

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## District 21 – Central Coast

# Masons helping Mary Mac's assist the community.



Freemasons on the Central Coast are proud to offer ongoing assistance to Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy – this year with the purchase of urgently needed equipment.

Mary Mac's is an invaluable service assisting some of our most vulnerable community members. It provides some 80–100 free hot lunches daily from Monday to Friday, and visitors can also obtain food hampers, and access shower and laundry facilities in a friendly, practical and non-judgemental environment which helps alleviate isolation in the community. In addition, Mary Mac's provides a segue to other essential services eg. homelessness support, health and legal services.

With no government funding, and only one permanent part-time paid employee, Mary Mac's relies on charitable funding from the Catholic church, community donations, occasional bequests, corporate support, and the wonderful network of ever-willing volunteers.

**\$2,234**  
Donated

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

Freemasons on the Central Coast is a trading name of Karagi Court Limited ABN: 92 002 044 500.



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In recent years, Freemasons on the Central Coast have assisted with the purchase of a new gas stove/cooker and each year we assist by providing food items for Christmas hampers. Last year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to collect food items, donating money instead (\$5,300) towards the purchase of hamper items.

As Practice Manager Homelessness, Sean Mackinnon explains: 'Due to the current economic instability, we are seeing a significant increase in need from the most vulnerable in our community. Mary Mac's provides a confidential safe space for many of those community members to connect ... no referral is needed.'

'During the pandemic, the Central Coast has faced an unprecedented demand for housing. Migration away from the city has exacerbated the local housing shortage, contributed to major rental increases and the scarcity of available rental properties. We are currently seeing a significant rise in homelessness, particularly with families who are no longer able to access the local rental market, placing them in a challenging predicament, often unsafe and unsuitable.'



**\$7,534**

Total  
Donated  
to Date

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

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'The dire housing situation and resulting increase in homelessness has contributed to an ever-increasing need for related facilities and services.'

This year Freemasons on the Central Coast received a request from Mary Mac's Place to help purchase a washing machine and dryer to replace the old, worn ones. As Sean explained: 'We have been seeing a much greater demand for the laundry facility with families having to wait around for a turn, and a modern – quicker and more efficient – washer and dryer would help the situation. Two of each would be even better!'



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Appreciating what a vital role Mary Mac's plays in the local community, Freemasons on the Central Coast answered the call and had no hesitation in providing two washing machines and two dryers.

## A helping hand

Mary Mac's operates on 1 permanent part time paid employee who manages over 50 volunteers and the day to day operations of the service. Operation costs are approximately \$150k per annum which include wages, utilities, insurances, cleaning and maintenance and purchasing of essential products not otherwise donated. Mary Mac's is run under the umbrella of CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay, a local Not-For-Profit provider, they receive no government funding and rely on donations through parish charitable works funds and other community donations such as club grants and on occasion, bequests.

Our goal is to better connect our community to build independence, whilst remaining fiscally sustainable to be able to continue to serve those during a time in need. Mary Mac's will continue to focus on maintaining and building new relationships within the community to ensure donations (Both financial and non-financial) allow for the continuation of this essential service to remain open, with a view to increase our capacity to provide greater support for the growing need within our community.

Mary Mac's are always seeking corporate supporters who share their social values and have the financial capacity or influence to support our mission to continue to deliver and grow this essential service in our community.

Information at [www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/family-youth-children/mary-macs-place](http://www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/family-youth-children/mary-macs-place)



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Hi-resolution versions of all photographs shown in this Media Release can be downloaded by following the link below:

- [3Nov22\\_MaryMacsPlace](#)

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