



WHITEHORSE CHURCHES CARE LTD

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CONTENTS

3	Greetings from the Chair
6	Board Members
7	Member Churches
8	Church Leaders Gatherings
9	Forest Hill Chase Community Space
15	Whitehorse Community Support Register
16	Praying Together
17	Whitehorse Carols
18	Whitehorse Food Network
19	Christmas Lunches
20	Black Box Mosaics
20	COACH
21	Volunteers
22	Financial Overview
22	Our Major Partners

Greetings from the Chair

Allan Demond

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2025, we give thanks to God for his faithfulness and for the many people whose service continues to shape the ministry of Whitehorse Churches Care (WCC). This year has been one of consolidation and sustainable growth. Across our ministries, churches, volunteer teams, and community partnerships, the impact of this shared work has been increasingly evident in practical, relational, and deeply encouraging ways.

At the heart of WCC is a clear and enduring vision: to strengthen relationships between churches, foster connection across denominations, and create opportunities for collaborative service within the wider community. This vision continued to be expressed through our monthly Church Leaders Gatherings, held consistently on the first Thursday of each month. These gatherings remain a vital relational foundation for trust, prayer, and cooperation, reinforcing the truth that strong relationships underpin effective collaboration and that unity among local churches is one of WCC's greatest strengths.

A significant focus of gratitude in 2025 is **The Space at Forest Hill Chase**, which continues to serve as a welcoming hub for connection, conversation, support, and relationship-building. This ministry was recognised with the **2025 Whitehorse Community Achievement Award**, affirming its visibility and value within the community. During the year, more than 80 volunteers facilitated 23 activities each week for over 400 participants. Alongside special events and practical support, the consistent warmth of welcome helped reduce isolation and strengthen belonging for many across the City of Whitehorse.



While impact is not measured by numbers alone, the data reflects the depth of engagement: 77% of participants reported feeling more connected, 70% reported improved mental health, 50% attended weekly, and 58% had participated for more than a year. These outcomes highlight the extraordinary commitment of staff and volunteers, particularly Karen Breen in her role as Project Coordinator, and the many team members who give so generously of their time and care. Through these practical expressions of service, the quiet and faithful witness of Christ's people continues to bear lasting fruit.

The Whitehorse Community Support Register also remained a valued ministry throughout 2025. Volunteers made approximately 100 welfare calls each week, contributing over 1,200 hours of service to support isolated seniors. In September, responsibility for records and data management formally transitioned from Box Hill Police to WCC, while local police continue their promotional role and welfare check support when required. This marked an important step in strengthening WCC's community service capacity.

Other shared ministries continued to flourish. Churches were brought together through the **Week of Gathered Prayer** in May and **Prayer Walk Week** in October. The **Food Network** met six times to strengthen responses to food insecurity. Churches again collaborated in **Whitehorse Carols**; two **Christmas lunch** events provided hospitality and celebration for local people; and **Black Box Mosaics** continued to foster social connection and wellbeing through creative community engagement.

Effective governance remains essential to WCC's strength. In 2025, **Trudy Skilbeck, Justin Yong, Justin Uzabeaga**, and **Sally Agostino**, were appointed at the May AGM, and **Allan Demond** was reappointed for a final term. Sincere thanks are extended to **Chris Ong, Sally Marks, and Mark Purser** for their ongoing service. This combination of continuity, new leadership, and complementary skills has strengthened board governance and discernment during a significant year.

There was also transition within the chairing role. Allan Demond concluded a three-decade ministry at NewHope Baptist Church in mid-2025, with **Sally Agostino serving as Acting Chair** during the transition period. Thanks are extended to the board and to Karen Breen for carrying additional responsibilities during this time. This shared leadership reflects the maturity, generosity, and resilience that continue to characterise WCC.

Financially, WCC concluded 2025 with a small surplus. This outcome reflects careful stewardship, the faithful support of member churches, generous **donors** and volunteers, and the ongoing **partnership** of organisations including Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre, Bendigo Bank's Blackburn South Community Bank, Bethel Funerals (through Word Investments), and Whitehorse City Council. A huge thank you to all of you! Your support provides stability for this ministry and confidence for the future.

Special thanks are due to our **member churches**, whose ongoing commitment remains foundational. Together, this diverse and united network continues to demonstrate what is possible when churches work collaboratively in humility, trust, and shared mission.

Deep appreciation is also extended to our **volunteers**, who form the heart of WCC's work. Approximately 160 volunteers contributed nearly 10,000 hours during the year. Of these, 107 served in The Space or back-office operations, around 80 were active each week in The Space or Support Register, and volunteers represented 33 different churches. This service stands as a powerful expression of Christian love in action within our city.

As we look ahead, WCC is well positioned to continue growing in healthy and sustainable ways. The year 2025 strengthened foundations, deepened relationships, and extended faithful ministry across Whitehorse. This is growth well worth celebrating.

With abundant blessings,

Allan Demond

Board Chair

Board Members

WCC Board Directors 2025

Name	First Appointed	Reappointed	Retiring
Allan Demond (Chair)	Jul 18, 2019	May 15, 2025	AGM 2028
Chris Ong* (Finance)	Jul 2, 2020	Mar 2, 2023	AGM 2026
Sally Marks*	Mar 2, 2023	-	AGM 2026
Mark Purser**	Mar 2, 2023	-	AGM 2026
Sally Agostino* (Vice Chair)	7 November 2024 (Board appointment)	15 May 2025 (Members appointment)	AGM 2028
Justin Yong* (Company Secretary)	7 November 2024 (Board appointment)	15 May 2025 (Members appointment)	AGM 2028
Justin Uzabeaga*	7 November 2024 (Board appointment)	15 May 2025 (Members appointment)	AGM 2028
Trudy Skilbeck* (New Chair Elect)	3 April 2025 (Board appointment)	15 May 2025 (Members appointment)	AGM 2028

* Eligible for reappointment (up to 9 years)

** Not standing for reappointment

For Information: New Board Appointment In Progress

Name	Board Observer Status	Board Appointment	Member's Appointment
Matt Jones	Mid 2026	TBD	Next Members Meeting

Member Churches

Our member churches are listed below. It is a joy to collaborate together as strengthen our witness and ministry in the City of Whitehorse. The shared work of the churches is truly inspiring, fostering meaningful relationships while addressing poverty and loneliness in impactful ways.

As a board, we are eager to expand the network of churches involved with WCC and to serve our member churches well.

Member Churches

All Saints Anglican Church, Mitcham	One Community Church of Christ
Blackburn Presbyterian Church	Red Church
Box Hill Baptist Church Box Hill	St Alfred's Anglican Church
Salvation Army	St Benedict's Catholic Community
Bread of Life Church	St Clare Catholic Church
Chinese Christian Church of Victoria	St Francis Xavier Catholic Church
(LifeSpring)	St Luke's Anglican Church, Vermont
Crossway Baptist Church	St Paul's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Community Church Inc	St Thomas' Anglican Church
Full Gospel Assembly, Melbourne	St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Growing Faith Church	Stairway Church
Koonung Heights Uniting Church*	Surrey Hills Uniting Church*
Mitcham Baptist Church	St Peter's Anglican Church, Box Hill
Neuma Church (East)	The Avenue Uniting Church
NewHope Baptist Church	Whitehorse Uniting Church

**NOTE: Member churches as at 31 December 2025. Surrey Hills Uniting merged with Koonung Heights at the end of 2025.*

Church Leaders Gatherings

Throughout 2025, our monthly **Church Leaders Gatherings** continued to serve as the relational foundation of **Whitehorse Churches Care**. Meeting consistently on the first Thursday of each month over breakfast, these gatherings nurtured meaningful connections that transcend denominational boundaries and strengthen our shared witness and impact.

Participation remained strong during the year, reflecting the ongoing value church leaders place on ecumenical fellowship and collaborative ministry. Leaders consistently note that these gatherings offer not only practical resourcing, but also vital spiritual and emotional support amid the complexities of contemporary church leadership.

Our primary gathering location continued to be **NewHope Baptist Church**, whose facilities provided a welcoming and effective environment for our monthly breakfasts. **Full Gospel Assembly** again hosted key gatherings, including sessions focused on group discussion, strategic planning, and our Annual General Meeting.

In response to feedback and a desire to deepen relational connection, we also continued to create additional spaces for fellowship. A late-afternoon wine and cheese gathering at **St Benedict's Catholic Church, Burwood**, alongside numerous informal meet-ups throughout the year, opened fresh opportunities for conversation and relationship-building in more relaxed contexts.

Together, these formal and informal gatherings continue to embody our core conviction: **relationships precede effective collaboration**. As church leaders share challenges, celebrate milestones, and pray together, trust and unity are strengthened—laying the groundwork for the practical expressions of cooperation that flow through all Whitehorse Churches Care initiatives.

Forest Hill Chase Community Space (The Space)

Greetings from 'The Space' Coordinator Karen Breen

The Oxford Languages definition of transformation is “a marked change in form, nature, or appearance.” It is a privilege to witness this unfolding daily in the lives of people across our City.

Yet how can transformation be measured? Is it found in the small, incremental steps of change, or only in comparing where someone began with where they end?

At The Space, we see the answer take shape in everyday moments. Every greeting matters. Whether someone arrives in tears, in pain, feeling anxious, or simply seeking connection, each person is met with a warm and genuine welcome.

What follows extends far beyond that first interaction. Friendships are formed, learning takes root, English is practised, harmonies are sung, art is created, technology is repaired, and people are brought together in meaningful ways.

Over time, these moments make change visible. Anxiety softens. Loneliness eases through friendship. Those who once arrived distressed begin to find comfort in being heard and supported. Many return to express gratitude. Some make The Space part of their weekly rhythm, describing it as the highlight of their week.

One woman shared that her involvement at The Space quite literally saved her life. Facing depression caused by isolation, she made the decision one day to step inside. Since then, she has formed deep friendships and rediscovered joy. Her warmth and smile embody true transformation.

It is our privilege to witness these stories, often made possible by the dedication of our volunteer team. Each moment of care may seem small, yet together they create a “marked change,” shaping lives in lasting and powerful ways. That is transformation.

77%

**of participants surveyed
feel more connected**

70%

**of participants surveyed experienced
improved mental health**



Recognition

The Forest Hill Chase Community Space, is honoured to receive the 2025 Whitehorse Community Achievement Award as we continue to foster connection, belonging, and wellbeing through a vibrant and growing community.

Pictured: Sally Agostino (WCC Board), Ingrid Vanin (Haben – Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre), Kit Wong (The Space Team), Kerryyn Pell (former WCC Executive Officer), Trudy Skilbeck (WCC Board).

Programs and Activities

This recognition reflects the strong reputation of The Space as a welcoming, inclusive hub open five days a week. This is made possible by more than 80 volunteers who host 23 activities for over 400 people each week.

The award also recognises the 44 special events held in 2025 and the 100+ weekly calls made to isolated seniors through the Whitehorse Community Support Register.

The weekly program includes creative activities such as music, art, and craft; learning through language and conversation; and social connection through games. Additional activities support specific needs, including story time for children and IT help for older adults. A regular community gathering offers lunch, friendship, creativity, and opportunities to learn life skills.

Community Impact

This recognition reflects the real impact of people feeling seen, heard, and valued. By intentionally creating a place where people can belong, The Space strengthens social connection and supports improved mental health and wellbeing.

The 2025 Annual Survey shows:

38% of visitors live alone or in an aged care facility

18% visit more than once a week

47 postcodes are represented

The Space plays an important role in meeting social needs, with 50% of respondents attending weekly and 58% participating for over a year. Notably, 10% were first-time visitors, demonstrating continued success in reaching and engaging new members of the community.

An outstanding 77% of participants report feeling more connected, while 70% experience improved mental health. We are also seeing increased long-term participation, with highly valued aspects including care for one another, a sense of contribution, and confidence that someone will help find solutions to challenges.

These results reflect lives positively shaped through kindness, dedication, and care. The true strength of the Space lies in its openness. People of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are welcomed to connect, contribute, learn, participate, volunteer, or simply spend time in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Volunteer Contribution

Behind these outcomes is a team of extraordinary volunteers, the heart of The Space.

The 2025 Whitehorse Community Achievement Award recognises the difference being made by more than 80 dedicated team members. These volunteers welcome participants, lead activities, provide care, and create connections either in person or via phone calls with the Whitehorse Community Support Register. Together, we create a warm and safe place for all.

We are deeply grateful to every individual who contributes to make this possible.

Partnerships

This achievement also recognises Whitehorse Churches Care (WCC) as a remarkable organisation. The collaboration of so many churches working together to provide public benevolent relief across the City of Whitehorse is both unique and inspiring. It is a privilege to partner in this important work.

Volunteer Contribution

Behind these outcomes is a team of extraordinary volunteers, the heart of The Space.

The 2025 Whitehorse Community Achievement Award recognises the difference being made by more than 80 dedicated team members. These volunteers welcome participants, lead activities, provide care, and create connections either in person or via phone calls with the Whitehorse Community Support Register. Together, we create a warm and safe place for all.

We are deeply grateful to every individual who contributes to make this possible.



Partnerships

This achievement also recognises Whitehorse Churches Care (WCC) as a remarkable organisation. The collaboration of so many churches working together to provide public benevolent relief across the City of Whitehorse is both unique and inspiring. It is a privilege to partner in this important work.

Thank You to 2025 Financial/Grant Supporters

- Forest Hill Shopping Centre Management, Haben
- Blackburn South Community Bank (Bendigo Bank)
- Bunnings Nunawading
- Lions Club of Nunawading
- Member churches of Whitehorse Churches Care
- Whitehorse City Council
- Word Investments
- Many individual donors

Art Exhibitions Featured

- Art from The Space
- Black Box Mosaics
- Chinese Brush Painting
- Kathy Vittle and her class
- Michael and MK Arts
- Neighbourhood House Blackburn North
- St Alfred's Church
- St Paul's Lutheran
- Underneath My Umbrella (domestic violence overcomers)
- Whitehorse Uniting



Special Events

44 special events ran throughout the year, some highlights are listed below:

- Alpha Course by community request
- Baby massage five-week course
- Fundraising stalls at Bunnings Nunawading and Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre
- Just Sing Community Choir performances at EACH, Cape, Nazareth House, Crossway LifeCare, and Forest Hill Chase
- Mental Health Month focus on decluttering and organising
- Sea shanty singing and The Billabong Band
- School holiday activities including card making, a magic show, upcycled coasters, and towel puppy workshops
- Whitehorse Council Positive Ageing team and other service providers
- Whitehorse food conversations with regular attendance from Foodbank Victoria, the Mayor, councillors, and community service provider representatives
- Digital literacy workshops delivered by Whitehorse Manningham Libraries

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time and energy to these events.



Pictured:

Just Sing Community Choir

Voices from the Community

Volunteers share:

- A team member joined thinking she had something to offer, but found herself learning from others and left feeling ready to take on her week
- A volunteer of a non-English speaking background confidently assists others with IT, overcoming language barriers and growing in confidence
- A neighbouring tenant noted that people often leave The Space smiling and recommends it to others

Participants share:

- One person returned to thank the team for kindness during a difficult time and later made a generous donation
- Another, initially visiting after a car accident in visible distress, returned to express gratitude for the support received
- A gentleman experiencing pain was touched that his name was remembered visits regularly, sharing that it eases his loneliness
- We are privileged to witness these changes, from pain to smiles, anxiety to calm, isolation to connection and distress to renewed home. These are real life transformations.



Whitehorse Community Support Register

For thirteen years, volunteers with the Whitehorse Community Support Register have been making regular telephone calls to isolated seniors across the City of Whitehorse, supporting social connection and community wellbeing.

The Register originally operated from Box Hill Police Station. In 2022, operations were relocated to the Forest Hill Chase Community Space ('The Space').

In September 2025, responsibility for Register records and data management formally transferred from Box Hill Police to Whitehorse Churches Care (WCC). WCC continues to operate the Register from The Space, while Box Hill Police maintains a promotional role and continues to conduct welfare checks when requested.

Under the revised arrangements:

- Telephone welfare calls continue unchanged, delivered by volunteers at The Space
- WCC is responsible for secure storage and management of Register data
- WCC provides updated contact information to police on a regular basis
- Box Hill Police continues to undertake welfare checks where necessary

Following the transition of responsibility in 2025, Register data continues to be maintained and updated by WCC.

Throughout the year, more than 30 volunteers contributed over 1,200 hours, making approximately 100 welfare calls each week to seniors on the Register.

Registrants express their appreciation for the volunteers, describing them as "lovely" and valuing the time they generously give to support others in the community.

One noting "We are very happy after receiving your call and feel like you are family."

This feedback highlights the strong sense of connection fostered through the program, contributing to improved mental wellbeing across the community.



Praying Together

Prayer Week

We thank and praise God for the opportunity the Churches of Whitehorse have had to host "The Week of Gathered Prayer" for the past 5 years, in 2025 this took place from May 12th-16th. The theme for the week was "How great is your name" based on Psalm 8, focusing on the OT names of God. Five churches of diverse traditions and denominations hosted one night in the week from 7.30-8.30 pm, celebrating the joy of our unity in Jesus and love for each other .

Thank you Crossway Baptist church, Box Hill Salvation Army corps, Full Gospel Assembly, Growing Faith Church and Nunawading Lutheran Church for hosting so well and leading us in such meaningful times of worship and focused prayer. On the Monday we worshipped and celebrated The Lord our Provider (Jehovah Jireh), on Tuesday The Lord our Banner (Jehovah Nissi), on Wednesday the Lord our Shepherd (Jehovah Rohi), on Thursday the Lord our Peace (Jehovah Shalom) and on Friday the Lord our Righteousness (Jehovah Tsidkenu).

Some highlights of the week included the warm welcome and hospitality provided by the host churches, guided prayer reflections, the positive engagement at variously themed prayer stations, the offering of Taize prayers and the lighting of candles and music provided by the Salvation Army band. What a wonderful opportunity we had to proclaim and exhort the Great Name of our God over our churches, our cities, our nation and our world in music, worship and prayer!

Prayer Walk Week

During Prayer walk week (October 13th-19th) the Churches of Whitehorse are encouraged to Walk, Bless and Pray for our city, our nation and our world. Our theme for the week was centred around the prayer "Come Lord Jesus Come". The scripture to frame the week was: 'The Spirit and the bride say Come...and let the one who hears say come; let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wished to take the free gift of the water of life...' (Revelation 22: 17; 20)

There were 6 walks themed around prayer for the Healthcare sector; Education sector; Leadership and Governance; the Environment; Retail/Hospitality, the Community and prayer for The Church (Local, National and Global). The walks were held at various locations around Whitehorse and led by pastors/prayer leaders. A number of churches participated in the group walks including Crossway Baptist, Flow church, Newhope, Growing Faith, St Benedicts, Nunawading Lutheran, St Luke's Vermont, Red and Box Hill salvation army corps.

We took God at his word that he promises to give us every place that the soles of our feet tread on (Joshua 1: 3). Some of the highlights included:

- A time of worship and singing prior to our walk around Deakin university one evening in Burwood, followed by focused prayer for students and teachers• A Sunday afternoon walk from Crossway church to Nunawading Lutheran and back, stopping at various points and praying for repentance, restoration and revival.
- Praying prophetic prayers into what we saw and heard whilst passing by places of learning, shopping centres, homes, churches and sporting venues.
- Prayer walking engages a lot of our 5 senses and one such example was 'seeing walls' of unforgiveness and long held offences against God and others coming down. We continue to believe that just as Joshua and the people witnessed the walls of Jericho coming down after 7 days, the church will take back ground that belongs to Jesus!

All for the praise and glory of His name! Amen!

Whitehorse Carols

The Churches of Whitehorse collaborated once again in 2025 to bring the good news of Jesus' birth at the Whitehorse Carols by Candle Light in December with over 7,500 people in attendance. It is a privilege each year to share the true story of Christmas with our city and invite all to their local Church for Christmas. Tim Spencer led the initiative again this year with several churches providing musicians as well as various volunteers to support the operation of the carols.



Whitehorse Food Network

The WCC Food Network brings together individuals and organisations involved in or passionate about addressing food insecurity in Whitehorse. Our shared focus is ensuring local communities have access to a stable supply of nutritious food. Our membership spans a broad cross-section of the community, including churches across Whitehorse, Lions Clubs, Rotary, Whitehorse City Council, Whitehorse Manningham Library, Foodbank, Student Services, and Health Services. In 2025, we met six times throughout the year.

One of the greatest strengths of the WCC Food Network is our ability to pool resources, share supplier contacts, and leverage the experience and wisdom gained from each other's networks. When a member organisation faces a particular challenge, others who have navigated similar situations are well-placed to offer practical guidance and support.

Highlights over the past year have included presentations from a range of organisations — from providers offering pre-cooked meals, to groups looking to reinstate food programs that had previously closed, to discussions around community engagement initiatives addressing specific needs such as food security. There have also been valuable opportunities to collaborate with organisations that have secured grants to develop and expand food relief programs. Members are regularly kept informed of available funding opportunities, from Whitehorse City Council grants through to those offered by private organisations.

As Christmas approaches each year, the Network comes together to coordinate Christmas lunches and hamper distributions for our participants.

A particularly meaningful moment this past year came when one member shared that her service was seeing a noticeable increase in people experiencing homelessness. The group responded with practical suggestions, including the offer of a shower truck and a range of other potential resources for her team to explore.

Having access to a broad knowledge base — and being able to share that knowledge with the people we serve — is genuinely empowering. Together, we are far more effective than any of us could be on our own.

Christmas Lunches

Whitehorse Churches Care provided two Christmas Lunch events to local people in 2025. Both events were held on December 23rd. These events aim to support and encourage local people who may not otherwise be able to celebrate Christmas due to social isolation, lack of resource or limited cultural awareness of Christmas. These events are both collaborative efforts between local WCC churches. Many churches also participate through volunteer support at the event.

St Thomas Anglican Church hosted a Christmas Lunch that focuses on supporting University students, especially international students from Deakin University. This was the second year St Tom's has hosted this event. It was a collaboration mainly between St Benedicts and St Thomas with people from seven other churches helping on the day. The event was well received by all attending and had a lovely atmosphere. We were disappointed to have many signed up guests not attend. We had 25 guests and a similar number of volunteers.

Mitcham Baptist Church hosted a Christmas Lunch for the fourth year in a row. We encourage local pantries and community services organisations to invite their patrons. This way we are able to gather many local residents that we already have connected with through the year - people from Whitehorse and nearby surrounds. Many guests are known to us, which helps to create a warm and friendly atmosphere. We had close to 120 guests attend with the support of 30 volunteers from local churches. The event included games, live music and carol singing. All feedback was very positive.



Black Box Mosaics

Black Box Mosaics (BBM) is a monthly community group held at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, providing a welcoming and supportive environment where participants build connection through mosaic-making.

The program responds to social isolation, loneliness, and limited community connection. Since commencing in early 2023, BBM has grown steadily, attracting a diverse group of participants, many of whom are not connected to a church.

In 2025, approximately 45 individuals engaged with BBM, including people experiencing grief, chronic illness, disability, and social disconnection. The group is supported by volunteers and leaders from local churches.

BBM expanded its reach through introductory mosaic workshops delivered in partnership with Bunnings Nunawading, engaging around 40 new participants. These workshops also generated in-kind support through store vouchers, assisting with program resources. The group delivered its first exhibition at Box Hill Community Arts Centre, along with a smaller exhibition at Forest Hill Community Space, with contributions to WCC of over \$1,200 through exhibitions, sales, and program surplus, and provided additional in-kind support to community programs.

Through creative engagement, Black Box Mosaics continues to foster meaningful social connection, supporting improved wellbeing and a stronger sense of belonging among participants. The program's growth and outreach demonstrate its ongoing value in building an inclusive and connected community.

COACH

COACH Mentoring is a wonderful community program that connects local people experiencing hardship and loneliness with a supervised and trained volunteer mentor. This is a fantastic opportunity to activate Christians in a practical caring ministry. COACH Network currently works with 203 churches across Australia. Within Whitehorse, two WCC churches currently administrate a COACH program: Crossway and New Hope. We have volunteers that come from a variety of churches in the Whitehorse area. There is an ongoing opportunity for churches that do not have their own COACH program to promote COACH mentoring at their church and potential mentors will be trained, matched and supported through Crossway LifeCare's program.

Volunteers

In 2025, approximately 160 volunteers contributed their time and skills to Whitehorse Churches Care, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting the local community.

- Nearly 10,000 volunteer hours were recorded across the year
- 107 individuals served in the Community Space or supported back-office operations
- Around 80 volunteers were actively engaged each week in the Space or on the Support Register
- 66 volunteers assisted with Christmas lunches held at St Thomas' Anglican Church, Burwood and Mitcham Baptist Church
- 19 new volunteers were recruited and trained
- 32 volunteers concluded their service during the year due to health, work, or other personal commitments
- Volunteers represented 33 different churches, reflecting broad community involvement

During the year, we enhanced our data-sharing systems for the Whitehorse Community Support Register in partnership with Victoria Police. These improvements enable more efficient communication, particularly in facilitating welfare checks and next of kin contact for registrants.

We currently have 72 active volunteers, which is lower than our typical base of around 90. As a result, we are actively seeking new volunteers who are empathetic and willing to connect with people in the community experiencing loneliness, isolation, or a need for social connection.

Our volunteers are to be warmly commended for their enthusiasm, reliability, and dedication. Their consistent and compassionate service makes a meaningful difference, and their contribution is deeply valued.

Financial Overview

Income		Financial Position	
		As at 31 December 2025	
<u>Income</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
Regular Member Churches	\$ 97,973	Bank	\$ 89,107
Grant income for current year	\$ 24,459	Fixed Assets	\$ 756
Partnership donations	\$ 10,000	Account Receivables	\$ 550
Interest Income	\$ 1,406	Total Assets	\$ 90,413
Other Donations	\$ 28,663	<u>Liabilities</u>	
Community Space Donations	\$ 4,008	Current Liabilities	\$ 49,873
Project Donations	\$ 1,700	Non-current Liabilities	\$ 30,301
Mosaic Project Donations	\$ 1,802	Total Liabilities	\$ 80,174
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 170,011	Net Assets	\$ 10,239
		Current Year Earnings	\$ 33,058
		Retained Earnings	\$ (22,819)
		Total Equity	\$ 10,239
Expenses			
<u>WCC Ongoing Expenses</u>			
Daily Operations	\$ (4,256)		
Management Costs	\$ (9,641)		
WorkCover/Training	\$ (6,348)		
Winter Shelter	\$ (264)		
TOTAL ONGOING EXPENSES	\$ (20,509)		
<u>Project Expenses</u>			
Volunteer Management	\$ (864)		
Community Space	\$ (106,800)		
Support Register	\$ (5,374)		
Other Projects			
Whitehorse Christmas Carols	\$ (2,000)		
Stakeholder Engagement	\$ (879)		
Christmas Lunch	\$ (64)		
Mosaic project expenses	\$ (463)		
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	\$ (116,444)		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (136,953)		
PROFIT/LOSS	\$ 33,058		

Our Major Partners

We are deeply indebted to our key partners whose exceptional generosity and vision made our continuing work through 2025 possible. These strategic partnerships represent a shared commitment to building a stronger, more connected Whitehorse community. We are grateful for such willing financial investment.

Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre (The Haben Property Group)

The continued provision of our premium location at Forest Hill Chase represents an extraordinary commitment to community well-being. This centrally-located, accessible space—valued at approximately \$300,000 annually—has become a vibrant hub where hundreds of community members find connection and belonging each week. The Haben Property Group's investment demonstrates remarkable corporate citizenship and a genuine desire to see our community thrive.

Blackburn South Community Bank (Bendigo Bank)

The Blackburn South Community Bank has demonstrated tremendous confidence in our work through their substantial grant of \$50,000, allocated over three years (commenced in 2024). This visionary investment directly supports our staffing needs, ensuring professional coordination of our growing volunteer base and expanding community programs. Their partnership exemplifies how local banking can drive meaningful social impact in the communities they serve.

Bethel Funerals (Word Investments)

Bethel Funerals (through Word Investments), joined us as a key partner in 2024 demonstrating their commitment to community care beyond their core services. Their kind gift of \$30,000, distributed evenly over three years, provides critical operational stability that allows us to focus on program delivery and community engagement. Their support reflects their deeply-held values of compassion and community service.

Whitehorse City Council

WCC has enjoyed a collaborative relationship with our City Council from the very beginning as we seek to serve our city through our aligned values. In late 2025 we received a City Council Social and Wellbeing grant of just under \$18,000 - to support our capacity building efforts with a particular focus on communication. We are most grateful for this significant support across the 7 months to end June 2026.

These partnerships, built on shared values and mutual respect, significantly amplify our impact across Whitehorse. We look forward to continuing these relationships and celebrating the positive transformation they make possible in our community.





whitehorsechurchescare.org.au