



Being God's hands and feet

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024-2025**

**Christ has no body but yours**  
**No hands, no feet on earth but yours**  
**Yours are the eyes that look with compassion on this world,**  
**Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,**  
**Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.**  
**Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,**  
**Yours are the eyes, you are his body.**  
**Christ has no body now but yours,**  
**No hands, no feet on earth but yours**  
**Yours are the eyes that look with compassion on this world,**  
**Christ has no body now on earth but yours.** — St. Teresa of Ávila

Jesus used his hands to work as a skilled carpenter. We, too, have skills we can use to help others, such as helping a friend fix their car, using your gifts to update the church website, or cleaning up a neighbour's yard after a storm.

Jesus also blessed people with his hands, like the children who were brought to him despite the disciples' disapproval. Meals cooked for an elderly neighbour, curtains sewn for a friend's new home, and soothing a fretful baby so a new mum could steal some sleep. These are all practical ways we can use our hands to bless others.

And Jesus also used his hands to heal. He spread mud on a blind man's eyes, lifted Jairus' daughter from her deathbed, and even touched lepers despite the fear and revulsion of most people at the time. We can all hold the hand of a sick friend when praying for their healing, console a teen who's disappointed after not making the team, or hug a grieving friend.

Jesus walked everywhere, crisscrossing the region constantly because walking was the only way to travel unless you were rich. During his journeying, Jesus reached out to others. He talked with the woman at the well and taught those who walked miles and sat for hours just to listen him speak. He even walked to Bethany, knowing that his friend Lazarus had died, to comfort Martha and Mary and ultimately raise Lazarus to life again. Use your feet to do good by filling food parcels and carrying them out to hungry clients, doing a walk or run for charity. Drive a friend to a doctor's appointment or take a neighbour to the supermarket. You might travel yourself to visit a friend in the hospital or volunteer at a shelter for the homeless.

Learning to live St Teresa's prayer means looking for opportunities to bring God's love to others, including small acts of compassion in our daily lives.

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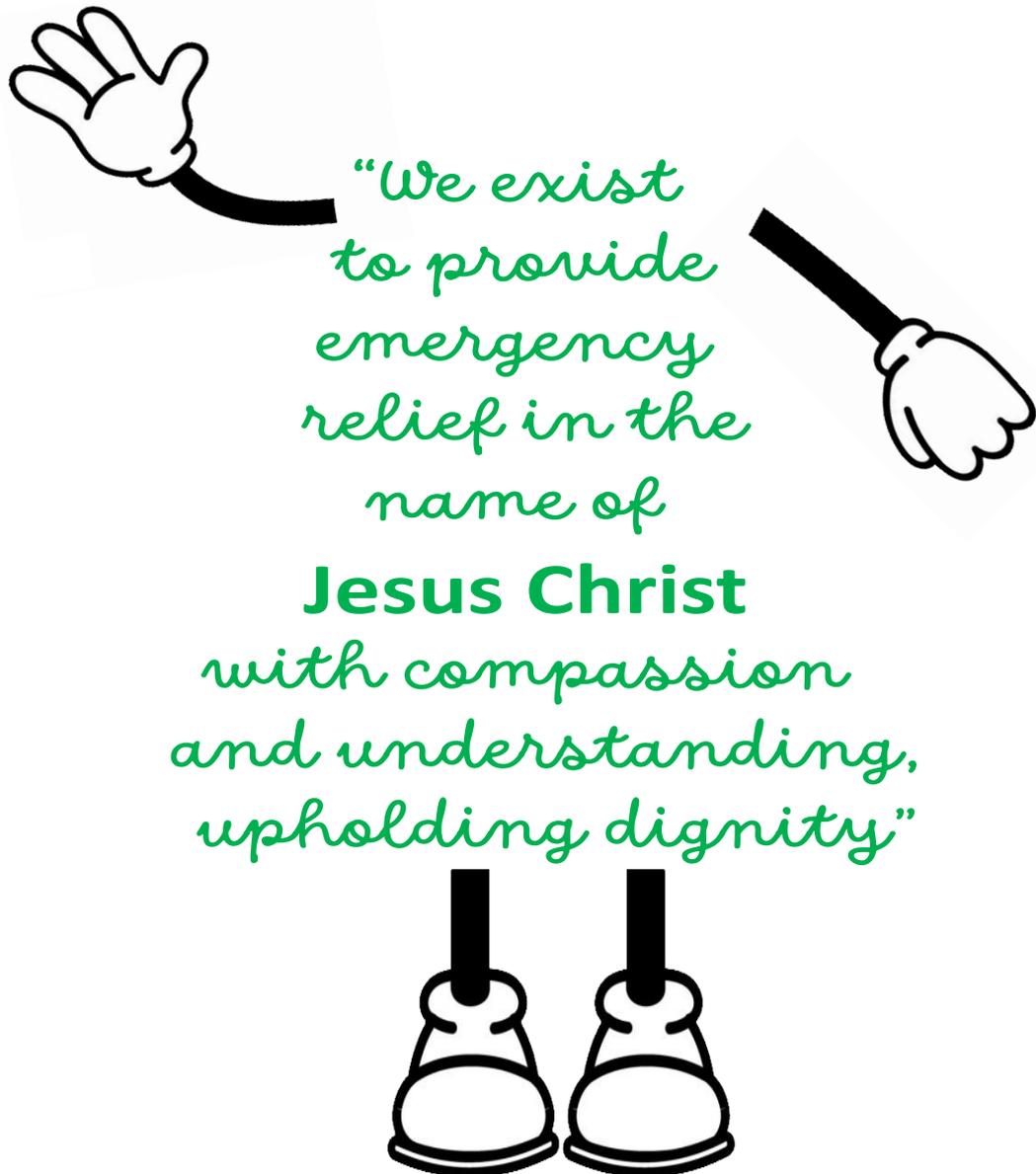
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# MISSION STATEMENT



*"We exist  
to provide  
emergency  
relief in the  
name of*

**Jesus Christ**

*with compassion  
and understanding,  
upholding dignity"*

# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

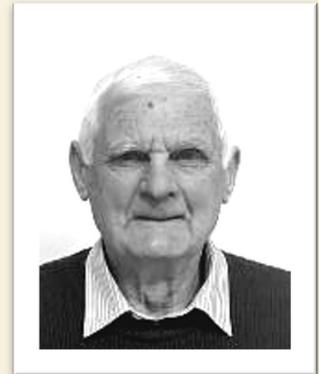


Dennis May

**DENNIS MAY**  
CHAIRPERSON



**IAN WALTER**  
VICE CHAIRPERSON



**LES WARRICK**  
TREASURER



**SHIRL HAIR**  
SECRETARY



**ANNE MAHONY**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER



**CAPT. CHRIS SUTTON**  
HCMA REP.



**DON COOK**  
COMMITTEE MEMBER



**JILL CRAMER**  
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 nearly 80 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



Jennifer



Carol McCarroll



Charle Ladlow



Bernice Warner



Fay Jende



Judith Jones



Jean Conner



Rhonda Hender



Audrey Bib



Lorraine Baine



Lesley Schuller



Libby Conn



Pauline Saller



Denise Macdonald



Rosie Taylor



Jenny Clarke



Tarcia McNeer



Judy Bryan



Anne McGowan



Jan Aisbitt



Sandra Taylor



Noeline Jenkinson



Lynne Dale



Sue For



Sandra Harberger



Jenny Smith



Susan Gordon



Lynda McChesnut



Bria Holley



Roy Eyn



Margaret Arthur



Fiona Schneider



Helen Grace



Walter Grant



John Pietsch



John Speer



Les Warwick



Marie Warwick

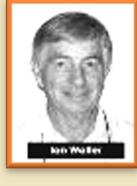
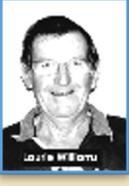


Jenny Smith

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.

### 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.



## 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.

## 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.



# THANK YOU

## Community Partners

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

	
<b>WOOLWORTHS</b> WILSON ST, HORSHAM	<b>HORSHAM SPORTS &amp; COMMUNITY CLUB</b> BAILLIE ST, HORSHAM

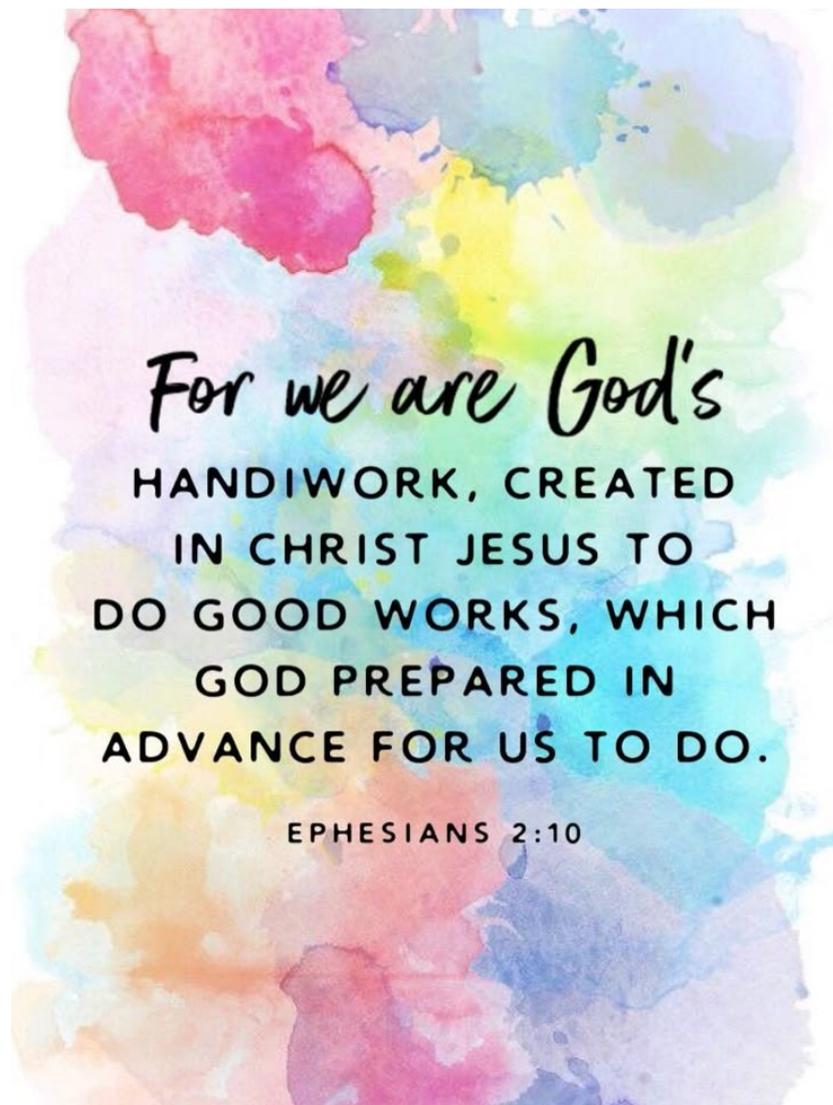
FOOD DONATIONS 2024-25	\$
Aldi (SecondBite)	51,851
Baker's Delight	21,203
Brumby's Bakery	31,980
Coles (SecondBite)	43,189
Conway's Pies	16,277
Foodbank Victoria	46,038
HSCC Reverse Advent boxes	30,831
Public	53,545
Waack's Bakery	3,227
Woolworths	55,050
HSCC Frozen Meals	7,378

We are deeply grateful to these organisations—as well as the many other businesses, schools, service clubs, and community members—who have generously contributed goods and services to us throughout the year.

					
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**Lord,**  
Show me who I can  
serve and befriend  
today—who needs  
Your help? Your love?  
***May I be Your hands  
and feet today.***



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another 12 months have passed with the Christian Emergency Food Centre still being able to supply food and other essential items to many individual people and families who would have otherwise gone without.

From a very humble beginning the CEFC is now in a position to supply many thousands of dollars worth of produce and associated accessories to needy people in Horsham and surrounding districts. We would hope that the help that is extended through the generosity of the CEFC would in some way ease the burden and impact their quality of life in a positive way. Of course none of this is possible without the presence of Jesus Christ being in control of all that happens at the CEFC as recognized in our mission statement.

I also want to acknowledge the enormous amount of work done by our administration staff, Manager John, Treasurer Les and Client Assessment Manager Bev. Your efforts in running the CEFC efficiently on a day to day basis is something we are enormously grateful for.

Without our dedicated and loyal volunteers, the CEFC could not deliver the goods and services we are known for. Each person with their different skill set and personality helps make the CEFC what it is today. Thank you so much for your contribution.

We have many businesses in Horsham who donate considerable amounts of money and goods to the CEFC which allows us to service a much wider client base. Your generosity towards us is simply amazing.

We express to the Horsham Sports & Community Club (HSCC) our heartfelt thanks for their most generous gift of \$50,000 to allow us to purchase our transit van.



We also have the Church of Christ and HSCC who both supply us once a month with more than 100 meals each, packed and ready to go as well as many other individual gifts of food and money. The way God moves people to contribute to the CEFC over so many years is just extraordinary.

To the Committee of Management, thank you for your time and commitment to the CEFC as we make decisions that impact on the present, but also looking to the future with a sense of expectation of how we can help fill some of the gaps for people who need our help.

To all who have played a part in the CEFC this last 12 months, may God bless you as you have been a blessing to others.

**Dennis May**  
**Chairman**



**God gave you a  
fingerprint that no  
one else has, so  
you can leave an  
imprint that no one  
else can.**

# MANAGER'S REPORT

The Christian Emergency Food Centre continues to provide valuable support to people in Horsham and the wider Wimmera area. Our aim is to provide emergency assistance to people through the provision of food, personal items, assistance with transport, medicine and utility accounts. It is a privilege to be able to assist people who are in need and our team of workers carry out this task in a commendable manner.

Our clients have been under increasing pressure with inflating costs of food, rent and utilities. This has led to our number of contacts remaining at a very high level. While the numbers have not been as extreme as in early 2024, they are remaining higher than 2023 and a similar level to the remainder of 2024. This year there have been 3,078 contacts (3,155 in 2024, 2,719 in 2023) This indicates a 2% decrease in demand from 2024. While this is not a significant decrease, it may be an indication that some people are managing the demanding economic times while others are still finding it very difficult to meet their financial needs. Just over two thirds of our clients are from the Horsham/Natimuk area (Including clients of no fixed address) while about one third of our clients are from the wider Wimmera area.

This year the CEFC was very fortunate to be the recipient of a new Hyundai Staria Van. This vehicle has been sponsored by the Horsham Sports and Community Club and it has been a wonderful asset to our tasks. The vehicle is used for the pick-up of produce from local supermarkets, bakeries and other businesses in Horsham who have continued to provide generous support to the CEFC. We are very appreciative to the HSCC for their continued support.

We acknowledge the generous support of our local community. Many individuals, groups, schools and churches have made small and large contributions in the form of cash donations and of general groceries and fruit and vegetables. Many local businesses also generously support the Food Centre. Coles, Aldi and Woolworths provide food recovery programs while local bakeries provide bread and other baked goods.

Prepared meals which are then frozen are provided on a regular basis by the Church of Christ, Horsham Sports & Community Club, Country Kitchen and Horsham Masala Indian Restaurant. These are really appreciated by our clients as they are tasty and convenient.

All of these donations allow us to continually supply healthy, nutritious food to people in need of assistance. We are very appreciative of the Government grants, Horsham Rural City Council, individual donations and business support to the CEFC. This support enables us to reach out and assist people in our community.



We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of about 80 volunteers working at the CEFC. Each day we have about 12 volunteers complete a variety of tasks to meet the various needs of clients. This is overseen very effectively by our Client Assessment Manager, Bev Miatke. Thank you, Bev, for your wisdom and encouragement over the past year. Many of our volunteers also work quietly and on a daily basis, collecting food donations. Special mention and thanks need to be given to Terry Walsh and Anne Lane who order and purchase extra food items from Food Bank Victoria and from local supermarkets. This is a very significant task, and it is so important for the smooth functioning of the Food Centre. A big thank you to both of you. Our Treasurer Les Warrick and our recorders Jenny Smith and Mavis Warrick have continued to effectively and efficiently maintain our records. With 3078 contacts for the year and an expenditure of over \$660,000 these are very important and demanding tasks. We are very grateful for your efforts.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your efforts this year. You make an amazing team.

The Reverse Advent box appeal was again very well supported by our community with nearly 400 boxes distributed to clients. Many thanks to the Horsham Sports and Community Club, the Weekly Advertiser and Ace Radio for their efforts in promoting this campaign.

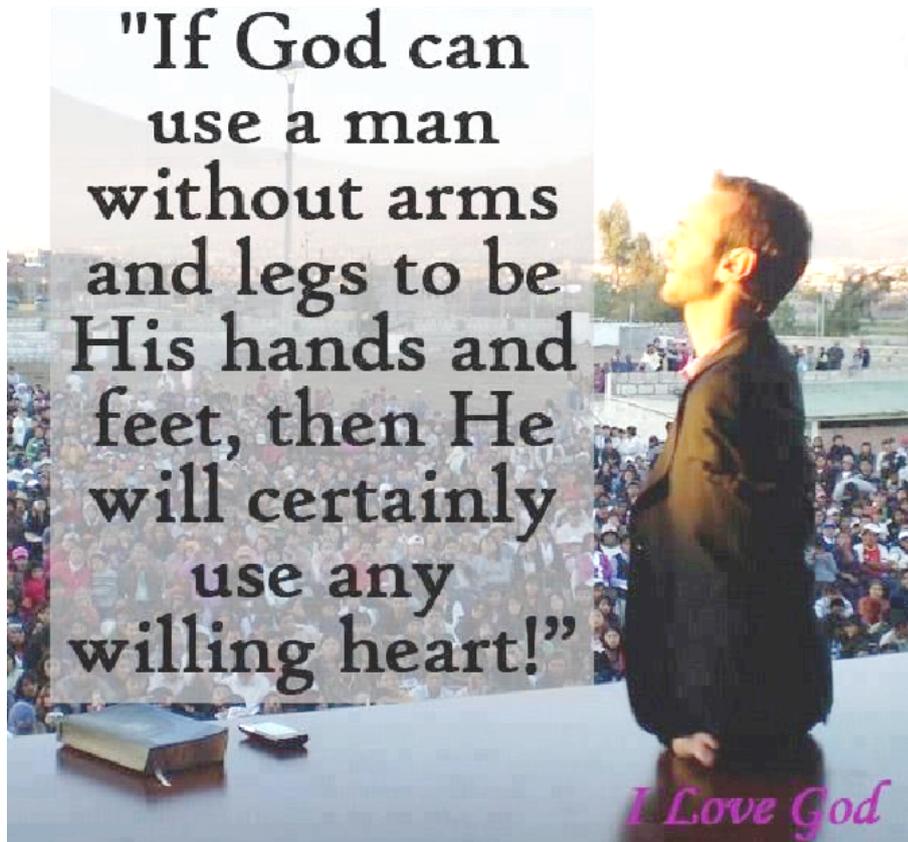
Approximately 520 Christmas Hampers were packed and distributed by CEFC volunteers before Christmas 2024. These hampers are much appreciated by our clients and add some extra support at a significant time of the year.

God has certainly continued to bless the work of the CEFC during this past year. We are fortunate to be able to support others in our community.

**John Spehr**  
**Manager**



**"If God can  
use a man  
without arms  
and legs to be  
His hands and  
feet, then He  
will certainly  
use any  
willing heart!"**



*I Love God*

# REGIONAL WELFARE NETWORK

Working together with other agencies across our region is essential to providing a well-rounded approach to client support. Each organisation has its own area of expertise, and by referring clients to and from one another, we help ensure the best possible outcomes for those in need.

Areas of care include:

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



CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC.

# CLIENT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Being God's Hands and Feet to Your Community

As believers, we are called to love others as God loves us. The concept of being God's "hands and feet" is a metaphor that represents our calling to serve, show compassion, and share His love with those around us. This phrase encapsulates the idea that God works through us to make a difference in the world. It means we are His instruments, showing His presence through our actions, words, and deeds. In our communities, this can take on many forms—from helping the needy to simply offering a listening ear or offering guidance to those in need of spiritual encouragement. All of which we do here at the Food Centre.

### Understanding the Call

The first step in becoming God's hands and feet is to understand that we are *co-labourers* with Him. In 1 Corinthians 3:9, Paul writes, "*For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.*" God calls us to partner with Him in His mission of love, peace and justice.

We are not passive observers of His work. Instead, we are active participants, called to extend His love and grace to the world. Jesus demonstrated this throughout His life—through healing, teaching, comforting, and caring for the broken-hearted. His ministry was not limited to a select group of people; He reached out to all who were in need.

In the same way, we are asked to see people through God's eyes and love them as he loves us.

### Serving with Love and Compassion

One of the primary ways we can be God's hands and feet is by serving others with love. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 25:40, "*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*" This teaching underscores the importance of loving the marginalised, the poor, and those in desperate need of care.

To be God's hands and feet, we must engage in acts of service, no matter how small or large. Whether it's by donating to us here at the Food Centre, volunteering at a shelter or welfare organisation, or simply helping a neighbour with their groceries, each act of kindness reflects God's love in action.

## Empathy and Listening

Often, being God's hands and feet doesn't require grand gestures—it may be as simple as offering a listening ear. In a world where many are isolated or struggling emotionally, showing empathy and actively listening to someone in need can have a profound impact. Sometimes, people just need to know that someone cares.



Jesus was a master listener, constantly meeting people where they were at, hearing their stories, and offering His love and wisdom. Taking time to sit with someone, to listen without judgment, and to offer encouragement can be an incredibly powerful way to embody Christ's love in a practical way.

### Being a Light in Dark Places

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus teaches, "*You are the light of the world.*" Being God's hands and feet means shining His light into the darkness of the world. In your community, this could mean advocating for justice, standing up for the oppressed, and providing hope where there is despair.

Sometimes, standing up for what is right can be difficult or unpopular, but as God's representatives on earth, we are called to reflect His values of truth, justice, and mercy. This might involve speaking out against inequality, promoting peace in conflict-ridden areas, or even just offering hope to someone who is struggling to see a way forward.

### Praying for Your Community

While action is essential, prayer is the foundation that sustains it. As God's hands and feet, we must not only be active in our service, but we must also seek guidance, strength, and wisdom through prayer. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Paul encourages believers to "*pray without ceasing*".

Praying for your community, for your neighbours, and for the leaders around you is vital. It allows God to work in many ways that we cannot see or understand. It invites His peace, healing, and provision into the lives of those around us. Sometimes, the best way to be God's hands and feet is simply by lifting up the needs of others in prayer.



### Modelling Christ's Humility

Jesus demonstrated the ultimate act of humility when He washed His disciples' feet—a task typically reserved for the lowest servant. He showed us that true greatness in God's kingdom is about serving others, not seeking recognition or glory. When we model Christ's humility in our service, we reflect His heart.

Humility is essential when being God's hands and feet. It means choosing to serve without expecting anything in return, offering help without needing accolades, and loving others even when they cannot repay us. This selfless love can be contagious, inviting others to experience the love of Christ through us.

### Building Community

Being God's hands and feet also means fostering a sense of community. It's easy to become isolated in today's busy, individualistic world, but God created us for fellowship and mutual support. When we reach out to others in love, we contribute to building a community where people care for one another, support each other, and help each other grow in faith.

Whether it's through small groups, church ministries, or neighbourhood outreach, building a sense of community helps create an environment where God's love can be experienced in tangible ways. It's about creating spaces where people can belong, grow, and be supported, both spiritually and emotionally.

### The Power of Small Acts of Kindness

Sometimes, we can become overwhelmed by the enormity of the world's problems, wondering how we, as individuals, can make a difference. But the truth is that small acts of kindness can ripple out in ways we may never fully understand. A smile, a word of encouragement, a helping hand – these are the simple but powerful ways we can reflect Christ's love.

In Matthew 10:42, Jesus says, *"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that the person will certainly not lose their reward."* Small acts, when done with love, carry eternal significance.

### Conclusion: Reflecting Christ's Love in Action

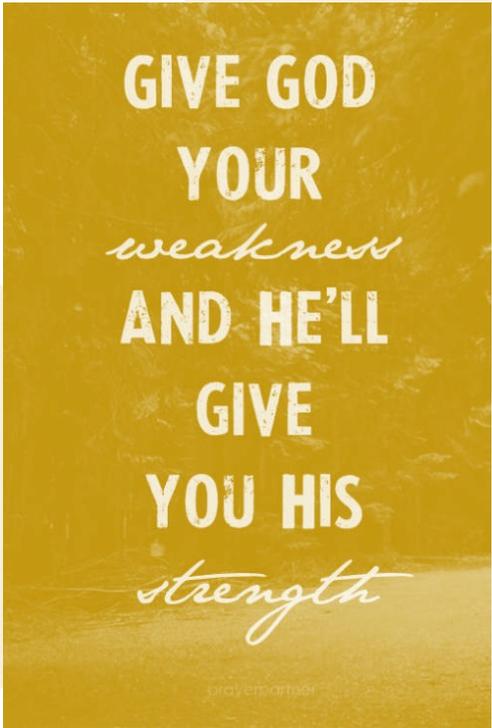
Being God's hands and feet means reflecting His love and grace through our actions. It's about being present in the lives of those around us, meeting their needs, and showing them the same mercy and kindness that God has shown us. We may not always see the impact of our efforts immediately, but we can trust that God is at work, using our actions to bring hope, healing and transformation to our communities.

As you seek to be God's hand and feet in your community, remember that it's about offering your heart and your hands to God, allowing Him to work through you, and being faithful in the small, everyday acts of service. Through this, His love will shine brightly in a world that desperately needs it.

### A Prayer for Strength and Guidance

Heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege of being your hands and feet in this world. Give us the strength, wisdom, and compassion to serve those around us with love and humility. Help us see others through your eyes and respond to their needs with a heart full of grace. May our actions reflect your love, bringing hope and healing to our community. Guide us in every step, and use us as an instrument of your peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Bev Miatke**  
Client Assessment Manager



# ENCOURAGEMENT

## What God can accomplish through us

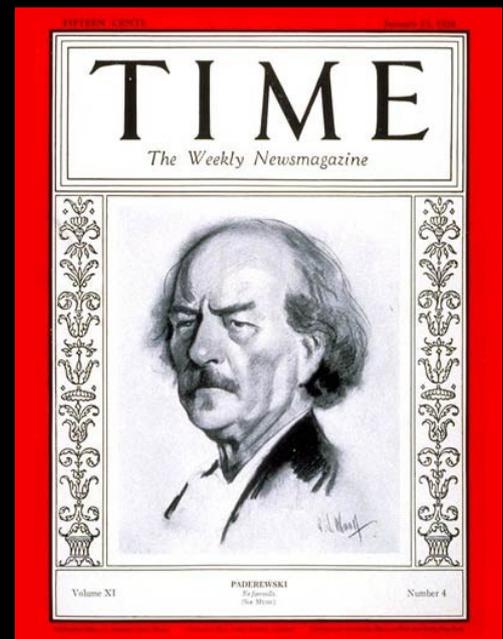
Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted an old friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing.

Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit." Keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played. Only the classic, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."



Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful. The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit." "Keep playing." May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped, rather, He equips the 'called.' Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than by the things you acquire.

-Author Unknown



Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) was as **wildly popular in his time as any of today's rock stars**. Also a composer, he wrote the well-known "Minuet in G," among other compositions.

IT'S NOT ABOUT  
WHAT WE CAN DO;  
IT'S ABOUT WHAT GOD  
CAN DO THROUGH US.

# CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2024



Above & Below: Volunteers assembling the Christmas Hampers in the back room behind the Lutheran Church Education Centre



Above: 500 individually made and decorated Christmas cards were donated by the PJ Inkers team who love to use their creative talents



Right: Each hamper lets recipients know which organisations have sponsored the Christmas Hamper Project. Once assembled the hampers are piled ready for Agency pick-up in the Lutheran Church Education Centre



# CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2024

## Main localities given more than 5 Christmas Hampers in 2024

Horsham	283
Warracknabeal	37
Stawell	24
Nhill	22
Jeparit	12
Minyip	12
St Arnaud	11
Donald	11
St Arnaud	11
Dimboola	11
Murtoa	11
Goroke	8
Edenhope	8
Natimuk	7
Rainbow	7
Ararat	6



Hampers are available to individuals who have been clients throughout the year, as well as to partner welfare agencies placing orders on behalf of their clients. Orders are accepted during November. Each hamper contains the same standard items, with larger families receiving two hampers to meet their needs.



# 520

Christmas Hampers packed and distributed

## OTHER WELFARE AGENCIES ORDERING OUR HAMPERS FOR THEIR CLIENTS:

Orange Door Horsham	Horsham College	Grampians Community Health	Rural Northwest Health
Uniting Wimmera Horsham	DCIRS Donald	Salvation Army Horsham	Goolum Goolum Horsham
West Wimmera Shire Council	Edenhope Health and Wellbeing Hub		Williams Family Trust (St Arnaud)
Goroke Community Health Ctr	West Wimmera Health – Murtoa Campus		Rural Financial Counselling



## HAMPER INGREDIENTS

450g can Ham	Christmas cake	Jelly x 2
Canned Corn	Pkt sweet biscuits	Christmas Treats
Canned Peas	Pkt dry biscuits	Lollies
Canned beetroot	1lt Cordial	Christmas Pudding
Canned tomatoes	1lt long life Custard	Canned Fruit Salad

# HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25



Above: Wimmera Hospice Care members deliver a large donation of food they collected for those in need.



Above: Wimmera Mail Times photo taken after we received a Community Grant given by HR City Council



Above: CWA Members sew and fill men's toiletry packs for the homeless which are very much appreciated by the recipients.



Above: Two groups of Grade 3 students from Holy Trinity Lutheran College toured the Food Centre facility and brought food items to donate as well. Treasurer Les Warrick was their tour guide and took them through the interview process where they were able to role-play being clients, interviewers and food packers.



Above: GJ Gardner Homes present Bev Miatke with a cheque for \$770 raised through their Community Growth Program where their clients are asked to choose where the company's donation/sponsorship money is allocated and .1% of the Contract Price of a home is donated to a local charity.



Above: Members of the local Girl Guides had a special collection campaign to gather groceries for the needy. They presented the donations to Food Centre staff Jenny Clarke (front left) and Anne Mahony (front right)

# HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25



Below: Thank you to Horsham Sports & Community Club for replacing our sign out the back which had become very faded and hard to read.



Left and below: Roslyn Hill from Share the Dignity delivers the women's bags from the 'It's in the Bag' campaign in December 2024. The bags were given out to women picking up their Christmas Hampers. Bags were also provided for teens and mothers with young babies.



Above & Below: Local youngster Joel Dooling gives groceries every school holidays out of his pocket money.



Left: Students from the local Catholic primary school gathered non-perishable food to be given to the needy through us at their annual Giving Mass.



Right: Horsham Special School Students collected goods to be donated to us. Food Centre Interviewer Anne Mahony attended to receive the goods.



Above: We are also able to provide for our clients' pets thanks to donations from ARC Companion Animal Rescue in Bendigo. Thanks also to Community Axis Horsham staff who were able to transport it over here for us.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25

## New Van



In September 2024, we were thrilled to be shortlisted for the Horsham Sports & Community Club’s \$50,000 Major Community Project grant. Our submission proposed the purchase of a new van to transport food donations collected daily from local supermarkets and businesses, ensuring timely delivery to our Centre for distribution to clients in need.

HSCC members were then invited to vote for their preferred project, and in early October, we were overjoyed to learn that we had been selected as the winning recipient! (See photos, top left and top right.)

The image to the left shows a typical food collection from a local supermarket—previously transported using our volunteers’ personal cars or utes. Thanks to Manager John Spehr’s careful research, we were able to acquire our brand-new van by early in the new year (see bottom left photo).

The bottom right image features key HSCC staff and Board Chair, alongside CEFC Chair Denis May, Manager John Spehr, and Client Assessment Manager Bev Miatke.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25



Above: Local restaurant Sasak Laksa House raised money by putting \$1 into the teddy bear every time someone bought an ice-cream



Above: Bev Miatke receives goods donated by the Rural North West Health Festive Food Drive



Above: Manager John Spehr receives a \$2,000 Community Grant cheque from HSCC towards a new bread cutting machine

## FROZEN MEALS

Frozen meals are a great resource for our clients, especially those who are staying in temporary accommodation where cooking facilities may be limited to a microwave and kettle. To be able to heat up a ready made meal that includes meat and vegetables means they can have a nutritious meal in just a few minutes. This year we have been given over \$11,000 worth of meals from Horsham Sports & Community Club, Country Kitchen Casseroles, Horsham Masala Indian Restaurant, and the Church of Christ (where volunteers cook and make up the meals using our ingredients). This year bushfires in areas surrounding Horsham have meant that we have also been the recipient of leftover fresh and frozen meals made for the firefighters stationed in Horsham thanks to the CFA. Grains Innovation Park and Forest Fire Management. All are very appreciated by our clients!



CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC.

# REVERSE ADVENT BOXES

A heartfelt thank you to Horsham Sports & Community Club, The Weekly Advertiser, and Ace Radio for once again coming together to support those in need this past Christmas. HSCC generously provided specially printed boxes, the Food Centre compiled the list of items to be included, and The Weekly Advertiser and Ace Radio helped spread the word through advertising.

Schools, businesses, families, and individuals all took part by filling the boxes and delivering them to the Sports Club. HSCC staff tracked the donations and transported the boxes to the Food Centre for distribution to clients. There were many inspiring stories of people uniting to fill as many boxes as they could. Altogether, 389 boxes were donated—a truly incredible effort by the entire community! These donations not only saved the Centre money by providing essential food items but also saved valuable time, as only perishable goods needed to be added before distribution.



Above and Below: Members of businesses and schools right around the community were happy to pack boxes according to the list supplied to be given to people in need.

# 389

Below Right: Prev. HSCC Manager Glenn Carroll picking up the Reverse Advent boxes from around the Community



# IN MEMORIAM

Past volunteers who gave their precious time, energy and talents to serve God and their community here at the Food Centre. Thank you!



**Valerie Isbel**

28/01/1935 - 27/07/2025

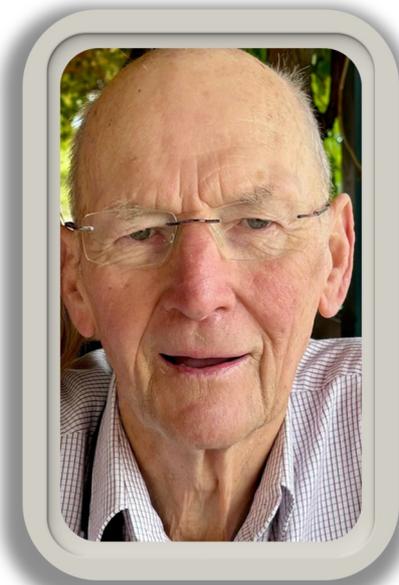


**Marie Anson**

30/10/1932 - 22/12/2024

**John Fulwood**

16/8/1935 - 21/3/2025



"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also." **John 14:1-3**

# FOODBANK VICTORIA

Each week we order about a pallet-load of food from the Foodbank website which gets delivered to us the following week. Foodbank believe everyone should have access to good food no matter their situation. They're here for the everyday Australians who are going without. They are working hard to change that. In Australia, they provide food and grocery relief to 2,929 front-line charities and 3,220 school breakfast programs to help feed people in need. Last year alone, they sourced enough food for 92 million meals.

## Hunger in Victoria

- More than half a million households experienced severe food insecurity in the last 12 months. This means they are often skipping meals, reducing portion sizes or even going entire days without eating.
- Close to 900,000 households experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months.
- 52% of Victoria's low-income households (earning less than \$30,000 per year) are experiencing food insecurity.
- Food insecurity is being felt more acutely in the regions (37%) compared to metropolitan areas (32%).
- Food relief support from family and friends has dropped to 30% in 2024, compared to 35% in 2023.
- Food insecure households increased in their awareness of where to seek food relief support to 46% in 2024 (vs 36% in 2023).
- In 2024, 45% of severely food insecure households had adults not eating for whole days because they can't afford food.

## Working with



**Farmers and growers**



**Manufacturers and their suppliers**



**Wholesalers and retailers**



**Charity partners**



**Schools**



**Transport services**

# Working on



Natural disaster relief



Advocacy



Research and reports



Nutrition



Reducing food waste



Collaborative Supply Program

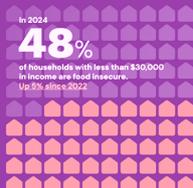


School Breakfast Clubs Program



Farms to Families Market Program

Low-income households are reaching breaking point



**“The rise in cost of living has meant that everything has gone up dramatically, however, my pay has stayed the same. I have not been able to afford most things... I feel like I’ve failed as a parent because we are really struggling.”**



**“I was paying all expenses for my son, his partner and children after they were hit by unemployment and losing their rental, but I was using up my reverse mortgage which was supposed to cover essential repairs and last me for a couple of years. We decided that the adults eat less so that the children weren’t affected. We are having one meal a day.”**



**“I just got out of a 7 year relationship and I had to leave my current job as I had to leave my house that I couldn’t afford the rent by myself. So I moved to my Dad’s and it took over 4 months for Centrelink to process my application and my Dad lives out of town so it makes it very hard to be able to find a job I can get to every day.”**



**“The last time we could not afford enough food for ourselves I portioned the food we had and ate reduced serving sizes. I also supplemented what I could with home grown items.”**



# SECOND BITE

## SecondBite & FareShare merger marks first anniversary

One year on from the landmark merger between SecondBite and FareShare, they are celebrating a surge in meals delivered and an increase in rescued food.

Since joining forces on July 1, 2024, SecondBite and FareShare have been able to supercharge their national food relief efforts – transforming surplus food into millions of nutritious meals for Australians facing food insecurity.

**The merger has connected SecondBite’s national food rescue and distribution network with FareShare’s capacity to transform rescued food into nutritious, ready-to-eat meals.**

Together they have supported thousands of community food programs, charities and emergency relief efforts.

Their key achievements over the past year include:

- More than 2.5 million nutritious, tasty meals delivered to vulnerable Australians.
- 1 million kgs of additional rescued surplus food from growers, manufacturers, and retailers.
- Enhanced support for communities affected by natural disasters and cost-of-living pressures.

SecondBite | FareShare CEO Daniel Moorfield said as food insecurity continues to rise, the merger between the two organisations was more important than ever.

“The merger between SecondBite and FareShare has enabled us to go further and faster in delivering food relief where it’s needed most,” he said.

“Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our impact, advocating for food justice, and ensuring surplus food makes its way to people in need.”



Above: Perth’s Rainbow Community Services make up 160 hampers a week for families in need of food relief, using food donated by SecondBite.



Above: Fresh SecondBite food and nutritious FareShare meals are available free of charge to people at Uniting Prahran’s subsidised café and via their emergency food relief services.



Above: “I feel really blessed and lucky to have access to a place that gives out free groceries,” The food provided reduces the financial strain on her family during a time of rising living costs and offers access to fresh fruit and vegetables.



CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE INC.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

This report covers the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

I am pleased to be able to report a firm profit of \$95,848 over 2024-2025 with total net assets of \$1,480,088.

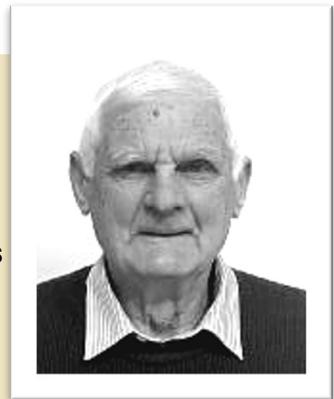
Thanks to all our CEFC members, local and district churches, individuals and community groups for the incredible ongoing financial support they provide.

As most of you will be aware the annual government funding of approximately \$82,000pa which we have received over the last five years has been discontinued. We are pursuing all avenues to re-instate that funding or find other possible sources of funding. Please keep this issue in your prayers.

All end of year documents have been completed and forwarded to the Auditor for approval. These files include a copy of the Produce Audit which was completed during the third week of June with help from a dozen or so volunteer staff. Thank you for a job well done. The Auditor's Report was not available at the time of printing but copies will be available for anyone who wishes one as soon as they are available.

Thank you for the support of many during the past year and looking forward to another successful year in 2025-2026.

**Les Warrick**  
Treasurer



## List of Members July 2024—June 2025

Aisbett, Jan	Eyles, Kay	Judd, Rhonda	Miatke, Bev	Taylor, Rosie
Baker, Lorraine	Farr, Sue	Keyte, Noel	Neumann, Julie	Taylor, Sandra
Baviello, Michael	Gordon, Joan	Keyte, Pauline	Peake, George	Tepper, Maxine
Berendsen, Dan	Hair, Shirley	Kuehne, Gladys	Pietsch, Carmel	Thompson, Linda
Clarke, Jenny	Harberger, Sandra	Ladlow, Cherie	Pietsch, John	Walsh, Terry
Clarke, Rodney	Hateley, Ella	Lane, Anne	Rethus, Pam	Walter, Ian
Clough, Ian	Hateley, Sue	Linke, Cheryl	Rock, Pat	Walter, Joy A
Clough, Wendy	Heinrich, Betty	Mahony, Anne	Rudolph, Brian	Walter Stanley
Coffey, Rhonda	Heinrich, Garry	Mahony, Dan	Schuller, Lesley	Warrick, Les
Combe, Jean	Hender, Rhonda	May, Dennis	Smith, Wilma	Warrick, Mavis
Cook, Diane	Hutchinson, Lynda	MacKenzie, Denise	Smith, Jenni	Webb, Florence
Cook, Don	Jende, Pam	McDonald, Kevin	Smith, Jenny G	Werner, Bernice
Cramer, Jill	Jones, Judith	McDonald, Carol	Smith, Ryan	Williams, Denise
Dale, Lynne	Judd, Lester	McGennissen, June	Spehr, John	Williams, John
Ellis, Audrey	Judd, Max	McNee, Sandra	Spehr, Marylou	Williams, Laurie

# PROFIT & LOSS

Christian Emergency Food Centre Inc. ABN 79 590 217 561

1/7/2024—30/6/2025

INCOME	2024-25	2023-24	EXPENSE	2024-25	2023-24
<b>Grants</b>	\$	\$	<b>Client Support Expenses</b>	\$	\$
Dept. Social Services	82,011		Accommodation-Rent	2,639	
Uniting Care	85,237		Other Accounts	9,995	
DHHS Travel	1,381		Appliances	630	
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>168,629</b>	<b>170,915</b>	Medical	6,209	
			Travel	12,014	
<b>Donations</b>			<b>Food Packages</b>		
Donations in Kind	352,360		Groceries	75,155	
Hsm Rural City Council	5,490		Fruit and Veg	4,581	
Magistrates Court	2,200		Toiletries	16,577	
Tax Deductable Donations	92,558		Consumables	3,039	
Christmas Hampers	12,200		Christmas Hampers	20,842	
Churches & Clubs	26,636		Food Box Freight	1,003	
General Public	16,601		Donated goods used	352,360	
HSCC Special Purpose	50,000		<b>Total Client Support</b>	<b>527,912</b>	<b>483,622</b>
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>558,044</b>	<b>507,392</b>			
			Administration	11,662	13,458
<b>Business Income</b>			Van Running Costs	1,404	
Memberships	365		Building Rep. Maint	8,181	6,695
Interest Earned	32,393		Insurance	7,574	2,465
<b>Total Business Income</b>	<b>32,758</b>	<b>17,027</b>	Utilities	8,419	8,711
			Volunteer Staff Costs	4,216	3,859
			Minor Equipment & Depr.	14,316	3,822
			Wages & Payroll Expenses	78,104	67,287
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>759,431</b>	<b>695,334</b>			
Movement in closing produce	-1,794	9,513			
ATO Tax Grant		5,000			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>757,637</b>	<b>709,847</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>661,788</b>	<b>589,919</b>
			<b>Net Earnings</b>	<b>95,848</b>	<b>119,928</b>

# BALANCE SHEET

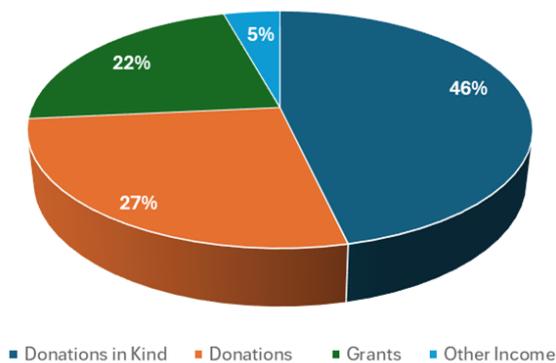
Christian Emergency Food Centre Inc. ABN 79 590 217 561

1/7/2024—30/6/2025

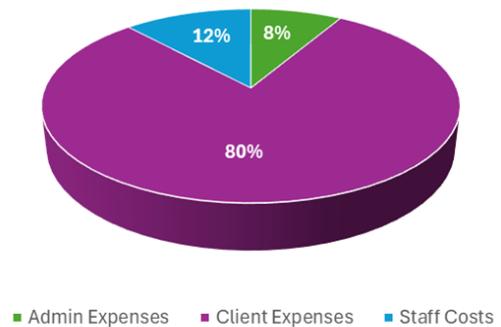
Current Assets	30-Jun-25	30-Jun-24	Liabilities And Equity	30-Jun-25	30-Jun-24
	\$	\$		\$	\$
Grant Account	22,593	38,122	Accounts Payable	0	1,401
Capital Growth Acc.	51,487	0	PAYG Withholding Payable	0	0
Society Debit Acc.	1,476	2,909	Superannuation Payable	-310	1,580
CBA Term Deposit 1	400,000	300,000	Long Service Leave	17,982	16,023
CBA Term Deposit 3	50,000	50,000	Annual Leave	14,099	12,720
CBA Term Deposit 4	270,000	0			
CBA Term Deposit 2	0	50,000	GST Liabilities	0	-127
LLL Term Deposit A	0	200,000	ATO Clearing account	672	-4,606
LLL Term Deposit B	0	50,000			
LLL Savings	0	33,073			
Petty Cash	76	55			
Square Receipts	0	0	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>32,443</b>	<b>26,990</b>
PayPal	0	296			
Suspense Acc	0	64			
Produce Stock	28,034	29,569			
Prepayments	4,378	3,252			
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>828,044</b>	<b>757,340</b>	<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,480,088</b>	<b>1,384,240</b>
<b>Long Term Assets</b>			Represented By CEFC Funds		
Equipment And Furniture	34,487	3,888	Opening Balance	1,384,240	1,264,312
28 Firebrace Street	650,001	650,001	Plus Net Earnings	95,848	119,928
<b>Total Long Term Assets</b>	<b>684,488</b>	<b>653,889</b>			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,512,531</b>	<b>1,411,230</b>	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,480,088</b>	<b>1,384,240</b>

## Income & Expenditure 2024-25

INCOME 2024-25 [\$757,637]

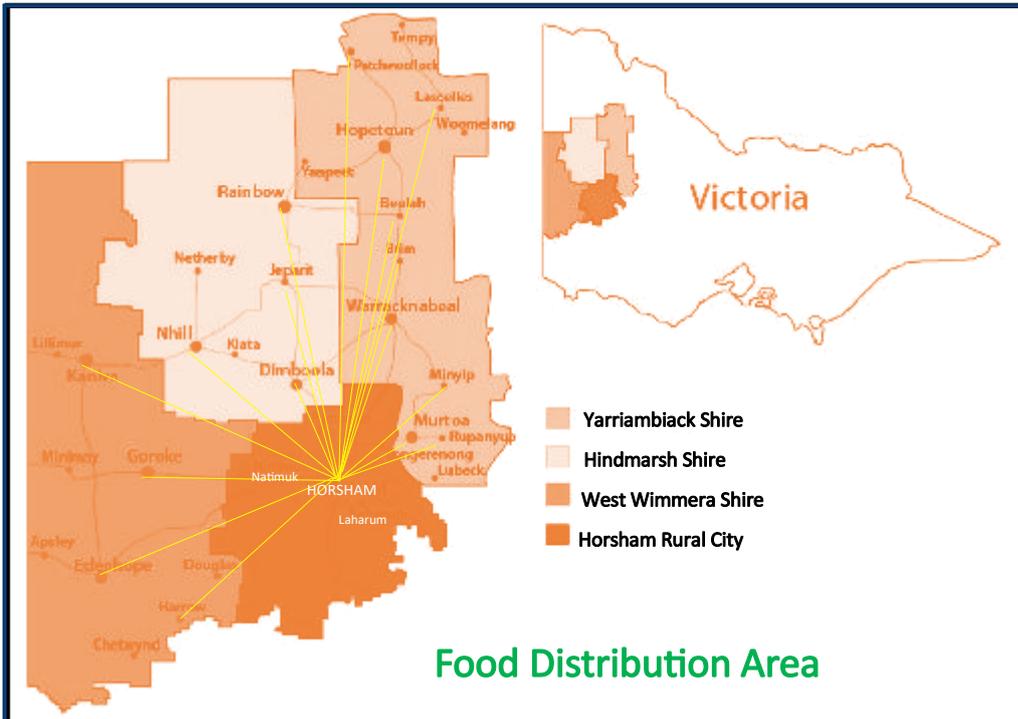


EXPENSES 2024-25 [\$661,788]



# STATISTICS

During the 2024—2025 financial year ...

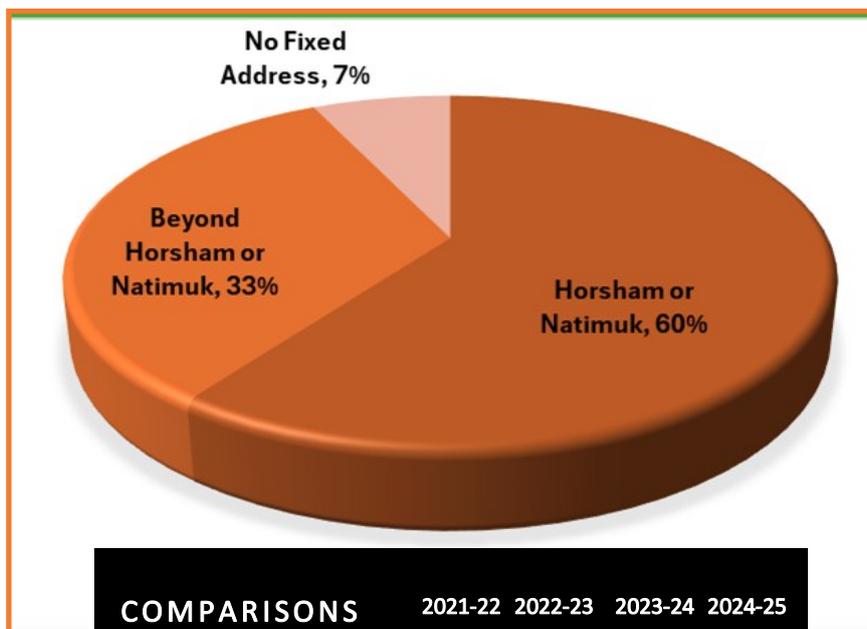


Food parcels may be ordered and delivered to each of these towns thanks to Wilkie's Couriers of Horsham who very generously deliver our parcels free of charge to a central delivery point in each town

**240** orders for food parcels out of the Horsham area requiring delivery of **372** boxes of food packed and delivered around the distribution area.

COMPARISONS	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No. of orders	225	284	248	240
No. of boxes	415	451	384	372

## WHERE DO OUR CLIENTS LIVE?



COMPARISONS	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Horsham or Natimuk	1161	1567	1881	1847
Beyond Horsham & Natimuk	7865	967	1061	1022
No fixed address	181	187	217	209

## BOXES OF FOOD DELIVERED TO CLIENTS IN OTHER TOWNS

TOWN NAME (receiving more than 10 boxes p.a.)	2024-25
Warracknabeal	123
Edenhope	38
Nhill	45
Dimboola	25
Jeparit	29
Birchip	28
Rainbow	15
Kaniva	12
Minyip	12

# STATISTICS

During the 2024—2025 financial year

# 936

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



No. of days we were open over the year.

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

# 275

Clients attended the Centre for the first time

First time clients per month

Month	22-23	23-24	24-25
July	10	20	29
August	19	26	22
September	16	18	23
October	21	17	24
November	17	26	21
December	15	24	13
January	21	24	29
February	20	23	21
March	33	24	24
April	19	23	23
May	15	26	30
June	22	27	16

Total Client Contacts per month

MONTH	22-23	23-24	24-25
July	188	233	260
August	240	249	266
September	226	265	263
October	183	302	248
November	230	278	281
December	167	140	205
January	246	332	279
February	233	272	241
March	266	261	255
April	200	289	236
May	271	272	288
June	269	266	256

# 257

Average contacts per month

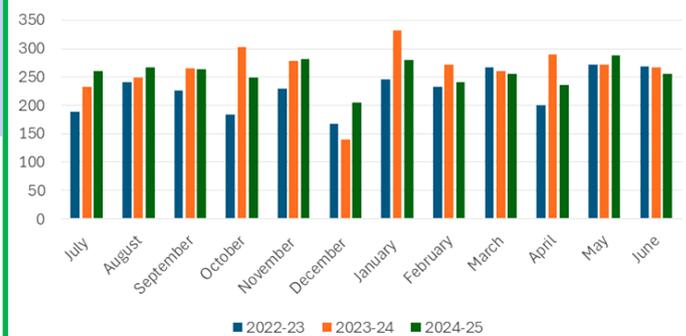
# 13

Average contacts per day

# 3,078

TOTAL contacts per year

Total Client Contacts per month



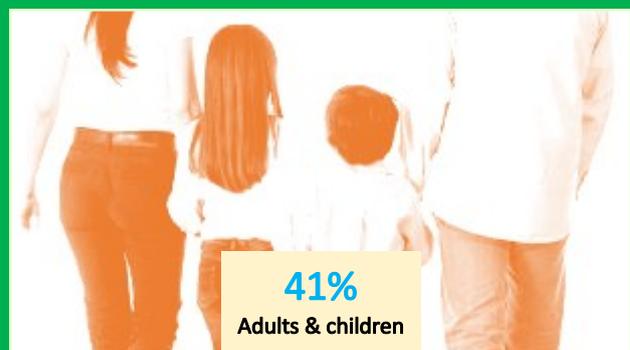
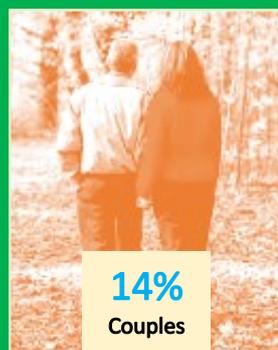
# STATISTICS

During the 2024—2025 financial year ...

COMPARISONS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No. of days open	247	245	245	240	240	242
No. of contacts	2,614	1,693	2,127	2,721	3,159	3,078
No. of clients	889	616	737	867	952	936
No. of new clients	309	179	231	279	296	275
Average contacts per month	218	141	177	227	263	257
Average contacts per day	11	7	9	11	13	13
No. of contacts Horsham/Natimuk	1,483	888	1,161	1,567	1,881	1,847
No. of contacts beyond Horsham/Natimuk	969	620	785	967	1,051	1,022
No. of contacts with No Fixed Address	162	185	181	187	217	209
Total adults in client households	1,381	886	1080	1,274	1,440	1,437
Total children in client households	999	605	712	819	886	849
Total people* in client households	2,321	1,491	1792	2,093	2,326	2,286

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

AGE COMPARISONS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
13-17 years old	5	4	10	5	9	1
18-39 years old	388	270	290	377	404	379
40-64 years old	398	261	344	385	422	439
65 years old and over	68	50	65	83	92	104
Unknown	30	31	28	17	25	13



HOUSEHOLD COMPARISONS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1 Adult	380	237	283	341	373	372
1 Adult + Children	189	137	154	192	176	183
2 Adults	119	85	109	119	130	135
2 Adults + Children	128	101	119	133	165	147
3 Adults or more	30	35	26	36	36	33
3 Adults or more + children	29	25	26	35	51	56
Children only (less than 18yo)	5	2	8	3	4	0
Organisations	9	15	13	8	17	10

*...proudly sponsored and overseen by*

# **Horsham Christian Ministers' Association**



**“When God’s people  
are in need, be ready  
to help them. Always  
be eager to practice  
hospitality.”  
(Romans 12:13)**

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



**Today, Jesus calls us to be His hands and feet. We are invited to serve, to love, to go, and to touch lives in His name. It's not enough to admire what He did. We are to reflect it in action. Our hands should be open to give and help. Our feet should be willing to walk into difficult places to carry hope. This calling is not a burden. It is a privilege to represent the One who gave everything for us.**