

# NEWSLETTER



March 2025

## Over \$13,000 for Soldiers Beach SLSC

Following an invitation from Soldiers Beach SLSC President Simon Falconer, Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC) directors Leigh Pollard, David Levesque and Ben Falconer attended the SLSC's colourful Christmas Event held on 15 December 2024, which was also the final Nippers event for the calendar year.



The local Fire Brigade attended, bringing one of their units; there were jelly wrestling pools, fun games, a sausage sizzle and, of course, Santa came along! He was delighted to hear of our ongoing support for the Club and is pictured with one of the Club's Nippers proudly wearing his Pink Safety Vest (provided via funding from FotCC).



## Freemasons Raise the Flags for another season

The Surf Life Saving clubs on the Central Coast raise the flags for the 2024/2025 season.

This year, Surf Life Saving Central Coast (SLSCC) marked the beginning of the season with its annual Raising of the Flags at Avoca Beach on Saturday 12 October 2024.

Directors and Members of Freemasons on the Central Coast were again in attendance to reaffirm our commitment to SLSCC and the whole Central Coast Community.

This season, as with previous seasons, FotCC

are a major sponsor of Surf Lifesaving on the Central Coast again supplying their iconic pink rashies to help keep all participants safe and visible in the water, as well as providing funding for the Nipper and Rookie programs and other vital equipment.

FotCC are extremely proud to continue their support of surf lifesaving and to see the iconic flags raised for another season.



FotCC have this year donated a total of \$13,303 to Soldiers Beach SLSC with \$4,905 being used to purchase medical/resuscitation equipment: an Oxygen Resuscitation Kit; Zoll Defibrillator and Zoll Trainer Kit, all Surf Life Saving Australia approved, and are vital for the work they do. An additional \$8,398 was spent on Assault Fitness Bikes and Rogue Model D Rowing Machines – used for training and ongoing fitness maintenance during the winter months. The various gym equipment offers a safe space for members to work out, socialise and grow the Club's culture of fitness, support and wellbeing.

President Simon gave us a guided tour of the Club facilities which are being refurbished with the help of working bees and local business support.

Later that day, we received an email advising that the donated equipment had been used that very afternoon in the rescue of a 13-year-old girl who had got into difficulties in the water.

Our ongoing financial support of the Club is greatly appreciated and obviously of immeasurable value to the club and local community. We are extremely proud to be associated with them.

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[more](#) ↘

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

Please contact [media@FreemasonsCC.org](mailto:media@FreemasonsCC.org) for more information.



# Chris O'Brien Lifehouse

Josh Griffith a 19-year-old young man from the Central Coast realised his dream and joined the Australian Army.

Not long after he was found to be very unwell and sought medical advice. After extensive examinations and tests it was discovered that Josh had a synovial sarcoma, a rare, and aggressive soft tissue cancer.

Josh underwent an intensive chemotherapy program and surgery at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, a specialist Sarcoma treatment and research centre based in Sydney. Josh has recently returned to the Lifehouse for further radiotherapy treatment five days a week for six weeks.

This centre relies heavily on the generous financial support of donors and charitable bond holders and to show their appreciation for the vital support given to Josh, his family and friends came together to organise a number of initiatives to spread the word about the incredible work of the centre and to raise much needed funds.

This included a fund raising event, held at the Umina Beach Surf Life Saving Club on Saturday 19 October.

Freemasons on the Central Coast were approached by a friend of the Family, Tom Morrison, to see if they could help out with a raffle prize. After hearing the story, it was an easy decision for the Board and the funds were released without delay.

The event was a huge success with the local community coming together to help out. The room fees donated by Umina Beach SLSC, the entertainment, a fabulous local group close to the family also played for free.

Freemasons on the Central Coast donated a Sunbeam Barista Coffee Machine, which was gratefully received as one of many great raffle prizes on offer, there was also a wine wall.

The food was exceptional with many mouthwatering delights prepared by Tony Griffiths, Grandfather to Josh.

\$10,100.00 was raised from this one event with pledged donations still to be finalised.

Freemasons on the Central Coast wish Josh and his amazing family well, and would encourage anyone to donate to the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

Scan the QR code to donate.



# CCKIN Charity Race Day.

On Saturday 9 November 2024, many Directors and members of Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC) attended the third Annual Central Coast Kids in Need Charity Race Day held at Wyong Race Club. Perfect weather saw 243 people attending the sold-out event and enjoying a wonderful fun day.

CCKIN is a small volunteer organisation which raises funds to provide financial assistance for the purchase of medications and equipment, and help with travel and accommodation needs for families of seriously ill and disabled children on the Central Coast who need to attend Sydney and/or Newcastle hospitals for treatment.

On the day, a number of the families attending shared moving stories of their experiences, all of which demonstrated the valuable service this organisation provides and how much the community benefits from their work.

An amazing total of \$50,500 was raised through generous donations, ticket sales, raffles, silent and live auctions – helped by the winnings that FotCC's horse scored in the 'Freemasons on



the Central Coast Race! Our cheque for \$5,000 was gratefully received by Lorraine and Rhonda representing CCKIN and we, along with many others who attended, look forward to next year's event when our support will continue.

# Mary Macs receive 'Industrial Strength' Support



In 2022, at the request of their patrons, Mary Macs decided to install two washing machines and two tumble dryers. Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC) were able to assist in the purchase of these machines and they have been a great success. However, it took only 24 months for the washing machines to wear out due to the constant use.

The issue was reported to FotCC in early November and, after hearing about the need for a more 'industrial strength' solution, the Freemasons came to the rescue by purchasing two new washing machines worth over \$8,000.

These new machines will enable patrons to wash up to 10kg at the one time and the wash cycles can be customised making the whole process more efficient and giving the machines a longer life.

The new machines have been a great success with the patrons.

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