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Leader wishes everybody a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. We look forward to bringing you all your local news in 2014.

Whitehorse Leader



BLACKBURN

Auctions pay off debts

Kylie Adoranti

UNITING CHURCH SELLS PROPERTIES AFTER COLLEGE FAILURE

NINE properties owned by the Uniting Church were auctioned off last week to pay off debt from the struggling Acacia College that shut down last year.

Churches, tennis courts and land from around the state, including properties in Blackburn and Surrey

Hills, were all included in the list of properties up for sale as the Uniting Church tried to fill the \$32 million debt left from the college's failure.

There were 21 properties listed to be auctioned off but nine were enough to cover

the Uniting Church's threshold. The church stopped the auction after reaching the net \$56 million.

Properties auctioned off include the two tennis courts at 20a Broughton Rd, Surrey Hills for \$1.76 million, and three tennis courts

and a small sheltered canopy at 50-52 Blackburn Rd, Blackburn, for \$1.55 million.

The remainder of the properties listed for sale were spared from being sold off, including a church, hall and office at 103 Koonung Rd, Blackburn North.

Uniting Church Synod Victoria and Tasmania general secretary Rev Dr Mark Lawrence said the buoyant property market enabled the church to reach its target funds while minimising the impact on a number of congregations.

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