

NEWSLETTER



Q4 2022



CENTRAL COAST KIDS IN NEED

with prolonged illness (a very large proportion are Cancer Patients, others with organ transplants and premature babies with life threatening health issues).

Over the past 17 years CCKIN have assisted 3573 families and outlaid in excess of \$4 million.

Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC) are pleased to be long term supporters of the CCKIN. In recognition of the work done by CCKIN, FotCC were recently pleased to provide them with a cheque for \$5,000 towards the current and future needs of local families.

Central Coast Kids in Need

Central Coast Kids in Need (CCKIN) had its origins in 1993 when a local mother was staying with her sick child at Ronald McDonald House.

Many Central Coast families of children undergoing treatment do not qualify for any Government assistance as they live outside of the 100km of the medical centre where treatment is being undertaken. This was seen

as an opportunity of establishing a volunteer fundraising group to assist with the costs of accommodation and related medical bills. Many of the families supported by CCKIN and requiring assistance have seriously ill children



Surf Life Saving Central Coast

jackets whilst rock fishing or similar activities.

NSW Surf Life Saving has played an integral part in the social, cultural and lifestyle fabric of both state-wide and local beaches. NSW Surf Life Saving boast over 75,000 members across 129 Clubs that span across 1,500km of coastline made up of local volunteers who accumulate over 650,000 volunteer hours making our beaches one of the safest in the world.

It was estimated that over a million people visited our beaches last summer season and it is anticipated to be a greater number this year as we slowly come back into some normality following the COVID pandemic.

On Saturday 24th of September 2022 it was once again a privilege for Freemasons on the Central Coast to attend the annual Raising of the Flags ceremony at Terrigal Beach on the Central Coast.

Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC) have been supporting our local Surf Life Saving Club and you will see the Square and Compasses on the rear of their rashie uniforms. FotCC have also purchased 2 Tigercat Gen 2 and Gen 3 life saving vessels which are now used to patrol the beach.

Welcoming the 2022/2023 summer season, 15 local Surf Clubs marched onto the beach by the glorious sounds from Gosford Pipes and Drums and reminding the community about beach and swim safety. Remember to always swim between the iconic red and yellow flags and to wear life

more

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

Please contact media@FreemasonsCC.org for more information.



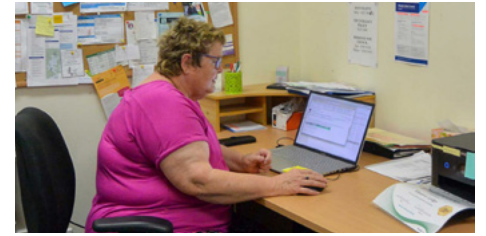


The Entrance Neighbourhood Centre

Staffed completely by volunteers, with no financial assistance from the government, The Entrance Neighbourhood Centre provides a wide range of services to the community.

This includes the distribution of food vouchers, electricity assistance (EAPA vouchers), frozen meals, medical prescriptions and, importantly, a well informed and friendly ear.

'We like to think of it as a hand-up rather than a hand-out', says Rosslyn Smith, Centre Manager. With some 5,000 families on their books requiring assistance, it has always been quite



hectic at the Centre. A significant amount of the administration is done on an old laptop but the system works well and the community gets the assistance it needs.

That is until their laptop and printer finally gave up the ghost – catastrophe! Rosslyn contacted Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC), requesting urgent assistance.

'The new laptop and printer are a godsend, the printer is much faster and a lot more user-friendly than the previous one; all of the volunteers are able to access the information with ease.' FotCC are very pleased to be able to make life a little easier for Ros and her band of volunteers as they, in turn, help our community.



Mary Mac's Place

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 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.'

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!'

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.



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