




Shining a light for 25 years

ANNUAL REPORT

2022—2023



Be a light in someone's
DARKNESS



For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

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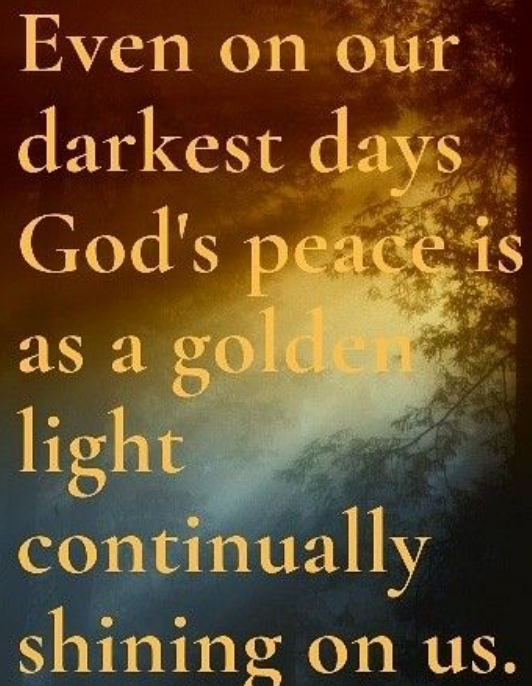
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Even on our
darkest days
God's peace is
as a golden
light
continually
shining on us.

MISSION STATEMENT



“We exist to provide emergency relief
in the name of
Jesus Christ
with
compassion and understanding,
upholding dignity”



CONTENTS

●	Mission Statement	5
●	Leadership 2022- 2023	8
●	Volunteer Acknowledgements	10
●	Community Partner Acknowledgements	12
●	Chairman's Report	13
●	Manager's Report	14
●	Regional Welfare Network	15
●	Client Assessment Report	16
●	Encouragement Story	18
●	Christmas Hampers 2022	20
●	Reverse Advent Program	21
●	Highlights 2022- 2023	22
●	Frozen Meal Donations	24
●	In Memoriam	25
●	FoodBank Victoria	26
●	Treasurer's Report	29
●	Auditor's Report	32
●	Statistics	36
●	Horsham Christian Ministers' Assoc	39

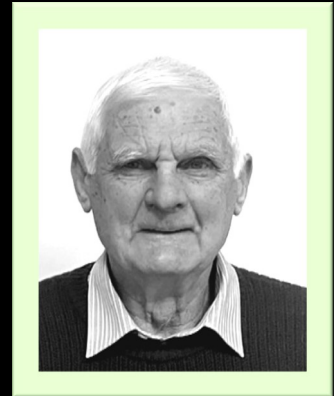
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



BOB HAYES
CHAIRPERSON



IAN WALTER
VICE CHAIRPERSON



LES WARRICK
TREASURER



SHIRL HAIR
SECRETARY



ANNE MAHONY
COMMITTEE MEMBER



CAPT. CHRIS SUTTON
HCMA REP.



DENNIS MAY
COMMITTEE MEMBER



PAULINE KEYTE
COMMITTEE MEMBER

CENTRE LEADERSHIP



JOHN SPEHR
MANAGER



BEV MIATKE
CLIENT ASSESSMENT MGR
& ADMIN. SECRETARY



ANNE LANE
FOOD ROOM
TEAM LEADER



JENNY SMITH
DATABASE
MANAGER



TERRY WALSH
STORES & PURCHASING-
TEAM LEADER



WENDY CLOUGH
RECEPTION
TEAM LEADER



MAVIS WARRICK
DATA ENTRY

THANK YOU

Volunteers

The Centre is staffed by around 65 volunteers who regularly donate their time and talents because God has given them a heart for helping people in need. Volunteers work in the Food Room, as Receptionists, as Interviewers, or in Stores/Purchasing (some in several areas). There are also volunteers picking up and dealing with donations from our Community Partners daily. All are integral to every activity that happens in the Food Centre. Without them this vital service could not happen. **Many thanks to you all for your hard work and dedication. God bless you all!**

FOOD ROOM



Wilma Smith



Jenni Smith



Bessie Boseley



Lorraine Clancy



Carol McDonald



Pam Jende



Judith Jones



Jean Combe



Rhonda Hender



Audrey Ellis



Lorraine Baker



Linda Thompson



Pat Rock



Denise Mackenzie



Pam Hamilton



Rosie Taylor



Celia Hendry



Jenny Clarke



Sandra McNee



Judy Bryan



Denise Haeblich



Sue Farr



Sandra Harberger



Jenny Smith



Joan Gordon



Lynda Hutchinson



Ella Haleley



Bernice Werner



Cherie Ladow

The Food Room is the core of the Centre. All volunteers begin their training in the Food Room. Food lists recorded by the interviewers are delivered to the Food Room where the food parcels are packed and then taken out to the clients.



John Spehr



Les Warrick



Mavis Warrick



Jenny Smith

FRONT OFFICE

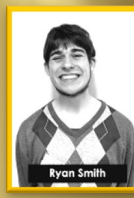
Front Office staff include our volunteer Manager, Treasurer and Data collection and Statistics officer who maintain our client database and government compliance & financial requirements.



Terry Walsh



Anne Lane



Ryan Smith



Lester Judd



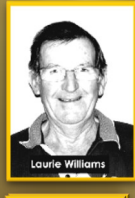
Brian Rudolph



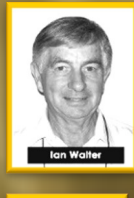
Dan Berendsen



George Peake



Laurie Williams



Ian Walter



Don Cook



Gerard Breen



Stan Waller



Ian Clough



John Spehr

STORES/PURCHASING

Volunteers in this area oversee stock levels in the Food Room and order and purchase any requirements. They also receive and record donations and unpack deliveries as needed. Off-site storage is required at times and therefore goods need to be transported between facilities. Many are also involved in Community Partner pick ups.



INTERVIEWING

Interviewers talk one-on-one with clients, listening to their needs and organising food and referrals. All conversations are confidential.



Garry Heinrich



Pauline Keyte



Sandra Harberger



Marylou Spehr



Les Warrick



Rhonda Coffey



Anne Mahony



Kay Blake



Shiri Hair



Maxine Tepper



Rosie Taylor



RECEPTION

Receptionists are the face of the Centre as they welcome clients each day. It is their responsibility to record and maintain the files which are required to be kept on all visits.



Judy Bryan



Betty Heinrich



Wendy Clough



Diane Cook



Pam Reithus



Celia Hendry



Shiri Hair



Denise Williams



Julie Neumann

THANK YOU

Community Partners

WAACK'S BAKERY FIREBRACE ST. HORSHAM	BRUMBY'S BAKERY HORSHAM PLAZA	BAKER'S DELIGHT WILSON ST, HORSHAM	CONWAY'S PIES PYNSENT ST HORSHAM
			
			
COLES SUPERMARKET DARLOT ST HORSHAM	WILKIE'S TRANSPORT VINE AVE STH, HORSHAM	FOODBANK VICTORIA YARRAVILLE, MELBOURNE	ALDI SUPERMARKET MADDEN ST HORSHAM



WOOLWORTHS
WILSON ST, HORSHAM



SPORTS & COMMUNITY CLUB
VINE AVE STH, HORSHAM

FOOD DONATIONS 2022-23	\$
Aldi (SecondBite)	19,456
Baker's Delight	14,153
Brumby's Bakery	23,592
Church of Christ meals	6,000
Coles (SecondBite)	29,077
Conway's Pies	23,327
Foodbank Victoria	56,569
Horsham Sports & Comm Club meals	6,000
Public	47,257
Waack's Bakery	9,034
Woolworths	39,756
TOTAL	274,221

Thank you to these and the many other businesses, schools, service clubs, and community members who have generously donated goods and services to us this year



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As we complete 25 years of operation we thank our God for his generous blessings over this period. It is amazing to look back at such a small beginning to where we are today. The original team consisted of 8-10 people operating out of the Old Wimmera Shire Offices. We now have 65 people and our premises are much larger, however we still need to expand. Sadly, the need still exists to help so many more people. The rising cost of living continues to increase the pressure on the family budget.

The great team of volunteers who have, over all these years, provided such wonderful and compassionate assistance to people in need. Our leadership team of Bev Miatke, John Spehr, Terry Walsh, Anne Lane and Les Warrick have been a tower of strength and support to all. We particularly thank John Spehr for changing roles to become the Manager. His knowledge and skills provide us with excellent leadership.

Thank you all for your commitment.

The flow of donations to the C.E.F.C is a wonderful display of charity and goodwill to those who have need for our support. Words are not enough to show our appreciation to those that give so generously year after year. May God give his blessing and peace to you all.

The Horsham Rural City Council has given the C.E.F.C ownership of our premises for which we are very grateful. Having ownership makes the decision to move

or expand much less complicated.

During the later part of the year John Evans resigned from both his role as an Interviewer



and his seat on our Committee of Management due to moving from Horsham. We thank John for his input and wish him good health and a long retirement. His replacement will be Dennis May and we welcome Dennis to the Committee.

This will be my only report as Chairman and I would sincerely thank the Members of the Management Committee for their support and fellowship over many years. To all involved in the C.E.F.C it has been a great organisation to be involved with.

May God continue to watch over you all.

Bob Hayes
Chairman

MANAGER'S REPORT



The Christian Emergency Food Centre aims to provide emergency relief and other assistance to people in need. This is mostly in the form of food support, but it also may include assistance with essential transport, medical needs, household bills or sometimes just providing a listening ear in order to provide hope or encouragement.

This year we have continued to provide support to residents from Horsham and the wider Wimmera community. There have been 2719 client contacts during this period which is a 28% increase on the previous year. These contacts involved 867 clients of whom 278 were new. This increase reflects the current economic pressures that people are facing due to inflation and interest rate changes, leading to increases in rental costs, utility bills and general living costs. At this stage we expect that this demand will continue at the current level or possibly increase further over the next year.

Our staff and volunteers have enabled the CEFC to function efficiently and to provide support in a caring and dignified manner. Our many volunteers work in various ways, from ordering and purchasing food or collecting donated food from local businesses, greeting, and interviewing clients, sorting produce, and preparing food hampers for clients, recording data and finances, liaising with other welfare groups and DSS and managing the governance of the CEFC. Without this commitment and the friendly way that our people function our organization could not be effective. A huge thank you to all the people who work for the CEFC.

We are always seeking new members to volunteer for the wide variety of tasks. If you have some time and would be interested in joining this supportive group, then please contact us.

Our local community is the backbone of our support, both through financial support and in-kind donations. We also receive funds from the

Department of Social Services (DSS) and Uniting Wimmera, HRCC, local businesses, churches, and our general public. Produce is purchased through FoodBank Victoria and local supermarkets on a weekly basis and produce is also donated through programs with local supermarkets and bakeries. Further produce is also donated through schools, churches, and numerous other community groups. This year a very successful Reverse Advent Box donation was initiated by the Horsham Sports and Community Club. This involved community groups, churches, schools, and individuals providing a hamper box of pantry staples that our clients could use. A wonderful effort of 386 boxes were completed and distributed to needy clients. Donations of goods (Fruit, vegetables, bread, eggs, meat, groceries) from the community amounted to \$262,000 this year allowing the CEFC to be generous with produce to our clients and allowing us to meet some of their need. We are truly grateful to our community for their support.

This year marks 25 years of operation for the CEFC. This is a significant milestone, and we can be grateful to those who had the foresight in setting up the Food Centre and in providing such a good foundation for its further service to the Horsham and Wimmera community.

God is blessing the work of the CEFC and we pray that we can continue to share His love with those around us.

John Spehr
Manager

REGIONAL WELFARE NETWORK

Inter-agency co-operation throughout our region is vital to ensure an holistic approach to client care. Each agency specialises in its own area/s of care with referrals to and from other agencies in order to get the best possible outcomes for anyone seeking help.

Areas of care include:

- provision of food
- financial services
- accommodation
- household goods
- counselling
- mental health services
- domestic violence services and
- general community services.



Warracknabeal
Neighbourhood House
and Learning Centre Inc.



centrelink



WWHS



GRAMPIANS
COMMUNITY HEALTH
vibrant and healthy communities



RURAL FINANCIAL
COUNSELLING SERVICE
VICTORIA WIMMERA SOUTH WEST INC.



BARWON CASA
Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

Uniting



Vinnies
good works



HORSHAM
Rural City Council

CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC.

CLIENT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Wow, what a year it's been since I sat here writing last year's report. Since that time I've lost my mother, then my husband a few months later and even had to put my elderly dog down soon after that. It's certainly been a difficult and, at times, dark time. But through all the darkness there is also light, sometimes a brilliant flash and sometimes only a small flicker—in the prayers and support of my friends, the copious numbers of cards with beautiful sentiments, food made with love, phone calls and visits to check on me. The list goes on. And have you ever noticed the important thing about light. Wherever it exists the darkness is never complete, never overwhelming.

In the weeks after my husband died and I had to do some shopping or go somewhere where there were lots of people I didn't know, it dawned on me that none of them knew what had been happening in my life. They probably couldn't tell just by looking at me all the things I was facing. It was a valuable lesson for me that the reverse was also true—I couldn't tell exactly what they were facing either. Every day in the Food Centre we see people who are struggling with big things, dark things, in their lives. We can make lots of assumptions about them and their lives by the very fact that they've come in to see us or how they talk or dress or by the small snapshots they give us during their conversations with our interviewers. But I'm sure it's never the whole story of the dark places in their lives. All we can hope for is that our care for them shines into that darkness so it feels much less overwhelming.

It is so easy for us, as humans, to make judgements about people on the way they look, talk, dress or act. We put them into little boxes because it's easier for our minds to shuffle boxes than to truly empathise with those around us. Empathy may mean facing emotions on their behalf we don't want to have to deal with. After all we've got enough to deal with in our own lives—right? Here at the CEFC our mission statement is: **“We exist to provide emergency relief in the name of Jesus Christ with**

compassion and understanding, upholding dignity” It is something we take seriously and I hope it shines through to our clients particularly because we simply don't know exactly what they're facing and just how difficult it was for them to come and ask for help.



Our interviewers aren't trained counsellors, just everyday people facing everyday problems and struggles like everyone else. They chat to the clients to get a glimpse of what's happening in their lives and try to find connections to help our clients feel more comfortable. Slowly those defining boxes start to fade. Instead of separating and dividing, the boxes extend into lines tying them together and to the world around them. When we are able to make a personal connection, we can move beyond assumptions and appearances. Instead we can focus on people who were previously invisible to us—maybe because of the box around them. This example was given to us by Jesus himself. Always seeing the real person not just the boxes that the world put around them like those called: 'Sinner', 'unclean' 'outcast' We know in our own lives how making connections with people affects our attitudes to those around us.

What if you realized that the young man who waited on your table at the local restaurant goes to the same university as your niece? What if you understood that the kind woman who took your blood pressure at the doctor's office actually lives in a unit around the corner from your house? What would happen if you recognized that the food, nicely arranged in the supermarket fruit & veg department was picked by someone's father, uncle or brother? What if you figured out that the man behind the counter at the post office has a child in your son's classroom? Suddenly we feel a bit more connected to them and each time we see them that connection builds into something a little stronger each time.

I found the following story was a good illustration of how we put people into boxes when what we should be doing is supporting them and cheering them on like God does for us.

“The runners for the Special Olympics, 400-metre dash were being helped to their marks. As I watched, a gentleman in a three-piece suit jumped up in the stands in front of me and began yelling, “Lenny! Lenny!” An overweight middle-aged man with Down Syndrome looked up in the direction of the voice.

The gun sounded and the runners leaped forward—all except Lenny, who was dead last and losing ground. He had a preoccupation with his hands, which he wrung furiously as he tried to make his way around the track. Pointing to him, the gentleman in front of me turned and addressed my section of the crowd. “That’s my son, Lenny. Isn’t he doing great?”


When Lenny reached the last turn on the track, the other runners had already finished. The gentleman began to shout encouragement to his son, throwing his fists in the air in a triumphant gesture. “Great job, Lenny! Way to go, son. Keep going, you’re doing great!” He turned to my section again, and reminded us all that his son was about to finish. We applauded dutifully, feeling somewhat embarrassed. When Lenny crossed the finish line, the man made his way down to the track and hugged his son, who was exhausted, drooling, and still wringing his hands.

While I watched them embrace, I began to weep.

As I thought about what I saw, it seemed as though God was saying to me, “You’re like Lenny in this race I have called you into. You’re challenged, perplexed, far behind the pack. Most days, you’re a pitiful pile of exhaustion. But I’m here cheering you on. I love you the way that man loves his son.”

Love, it's how we, as Christians will reach the world. I pray that the body of Christ becomes the safest and most honest place on the planet. I pray that we are able to help people but challenge them to engage in transformation. I pray that our love inspires action within people, action toward God and a more healthy life for themselves and their loved ones. I pray that a compassion rises up in God's people to walk in kindness and mercy toward the world but can unashamedly call people up into righteousness and wisdom. I pray we, as believers, glorify God by allowing Christ to live and love through us.

Bev Miatke,
Client Assessment Manager



**You'll never regret
going out of your way
to brighten someone's day.**



ENCOURAGEMENT

Thankful for the thorns

Sandra felt as low as the heels of her Birkenstocks as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then, in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor automobile accident stole her ease. During this Thanksgiving week, she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, whose holiday visit she'd been looking forward to, called saying she could not come. What's worse, Sandra's friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathise with others who suffer. "Had she lost a child? No - she has no idea what I'm feeling," Sandra shuddered. Thanksgiving? "Thankful for what?" she wondered. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an airbag that saved her life but took that of her child?

"Good afternoon, can I help you?" The flower shop clerk's approach startled her. "Sorry," said Jenny, "I just didn't want you to think I was ignoring you." "I . . . I need an arrangement." "For Thanksgiving?" Sandra nodded. "Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favourite I call the 'Thanksgiving Special'?" Jenny saw Sandra's curiosity and continued. "I'm convinced that flowers tell stories, that each arrangement insinuates a particular feeling. Are you looking for something that conveys gratitude this Thanksgiving?" "Not exactly!" Sandra blurted. "Sorry, but in the last five months, everything that could go wrong has."

Sandra regretted her outburst but was surprised when Jenny said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you." The door's small bell suddenly rang. "Barbara, hi!" Jenny said. She politely excused herself from Sandra and walked toward a small workroom. She quickly reappeared carrying a massive arrangement of green bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Only, the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped, no flowers. "Want this in a box?" Jenny asked. Sandra watched for Barbara's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems and no flowers! She waited for laughter, for someone to notice the absence of flowers atop the thorny stems, but neither woman did. "Yes, please. It's exquisite." said Barbara. "You'd think after three years of getting the special, I'd not be so moved by its significance, but it's happening again. My family will love this one. Thanks."

Sandra stared. "Why so normal a conversation about so strange an arrangement?" she wondered. "Ah," said Sandra, pointing. "That lady just left with, ah . . ." "Yes?" "Well, she had no flowers!" "Yep. That's the Special. I call it the "Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet." "But, why do people pay for that?" In spite of herself, she chuckled. "Do you really want to know?" "I couldn't leave this shop without knowing. I'd think about nothing else!" "That might be good," said Jenny.

"Well," she continued, "Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling very much like you feel today. She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she faced major surgery." "Ouch!" said Sandra. "That same year, I lost my husband. I assumed complete responsibility for the shop and for the first time, spent the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too

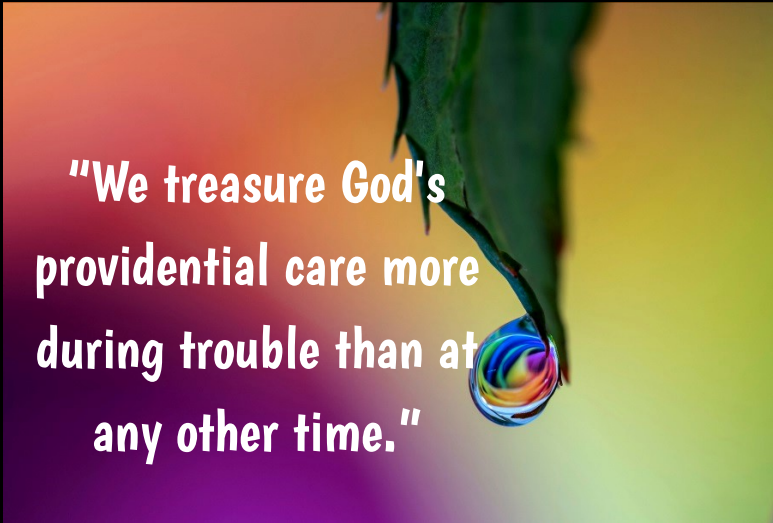
great a debt to allow any travel." "What did you do?" "I learned to be thankful for thorns." Sandra's eyebrows lifted. "Thorns?"

"I'm a Christian, Sandra. I've always thanked God for good things in life and I never thought to ask Him why good things happened to me. But, when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask! It took time to learn that dark times are important. I always enjoyed the flowers of life but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort. You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted and from His consolation, we learn to comfort others." Sandra gasped. "A friend read that passage to me, and I was furious! I guess the truth is, I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby and I'm angry with God." She started to ask Jenny to "go on" when the door's bell diverted their attention.

"Hey, Phil!" shouted Jenny as a balding, rotund man entered the shop. She softly touched Sandra's arm and moved to welcome him. He tucked her under his side for a warm hug. "I'm here for twelve thorny long-stemmed stems!" Phil laughed, heartily. "I figured as much," said Jenny. "I've got them ready." She lifted a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerated cabinet. "Beautiful," said Phil. "My wife will love them." Sandra could not resist asking, "These are for your wife?" Phil saw that Sandra's curiosity matched his when he first heard of a Thorn Bouquet. "Do you mind me asking, why thorns?" "In fact, I'm glad you asked," He said. "Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess, but we slogged through, problem by rotten problem. We rescued our marriage - our love, really. Last year, at Thanksgiving, I stopped in here for flowers. I must have mentioned surviving a tough process because Jenny told me that for a long time, she kept a vase of rose stems --- stems! --- As a reminder of what she learned from 'thorny' times. That was good enough for me. I took home stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific thorny situation and give thanks for what the problem taught us. I'm pretty sure this stem review is becoming a tradition." Phil paid Jenny, thanked her again and as he left, said to Sandra, "I highly recommend the Special!"

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life, " Sandra said to Jenny. "Well, my experience says that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, Sandra, Jesus wore a crown of thorns so that we might know His love. Do not resent thorns." Tears rolled down Sandra's cheeks. For the first time since the accident, she loosened her grip on resentment. "I'll take twelve long-stemmed thorns, please." "I hoped you would, " Jenny said. "I'll have them ready in a minute. Then, every time you see them, remember to appreciate both the good and hard times. We grow through both." "Thank you. What do I owe you?" "Nothing. Nothing but a pledge to work toward healing your heart. The first year's arrangement is always on me."

Jenny handed a card to Sandra. "I'll attach a card like this to your arrangement but maybe you'd like to read it first. Go ahead, read it." My God, I have never thanked you for my thorns! I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear, teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed to you by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow.



**"We treasure God's
providential care more
during trouble than at
any other time."**

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2022

408

Christmas Hampers packed and distributed

Hamper orders are taken during November from individuals who have been clients throughout the year and from agency partners who can order for their own clients. Every hamper prepared has the same contents. Larger families received 2 hampers.

Because of covid supermarket distribution and ordering problems hamper numbers needed to be decreased. Agency partners had capped numbers due to the difficulties obtaining hamper ingredients.



TOWN	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Horsham	278	263	273	240
Warracknabeal	29	36	37	36
Stawell	26	24	36	27
St Arnaud	10	5	19	17
Murtoa	28	23	26	14
Hopetoun	6	3	8	11
Minyip	18	13	9	9
Jeparit	14	19	14	8
Dimboola	14	20	12	7
Nhill	30	42	27	7

Above & below: Volunteers assemble hampers in early December ready for clients and agency partners to pick up in mid December.
Bottom Right: Hamper contents

Above: Hamper orders by town



REVERSE ADVENT BOXES

Many thanks to Horsham Sports & Community Club, The Weekly Advertiser and Ace Radio for their combined efforts to help people in need this past Christmas. HSCC provided specially printed boxes, the Food Centre supplied the list of contents and the Weekly Advertiser and Ace Radio provided advertising. Schools, businesses, families and individuals filled the boxes and dropped them off at the Sports Club. HSCC staff kept a count and transported them to the Food Centre to be given out to our clients. The extras were stored at our local State Member Emma Kealy's office or the Church of Christ until they could be bought back to the Centre for use. So many wonderful stories were told of people working together to fill as many boxes as possible. In total 386 boxes were donated, an absolutely amazing effort from the whole community! The boxes not only saved the Centre money thanks to the provision of food but also time as client orders only needed the perishable food to be added to the boxes.



Above: HSCC Manager Glenn Carroll with patrons of the club discussing the Reverse Advent Program



Above: Simon Risson (Church of Christ) with Glen Carroll, Brendan O'Loughlin (Ace Radio General Manager) and Anne Lane (Food Centre)



Above: Students & staff from St Michael's Catholic primary school with their boxes ready to donate



Above: HSCC staff member Daniel Hounsell with Anne Lane and Terry Walsh from the Food Centre



Above: Glenn Carroll picks up boxes from Holy Trinity Lutheran College packed by students and families



Above: Local business Elgas packed Reverse Advent boxes for locals in need which were picked up by Radio station staff

HIGHLIGHTS 2022-23



Above: Carols by Candlelight committee members Raelene Johnstone (left) and Simon Dandy discuss with the Weekly Advertiser just how important their \$5,000 donation was to those who are struggling in the community. Funds were raised by an offering at last year's Carols by Candlelight evening in December with extra funds added by the committee.



Above: Refurbished donation bins for the local Coles Supermarket. The community are encouraged to buy something extra in their weekly shop and pop it into the donation bin to help feed those who are struggling in their community.



Above: Members of the Horsham Fishing Competition committee gather to present Food Centre Manager John Spehr (far left) with a \$3,000 cheque raised from this year's annual fishing competition held during the long weekend in March.



Above: Food room volunteers Celia Hendry, Audrey Ellis, Judith Jones and Stan Walter explain to the Wimmera Mail Times about the increase in demand due to the cost of living crisis.



Above: Horsham Lions Club committee members donated \$750 to the Food Centre in their annual disbursement of raised funds.

HIGHLIGHTS 2022-23



Left: Manager John Spehr and wife Mary-Lou (left) receive food from Grampians Health (Edenhope) collected for Homelessness Week.



Above: Bev Miatke with the Horsham Scout Group who donated food after a talk at one of their meetings.



Above: 8 yr old Joel Dooling regularly donates his pocket money to buy food to donate to the Centre for people who need help.



Above: Catholic schools in Horsham with their donated food which was gathered and presented to Bev Miatke at a special mass held in the gym at St Brigid's Secondary School.

Right: Manager John Spehr explains how Horsham Rural City Council handed over ownership of the Food Centre building this year for the price of \$1.00 Money for the building was originally provided by fundraising and grant money which required it to be put in the name of the Council.



Above: Bev Miatke talks with The Horsham Times about what clients are facing because of the cost of living crisis.



Above: The Knit and Natter group regularly provide hand-made knitted rugs, beanies and scarves to donate to us and many other welfare agencies.

FROZEN MEAL DONATIONS




Above: Volunteers Laurie Williams, Ian Clough, Lorraine Clancy and Lorraine Baker display some of the HSCC frozen meals

During 2020 a new program called Mealbox began. It was designed to provide frozen nutritious meals to our clients cooked on-site in the Church of Christ commercial kitchen by a combination of Church of Christ members and Food Centre volunteers. Each month half a dozen volunteers get together on a Saturday morning at the Church of Christ facility to make 100+ frozen meals from scratch. This was followed later in 2021 by an offer from Horsham Sports & Community Club manager Glenn Carroll to provide another 100+ frozen meals per month. All of these still continue to be provided to this day.

We have many clients staying in temporary accommodation who may only have access to a microwave oven. These meals are perfect for them as they only need to be heated up. We thank everyone involved in providing such a valuable service.




IN MEMORIAM



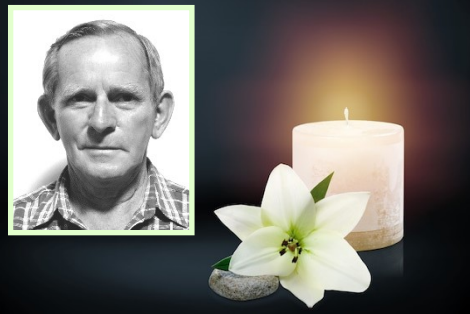
JOHN Jenette (Jan)

12-07-1932 to 26-05-2023
(90 years) Dearly loved wife of Michael for 65 years. Loving mother of 3 beautiful children - Cathy, Sue and Andrew. Beloved mother-in-law of Rob and Tom. Adored Grandma of Sam, his wife Laura, Maddy and Alice. Treasured Memories



Psalm 23:4

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect
and comfort me



SANFORD Alfonso Henry Gale (Phonse)

Passed away on 20th July 2023 at WBH after a long battle with his health. Aged 88. Beloved husband of Louise. My love forever. Loved father of Marina, Peter and Clare. Father-in-law of Barney and Glenn Grandfather and Pa of Joshua and Kyle (dec), Mikaela, Ashleigh and Shelby. Great grandfather of Tyson, Yalanda, Dominic and Alyssa. Now at Peace



MIATKE John Kenneth

Passed away after a short illness on February 27, 2023 aged 67 years. Dearly loved husband of Bev. Loving father and father-in-law of Daniel (dec); Katie; Ben & Nicole; Tom & Juvena. Adored Poppy to Hudson; Loretta & Rosa. Forever in our hearts.

FOODBANK VICTORIA

WHAT THEY DO AND HOW THEY DO IT

Foodbank believe everyone should have access to good quality food. They're here for the everyday Australians who are going without. And it's their job to help change that.

After more than a year of rising costs and interest rates, it's no longer simply a cost of living crisis. There is a cost of **loving** crisis.

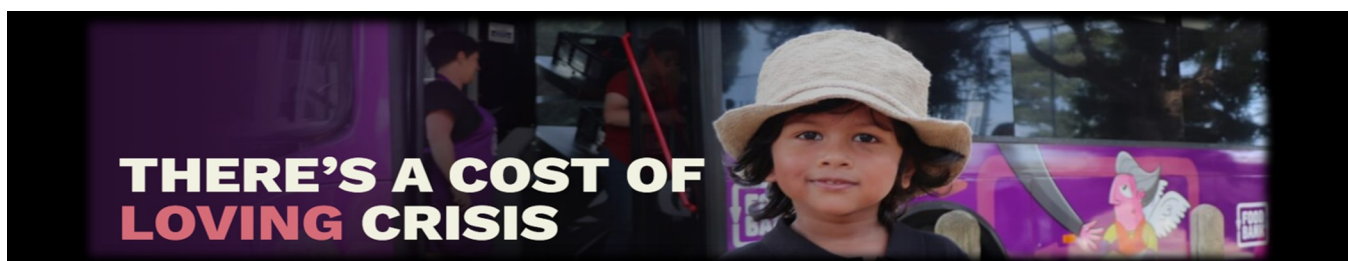
It's the pain we feel when someone we know, someone we love, is struggling to get by.

It's mums and dads pretending to have dinner 'after lights out' so their kids can eat. It's students fainting because they've had to choose rent over food and Nana having biscuits for every single meal. Or nothing at all when she saves the biscuits for when the grandkids visit.

You can't put numbers around this crisis, but you can put your arms around people – and that's what they do. Every day.

Over 30 per cent of the people turning up for assistance now have never been to a charity before because they have predominantly never needed to. Many of them used to donate to Foodbank and now they're relying on Foodbank.

"We're feeding 50,000 people every day, and I know those numbers will continue to rise with the cold weather and families are forced to choose between heat and food, rent and food, or mortgages and food," Dave McNamara, CEO Foodbank Victoria said.



The rising cost of living is the most common reason why people in Australia are struggling to put food on the table



Over 540,000 households in Victoria went hungry

in the last 12 months due to lack of funds, sometimes skipping meals or going whole days without eating



On any given day in Australia, more than half a million households are struggling to put food on the table

Each month 276,000 households in Victoria receive assistance from food relief organisations



Over 365,000 children in Victoria lived in severely food insecure households in the past year



32% of households in Victoria with mortgages experienced food insecurity in the last year

WE WORK TOGETHER WITH..



Farmers

Farming communities work closely with Foodbank to donate and share their nutritious staple products such as rice, milk, meat, grain, eggs and fresh fruit and vegetables.



Manufacturers

We work with our food and grocery manufacturing partners to capture donations of ambient, fresh, chilled and frozen foods, as well as household and personal care products. We receive products for all sorts of reasons and at different stages throughout the manufacturing process.



Retailers

We receive products for all sorts of reasons;

- Out of specification,
- Close to expiry,
- Damaged or incorrect packaging or underweight,
- Deleted product,
- Surplus to requirement,
- Private label



Transport

Foodbank works with transport providers and third party logistics to source and distribute more than 40 million kilograms of food and groceries every year for as little cost as we can.



Farms to Families

Working with our charity partners, Farms to Families pop-up markets provide a welcoming space for the local community to access vegetables, fruit and dairy products. Each market can provide up to 300 families with enough fresh food for a week.



Charities

• In Victoria we support 533 charity partners, ranging from large service providers like the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul to small neighbourhood houses. From Melbourne to Mildura, Cann River to Kaniva, we work with charities wherever they are to support their local community.



Schools

Foodbank supports programs that give students the opportunity to eat a wholesome, nutritious breakfast on a regular basis which has been shown to have a positive impact on factors such as physical and mental health, social skills, concentration, behaviour, attendance & academic outcomes.



Reducing Food Waste

Foodbank's food waste and grocery rescue operations play a key role in addressing Australia's \$36 billion food waste problem, redirecting or re-purposing 48 million kgs of food and groceries that would otherwise end up in landfill, saving more than 81 million kilograms of CO₂ emissions every year.

ALSO WORKING ON...

Natural Disaster Relief

Nutrition

Research and Reports

Advocacy

Let my eyes see Your kingdom
shine all around.

Let my heart overflow with passion
for Your name.

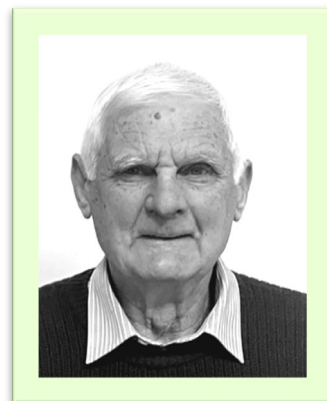
Let my life be a song revealing
who You are.

• • For You are salt and light • •

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement for the period July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 show a strong financial position.

Balance sheet total has leapt from \$565,035 to \$1,264,312 due to the inclusion of the value of our building at 28 Firebrace Street as valued by Wes Davidson from Wes Davidson Real Estate at \$650,000. This is now fully in our name following the ownership passing from the Horsham Rural City Council to the Christian Emergency Food Centre Inc. for the price of \$1.00.



Total income for 2022-23 was \$531,419 and expenditure \$482,142 leaving an annual operating profit of \$49,277.

Our largest source of income is the value of goods donated at \$262,221 and the majority of expenditure is to clients at \$386,265.

All accounts have been audited by Michael Ryan and found to be correct. A copy of the auditor's report is enclosed for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

Les Warrick Treasurer CEFC.

List of Members July 2022—June 2023

Baker, Lorraine	Farr, Sue	Judd, Rhonda	Pietsch, John	Webb, Cyril
Bahr, Jan	Haebich, Denise	Keyte, Noel	Rethus, Pam	Webb, Florence
Blake, Fred	Hair, Shirley	Keyte, Pauline	Rock, Pat	Williams, Laurie
Blake, Kay	Hamilton, Pam	Kuehne, Gladys	Smith, Wilma	
Boseley, Bessie	Harberger, Sandra	Ladlow, Cherie	Smith, Jenni	
Bryan, Judy	Hayes, Bob	Landrigan, Maggie	Smith, Jenny	
Clancy, Lorraine	Hayes, Tess	Lane, Anne	Smith, Ryan	
Clark, Jenny	Hedt, Eric	Linke, Cheryl	Spehr, John	
Clark, Rodney	Hedt, Leonore	Mahony, Anne	Spehr, Marylou	
Clough, Ian	Heinrich, B	Mahony, Dan	Sutton, Chris	
Clough, Wendy	Heinrich, G	McNee, Sandra	Taylor, Rosie	
Coffey, Rhonda	Hendry, Celia	McDonald, Kevin	Tepper, Maxine	
Combe, Jean	Hender, Rhonda	McDonald, Carol	Walsh, Terry	
Cook, Diane	Hutchinson, Lynda	Miatke, Bev	Walter, Ian	
Cook, Don	Hyett, Glenda	Miatke, John	Walter, Joy	
Cramer, Jill	Jones, Judith	O'Loughlin, Matthew	Walter, Stanley	
Ellis, Audrey	Judd, Lester	Peake, George	Warrick, Les	
Evans, John	Judd, Max	Pietsch, Carmel	Warrick, Mavis	

PROFIT & LOSS

Christian Emergency Food Centre Inc. ABN 79 590 217 561

1/7/2022—30/6/2023

INCOME	\$	2023	2022	EXPENSE	\$	2023	2022
Grants				Administration			
DSS Emerg. Relief	75,633			Advertising	100		
Uniting Care	64,566			Office Supplies	1,143		
DHHS Travel	735			Postage	228		
Total Grants		140,935	131,571	Phone/Fax/NBN	3,627		
				Printing Photo Copying	1,091		
				Subscriptions	1,247		
Donations				Total Admin.		7,436	7,176
HRCC	6,290			Business Expenses			
Magistrates court	3,000			Audit & I.T. Support	1,500		
Donations - Tax Deductible	44,662			Bank fees-Interest paid	72		
Christmas Hampers	12,310			Professional Fees	205		
Churches & Clubs	47,312			Total Business Exp.		1,777	3,752
General Public	16,068			Client Support Expenses			
Total Donations		129,642	102,038	Accommodation—Rent	3,025		
				Utility Bills	7,883		
Memberships		390	400	Educational	584		
				Medical	4,533		
Business Income				Travel	7,341		
Bank Reversals	0			Food Packages			
Interest Earned	9,045			Groceries	60,956		
Total Business Income		9,045	1,173	Fruit and Veg	4,701		
				Toiletries	8,644		
				Consumables	1,877		
				Christmas Hampers	20,498		
				Appliances	4,001		
Donations in Kind		262,221	216,582	Donated goods used	262,221		
				Total Client Support		386,265	305,378
				Building Costs			
				Office Cleaning	3,686		
				Repairs And Maintenance	11,115		
				Total Building Costs		14,801	5,300
Movement in closing produce value		-10,814	-1,106	Insurance		4,992	1,256
				Utilities		6,171	5,759
				Volunteer Staff Costs		2,990	4,101
				Minor Equipment & Depreciation		3,093	7,966
				Wages & Payroll Expenses		54,618	43,239
TOTAL INCOME		\$531,419	\$450,658	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$482,142	\$383,928
				Net Earnings		\$49,277	\$66,730

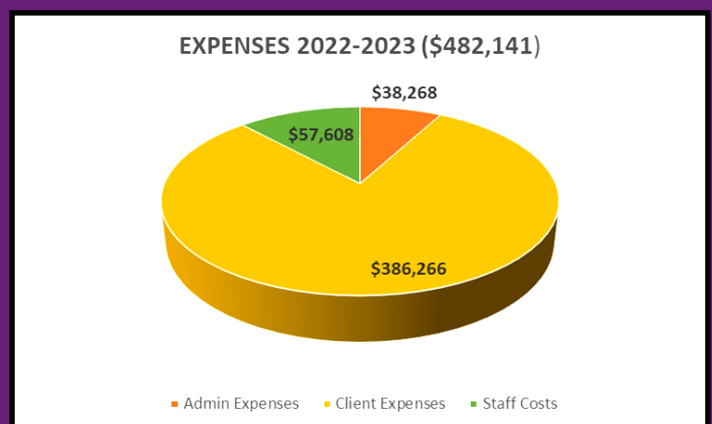
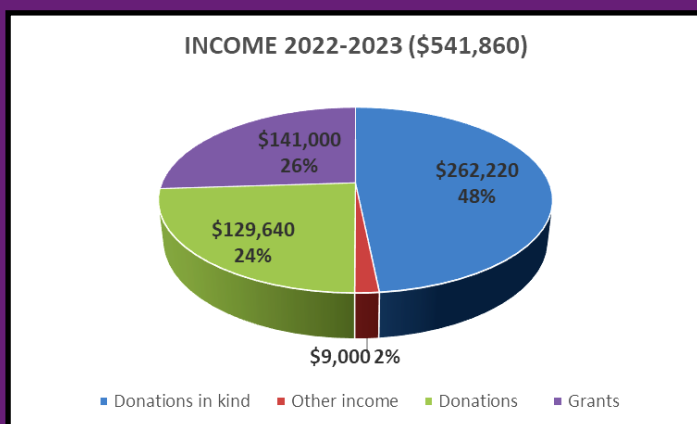
BALANCE SHEET

Christian Emergency Food Centre Inc. ABN 79 590 217 561

1/7/2022—30/6/2023

CURRENT ASSETS	2023	2022	CURRENT LIABILITIES	2023	2022
Accounts Receivable	0				
CEFC Grant Account	21,244	40,939	Superannuation	1,269	857
Debit Card Account	1,871	608	Long Service Leave	12,806	9,395
Petty Cash	79	59	Annual Leave	6,946	3,645
LLL Savings Acc	89,756	1,397	GST Liabilities	0	0
LLL Term Deposit No 1	200,000	300,000	ATO Clearing Acc	339	78
CBA Term Deposit	300,000	200,000	Total Liabilities	21,360	13,975
PayPal Acc	0	0			
Suspense Acc.	0	0			
Produce Stock	20,056	30,870			
Total Current Assets	633,006	573,872	Net Assets	1,264,312	565,035
Fixed Assets			Represented by CEFC Funds		
Equip. & Furniture	2,665	5,137	Opening Balance	565,035	498,305
28 Firebrace Street	650,001		Plus Net Earnings	49,277	66,730
			Introduced Capital	650,000	
			CEFC Funds		
Total Assets	\$1,285,672	\$579,009	30 June 2023	\$1,264,312	\$565,035

Income & Expenditure 2022-23



STATEMENT OF CASH

Christian Emergency Food Centre Inc. ABN 79 590 217 561

1/7/2022—30/6/2023

Notes to the Financial Statements

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2022-2023	2021-2022
	\$	\$
Grants & Donations	270,967	233,009
Payments to suppliers and employee	-210,064	-162,959
Interest Received	9,045	1,173
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	69,948	71,223
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of investments	-1	
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	69,947	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	543,003	471,780
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	612,950	543,003
RECONCILIATION OF CASH		
CBA Grant Account	21,244	40,939
LLL Savings Acc	89,756	1,397
LLL Term Deposit 1	200,000	300,000
CBA Term Deposit	300,000	200,000
Debit card / Petty cash	1,950	667
Net Cash Available	612,950	543,003

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Michael W Ryan FCA GAICD

Registered Company Auditor
Chartered Accountant

36 Inglis Street
BALLAN VIC 3342

PO Box 215
BALLAN VIC 3342

0408 823 184
mrauditandassurance@gmail.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC

ABN 79 590 217 561

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Christian Emergency Inc (The Centre), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit & loss for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial report .

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Centre's financial reporting requirements. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Cash transactions

As with many organisations of this type the Centre receives part of its revenue in cash. It is not possible to review cash receipts until the point of receipting and banking and therefore I cannot give any assurance that all cash received has been accounted for.

Responsibilities of Management and The Committee for the Financial Report

Management and the Committee are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Centre and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Centre or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Committee is responsible for overseeing the Centre's financial reporting process.

Michael Ryan Pty Ltd

ABN 16 158 095 222

ACN 158 095 222

Registered Company Auditor 7562

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Michael W Ryan FCA GAICD

Registered Company Auditor
Chartered Accountant

2

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC

ABN 79 590 217 561

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Committee's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Committee's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Committee to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during the audit.

Michael W Ryan FCA
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor (7562)

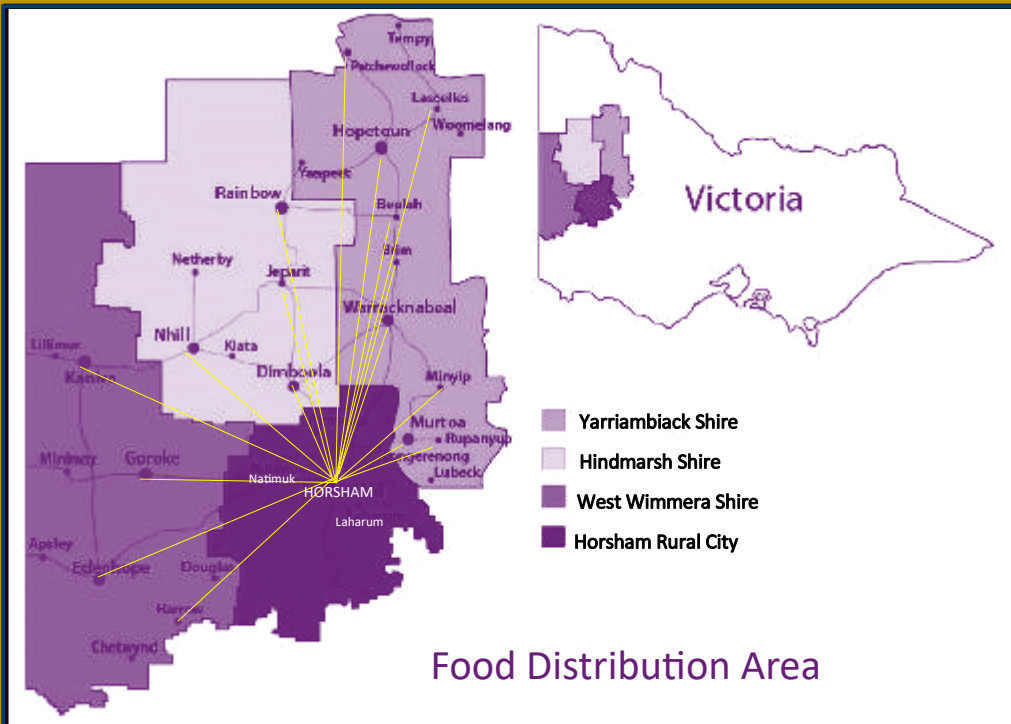
CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC.

*May God light a fire in the
hearts of those watching
us, and may He be
honored and magnified
by all we do and say.*

KAREN WINGATE

STATISTICS

During the 2022—2023 financial year ...

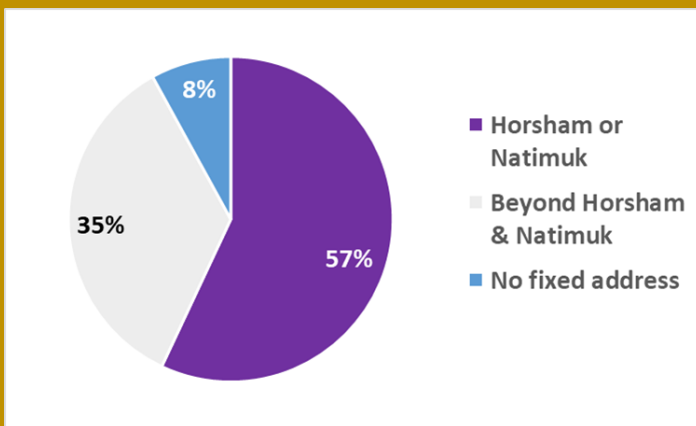


Food parcels may be ordered and delivered to each of these towns thanks to Wilkie's Couriers of Horsham who very generously deliver our parcels free of charge to a central delivery point in each town

284 orders for food parcels out of the Horsham area requiring delivery of **451** boxes of food to be delivered around the distribution area.

COMPARISONS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No. of orders	267	170	225	284
No. of boxes	455	368	415	451

WHERE DO OUR CLIENTS LIVE?



COMPARISONS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Horsham or Natimuk	1485	888	1163	1557
Beyond Horsham & Natimuk	969	621	786	966
No fixed address	163	184	179	196

BOXES OF FOOD DELIVERED TO CLIENTS IN OTHER TOWNS

TOWN NAME (receiving more than 10 boxes p.a.)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Warracknabeal	173	145	134	178
Nhill	75	57	40	57
Edenhope	9	27	39	45
Birchip	0	0	17	32
Dimboola	42	24	18	24
Hopetoun	0	0	27	19
St Arnaud	0	5	4	16
Jeparit	67	44	29	32

STATISTICS

During the 2022—2023 financial year ...

867

Individual clients attended the Centre on behalf of themselves and their families. Some needed to come many times, others only once or twice



240
No. of days we were open over the year.

Closed weekends, public holidays and for a short time over Christmas



Month	20-21	21-22	22-23
July	10	10	20
August	6	19	26
September	12	16	18
October	16	21	17
November	17	17	26
December	11	15	24
January	17	21	24
February	13	20	23
March	27	33	24
April	12	19	23
May	19	15	26
June	19	22	27

MONTH	20-21	21-22	22-23
July	86	134	188
August	92	159	240
September	120	182	226
October	128	175	183
November	146	201	230
December	107	127	167
January	168	185	246
February	150	174	233
March	178	219	266
April	152	155	200
May	212	203	271
June	154	214	269

227

Average contacts per month

11

Average contacts per day

2,719

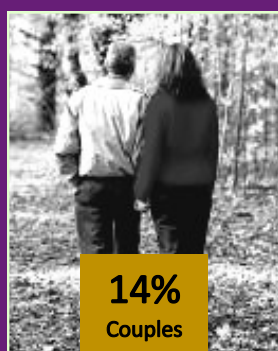
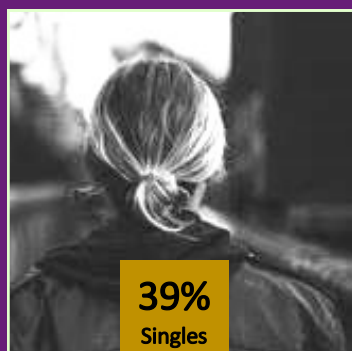
TOTAL contacts per year

STATISTICS

COMPARISONS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
No. of days open	242	243	247	245	245	240
No. of contacts	2,354	2,654	2,614	1,692	2,127	2,719
No. of clients	846	923	889	618	738	867
No. of new clients	293	367	309	179	228	278
Average contacts per month	196	221	218	141	177	227
Average contacts per day	10	11	11	7	9	11
No. of contacts Horsham/Natimuk	1,442	1,605	1,483	890	1,165	1,557
No. of contacts beyond Horsham/Natimuk	778	918	969	620	783	966
No. of contacts NFA	134	131	162	182	179	196
Total adults in client households	1,279	1,441	1,381	888	1081	1,273
Total children in client households	1,023	1,055	999	606	709	828
Total people* in client households	2,262	2,461	2,321	1,494	1790	2,101

* NB "Total adults/children/people" refers to the size of the clients' household as at the last contact.

AGE COMPARISONS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
13-17 years old	19	15	5	4	10	5
18-39 years old	383	421	388	269	290	377
40-64 years old	375	408	398	260	342	385
65 years old and over	46	60	68	50	65	83
Unknown	23	18	30	35	31	17



HOUSEHOLD COMPARISONS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 Adult	328	377	380	237	283	341
1 Adult + Children	213	186	189	137	154	192
2 Adults	106	125	119	85	109	119
2 Adults + Children	135	153	128	101	119	133
3 Adults or more	23	18	30	35	26	36
3 Adults or more + children	31	32	29	25	26	35
Children only (less than 18yo)	13	11	5	2	8	3
Organisation	5	6	9	15	13	8

...proudly sponsored and overseen by

Horsham Christian Ministers' Association

1 John 1:7 ESV But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.



Anglican Church
Presbyterian Church
Church of Christ
Seventh Day Adventist
Lutheran Church
Catholic Church
Salvation Army
Harvest Church
Spirit Song Church
Uniting Church





**“You are the light of the world.
A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
Neither do people light a lamp and
put it under a bowl. Instead, they put
it on its stand, and it gives light to
everyone in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine
before others, that they may see
your good deeds and glorify your
Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5: 14-16)**