

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## District 21 – Central Coast

# Freemason's raise over \$12,000 for Gosford Hospital



The Central Coast Steam Model Co-op where you can ride on a miniature train.

For several months, **Freemasons on the Central Coast**, The Central Coast Lodge, and the Central Coast Steam Model Co-op have banded together to raise money for a very worthwhile project.

The relationship between the Steam Model Co-op and the Freemasons commenced many years ago when another local masonic lodge, Lodge Saratoga, purchased a BBQ (still in use) and many lengths of rail track. More recently The Central Coast Lodge has assisted in the purchase of more rail track, and on the first Saturday of each month the Freemasons of District 21 (Central Coast) volunteer their time organising and selling sausage sandwiches and drinks to the families who flock to the Miniature Steam Train, Showground Road, Gosford.

It's a wonderful atmosphere and a great place to take the kids. At 9 am, the Miniature Model Steam Train enthusiasts arrive. They check the track, to ensure it is safe, check

Over  
**\$12,372**

Donated

Promoting Freemasonry on the Central Coast through community action, charitable relief and the advancement of education.

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the under carriages, open the doors, sweep the paths, and prepare the engines for a full day's entertainment for the children and their parents – plus those who dream of the past – As 10 o'clock arrives and the sausages are cooked and the trains have all been checked, the whistles start blowing and the children are getting very excited – we are all set to go.

### The Prize

The money raised was to purchase a specialised bath called the 'Hi-Lo Baby Bath' for the Children's Ward at Gosford Hospital. This special bath on wheels has a heating system to kept the water at a constant temperature, a drainage system with a discharge pump, and various apparatus and gizmo's to help new Mothers bathe their bundles of joy without the need for a second person.

### Disaster

We had estimated that twelve months would be enough time to raise the money needed for the purchase of the bath, but over the past 11 months quite a few Saturdays had been rained-off (the train tracks were under water on more than one occasion) and we had raised less than \$3,000 – not quite enough – And to make things worse Gosford Hospital called to tell us that their current bath had just failed!

### Freemasons to the rescue

Now there wasn't time to raise the money needed, so Freemasons on the Central Coast started the donation process for the purchase of the Hi-Lo Baby Bath for use in the Children's Ward and it was delivered with all haste.

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The Hi-Lo Baby's Bath and the AED presented to managers of the Carer's Cottage and the nursing manager of the children's ward by members of Freemasons on the Central Coast and The Central Coast Lodge.

Contact [media@FreemasonsCC.org](mailto:media@FreemasonsCC.org) for more information relating to this Media Release.

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Nurse Kelly, Unit Manager at the Children's Ward was ecstatic and stated,

**'Thank you for making such an incredible difference to our sick children on the Coast. Our team feel incredibly supported by the Freemasons on the Central Coast.'**

In addition to the baby's bath, Freemasons on the Central Coast purchased an AED defibrillator for the Carer's Cottage, also based at Gosford Hospital. The Carer's Cottage helps with general assistance, counselling and most importantly, respite from caring for a loved one – a cup of tea, and a good chat.

Tia from the Carer's Cottage said,

**'This now completes the basic requirements for the Cottage. On behalf of families and friends on the Central Coast, thank you so much for your generous donation of AED / defibrillator to the Carer's Cottage at Gosford Hospital.'**

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After the purchase and presentation of the bath and the AED it was decided that the fund raising should continue for the Children's Ward and after one glorious Saturday we had cleared \$3,000. An application was made to Masonicare (the charity arm of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT) who agreed to double that amount to \$6,000.



A cheque for \$6,000 being presented to the nursing manager of the children's ward by members of **Freemasons on the Central Coast** and The Central Coast Lodge.

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In late July, a cheque for \$6,000 was presented to Nurse Kelly to be used for the 'Children's Ward Wish List'.

Kate, Director of Fundraising at Gosford Hospital completed the afternoon by saying,

**'We are so grateful for your continuous generosity. The baby bath improves care for our youngest patients and helps our staff with their work. The AED in the carer's Cottage will keep our patient – families and community safe. Thank you for making a difference to the care we provide to the Coast.'**

Freemasons on the Central Coast would like to offer sincere thanks to Masonicare for their financial assistance.

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- [23Aug24\\_GosfordHospital](#)

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