

GRAND MASTER'S

NEWSLETTER

How Good is This

Congratulations to all our Craft lodges and our masonic building owners for the magnificent efforts they have put in over the past few weeks and months.

We have over 80 substantial buildings in which we conduct masonic business. Many of these have joined with the Board of Management in taking this opportunity to make improvements to their premises and generally improving upon the infrastructure available to us all. Our State government has spoken often about investment in infrastructure being the best way to improve our economy and create jobs in our regions and local community. Craft Freemasonry can be very proud of the part it has played in that process.

Similarly, we have 241 lodges. It is correct that 191 of these have so far completed their Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 protocols so that they are free to conduct any meeting they reasonably think is necessary. Many lodges have already held meetings for purpose, and these have included Installations and degree work, all conducted with minimal attendance and good COVID-19 cleaning practices. Again, Craft Freemasonry can be particularly pleased and proud of its commitment, and its achievements.

There is no doubt that there would also be opportunity for meetings of other orders to be likewise conducted under strict protocols, and we should stand ready to assist where necessary.

In continuing to have minimal meetings, and by using social and outdoor activities to conduct any discussions we might need to have, we can progress. Let's continue to meet in someone's garage to run over ceremonial work, take the ritual book when you are out walking around the lake or village, use the telephone to plan and manage Masonic business which might offer strength to our struggling community, and always be aware of the welfare of our membership.

Acting as one, Craft Freemasonry can be very proud.

Please take care of your community, your lodge, and yourself.

Derek Robson AM
Grand Master



\$6,000 donation for Central Coast kids

Generally, at this kind of event, recipient organisations give 'thank you' speeches on receiving a donation and there is little, if any, personal contact with the final beneficiaries.



Victoria talks about the hardships and how CCKIN helped her family

At Wamberal Surf Club, that format was 'turned on its head' somewhat with Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC) asking recipient organisations to bring along one of their beneficiaries to receive the donation on their behalf. This provided a wonderful opportunity for all present to hear first-hand accounts – and gain a real understanding – of the impact and outcomes of their fundraising.

FotCC, along with the six associated masonic lodges of District 21, were donating to two organisations who receive little or no government funding. Central Coast Kids In Need (CCKIN) and Save Our Kids from Suicide (SOKS), a project of the Rotary Club of Gosford North, both received a donation of \$3,000. This takes the total donated by FotCC to approximately \$30,300 for CCKIN, and \$52,300 for SOKS.

Central Coast Kids in Need (CCKIN)

Lorraine Churchill explained that CCKIN commenced some 27 years ago serving families whose children were in need of medical assistance – high cost prescriptions, specialised formulae, equipment, etc. – travel expenses and accommodation.

Victoria, a beneficiary of CCKIN,

spoke of financial hardship when their first child (Ella) was born with Down Syndrome.

Ella was transferred to Sydney for three months until her medical conditions had stabilised. On returning home, specialised equipment needed to be hired. The cost of three months accommodation, travel and sustenance was astronomical for a young family. The heart-wrenching time with endless decisions to be made was both financially and emotionally draining.

Their second child (Hudson) was born prematurely and yet again CCKIN stepped in with much needed support. Victoria stated that she and her husband 'will be forever grateful' for all the assistance given by CCKIN. Talking to someone just seemed to lessen the stress.



Lorraine Churchill with Hudson



Victoria and Hudson (6 months)

Save Our Kids from Suicide (SOKS)

Lester Pearson, from the Rotary Club of Gosford North, is the coordinator of the SOKS project. From its beginning, Freemasons on the Central Coast have supported the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) programme. ASIST trains people in identifying and approaching a person who is contemplating suicide, especially in a crisis situation. Training for the participants in this program, which has mainly included teachers and school support staff, is provided by Lifeline. 'Mind Your Sports Mates' is a similar programme that trains people in identifying the symptoms of depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation.

Upcoming Events

"MM Taylors Ritual" continuation
Masonic Education Network
Wed, 25 Nov 7pm

"NSW & ACT Ritual - Opening and Closing"
Saturday Zoom Room
Masonic Education Network
Sat, 28 Nov 3pm [Reg link](#)

Saturday afternoon meetings run every week with a different topic of discussion.

"The Rite Beyond the Craft"
by **RW Bro Dominic De Candia**
Masonic Education Network
Wed, 2 Dec 7pm - [Reg link](#)

The Masonic Education Network events will stop Sat 12 December and will return on Wed 20 January with a special event featuring an International Guest Speaker.

Welcome Bro Nakamura



Bro Nakamura with the Secretary of the lodge, RW Bro Patrick W Medway AM

Bro Christopher Nakamura moved from Queensland recently and promptly joined Lodge St George and St Andrew No 7 meeting at Bexley. He is working as a solicitor in the area and was keen to maintain his fellowship with Freemasonry when he moved to Sydney.