the proposal and to explore a possible vehicle-sharing arrangement. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with the GCPI Committee of Management and key Bolton Clarke staff to discuss next steps.

The GCPI vehicle visits the Transit Soup Kitchen

The Chairman of Green Cross Project Inc. (GCPI) earlier in the year held a constructive discussion with the Manager of the Transit Soup Kitchen in Narre Warren, highlighting the growing needs of the local community.

The Transit Soup Kitchen currently provides food services to up to 300 people each week, all of whom have been means-tested. The Manager reported a noticeable rise in hardship and a decline in the health of some regular visitors, underscoring the increasing level of disadvantage in the region.

During the conversation, the GCPI Chairman outlined the organisation’s existing partnership with Monash Health, noting that Narre Warren falls within its catchment area and that a GCPI vehicle already operates there. Recognising the need, it was agreed that Monash Health could inspect the Transit Soup Kitchen and explore the feasibility of including it in their outreach calendar.

Following this discussion, Monash Health and the Transit Soup Kitchen established a monthly visit by Monash Health to GCPI facilities. This collaboration represents a valuable step toward improving access to health care for some of Narre Warren’s most vulnerable residents.



Image above GCOB 1 – parked at Transit Soup Kitchen



GCPI donated hundreds of pairs of socks again



Socks are one of the most requested yet least donated items for people experiencing homelessness. Clean, warm socks help prevent common foot problems—issues that can quickly become serious without access to regular medical care. For those sleeping rough or spending long hours on their feet, a simple pair of socks can provide warmth, comfort, and dignity.

The GCPI Committee of Management, once again would like to thank and acknowledge the wonderful support we receive from Underworks for its very generous donation of hundreds of socks over the past few years.

To illustrate the value of these items of clothing, one of our partners wrote a short note to thank GCPI (and Underworks) for the provision of socks:



“Thanks to the generosity of Green Cross Project Inc, we were able to provide a wide range of sizes – reaching our youngest children, our

homeless guests, and families forced to keep the heater off because they cannot afford the bills. Something so simple has brought warmth, comfort, and dignity to those who need it most.”

“The Green Cross Bus brought more than medical care – it brought dignity and hope. For many of our guests, seeing a doctor can feel out of reach. By coming directly to Transit, the team provided health checks, practical advice, and referrals for ongoing care. This partnership makes sure our community receives the support they need, right where they are. Thank you, Green Cross Project Inc., for your compassion and care.”

Fundraising begins for the next GCPI vehicle.

Over the past few months, the Committee of Management has focused on exploring new partnership arrangements with additional healthcare providers. With a considerable amount of funds already raised, the challenge remains in achieving our \$90,000 target.



This has put us in a cogent position to take the first step and order our next vehicle; however, we need additional funds to complete the refurbishment into a mobile clinic.



To this end, I encourage all friends, supporters and members of GCPI to help us on this next exciting chapter.

I am pleased to advise that we have already received donations from:

- The Vera Moore Foundation
- Eirene Lucus Foundation
- The Order of Saint Lazarus Victorian Commandery.



Know your GCPI Committee of Management members – Mr Domenic La Rocca OJ



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

I have been a member for just over a year. Relatively new to the Committee of Management, however, I've enjoyed every moment thus far and feel honoured to be a part of GCPI. My contributions might be minor at present, but every little bit counts!

What achievements of GCPI have you been most proud of?

There's a lot to be proud of, but I'm most proud of the GCPI and the work that goes into it—the ability to have people and facilities available to those who need it most. I have always been a firm believer in the "boots on the ground" approach, and to see the outstanding work and partnerships in action is quite impressive. I have to thank the GCPI for the magnificent job and undertaking already completed. Now it's time for me to help build a lasting future.

What do you like/value most about GCPI?

I admire and value most the people on the GCPI. The wealth of knowledge and experience is immense and serves only as a testament to the crucial contributions everyone makes. I see each and every one as a friend and mentor. To witness talk become action is genuinely inspirational. I wish to be able to honour the legacy and create future bonds that will aid in the development and growth of the GCPI.

What encouraged you to join GCPI?

I was encouraged to join by the Chairman of GCPI, who believed I could bring a new and different approach to certain aspects. I'm glad I joined, as it's allowed me to experience new projects and processes. Also, to be amongst compassionate, generous and supportive people is fantastic. It's truly an honour to be involved.



GCPI's refreshed website

GCPI has recently refreshed its website. Although the address remains the same, the site has become more visually appealing. Also, if you missed your copy of the GCPI annual report, please feel free to visit the website:

<https://greencrossprojectinc.org/>

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 a new vehicle.

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

BSB: 013 030

Account: 440437353

Secretary:

vicsecretaryolj@gmail.com

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

Are you LinkedIn?

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



Vale Mrs Rosalind Lawrence DLJ OMLJ



The Committee of Management was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Rosalind (Ros) Lawrence DLJ OMLJ on 20 October 2025. Ros will be remembered with great affection and respect for her unwavering support and kindness over so many years. She

was a steadfast member and friend of GCPI and an inspiring example of ongoing support.

The Chairman of GCPI reflected:

“Ros Lawrence was a wonderful member and supporter of GCPI and showed a lifelong passion for helping those in need. Her more than 30 years of dedicated involvement and encouragement have left a lasting legacy that continues to inspire our work today.”

Like many of GCPI's members and supporters, Ros's compassion, loyalty, and quiet strength touched the lives of many. Her presence will be greatly missed. The Committee extends its heartfelt condolences to Ros's family and friends at this sad time.

