

MEDIA RELEASE



FREEMASONS
ON THE CENTRAL COAST

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16 January 2026

District 21 – Central Coast

Freemason's Rookie Challenge



SLSCC Rookies completing the quiz section of the Challenge

Freemasons on the Central Coast (FotCC) and Surf Life Saving Central Coast (SLSCC) Celebrate thirteen Seasons of Life Saving Partnership with the "Freemason's Rookie Challenge"

Surf Life Saving Central Coast (SLSCC) and the Freemasons on the Central Coast have marked another successful year of their enduring partnership, with the annual 'Freemasons Rookie Challenge' bringing together the next generation of lifesavers. The Rookie Program, a unique initiative within SLSCC, provides U13 and U14 members with invaluable hands-on experience by placing them on SLS patrols as 'Rookies'. Under the guidance of experienced lifesavers, these young members learn the fundamentals of beach safety and patrol operations before undertaking their Surf Rescue Certificate when they turn 14.

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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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This innovative program has thrived thanks to the sustained support of Freemasons on the Central Coast, who have been steadfast partners with SLSCC for 13 seasons, with the relationship set to continue for many years to come. The Freemasons Rookie Challenge, held annually each January, showcases the program's success by bringing Rookie lifesavers from all the Central Coast Surf Life Saving Clubs together for a day of theory and physical challenges.

Starting at 2pm, twelve teams assembled for a safety briefing, then it was off to the beach to demonstrate their skills.



The competition included various relay races with lots of running and then surf rescue boards, body boards, swimming, boards with two Rookies, more swimming, and more running. It finished with a rescue exercise, contestants discovering what their individual participation would be by drawing lots from a hat. It was quite a spectacle with much encouragement from team members and parents. Afterwards the hungry Rookies were treated to a well-earned sausage sandwich and a drink.



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SLSCC Rookies in their Pink Rashies

All the points were counted and the Lakes SLSC emerged victorious at the event hosted by Toowoomb Bay SLSC, with representatives from 13 SLSCC participating.

Freemasons representatives Jim Noble, Leigh Pollard, Simon Pierce and Graeme Ingall attended the event to support the participants and assist with the presentation ceremony. The challenge is designed to be more than just a competition, serving as an important opportunity for rookies to socialise, network and build connections across the SLSCC family.

Michael Hyslop, CEO of Surf Life Saving Central Coast, said the Freemasons have become an integral part of the organisation.

‘Our 13-season relationship with the Freemasons on the Central Coast represents so much more than financial support – they’ve truly become part of the SLSCC family. They understand that sustainable programs require sustained partnerships, and their unwavering commitment to our Rookie Program has helped shape countless young lifesavers who go on to protect our beaches for years to come.’



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Mr Hyslop also highlighted the distinctive nature of the Rookie Program within the broader surf lifesaving movement.

'The Rookie Program is truly unique within the Surf Life Saving NSW landscape. By giving our 13 and 14-year-olds real patrol experience alongside seasoned lifesavers, we're not just teaching them skills – we're instilling confidence, responsibility and a genuine passion for surf lifesaving that stays with them for life. It's a program we're incredibly proud of, and one that sets our branch apart.'



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Jim Noble, President of Freemasons on the Central Coast, expressed pride in the partnership and the young participants.

‘It’s absolutely brilliant to see so many young people enthusiastically participating in events like the Rookie Challenge. Freemasons on the Central Coast are extremely proud of our relationship with Surf Life Saving Central Coast and the important work they do in our community. We’re always happy to support community service organisations on the Central Coast, particularly those that are developing the next generation of volunteers who will help keep our beaches safe.’

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The partnership between SLSCC and Freemasons on the Central Coast continues to demonstrate the power of sustained community support in building stronger, safer beaches for everyone.



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