

MEDIA RELEASE



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District 21 - Central Coast

Freemasons on the Central Coast supporting the local community



On 14 October 2019, following a regular meeting of Lodge James Kibble, at the Gosford Masonic Centre, there was a small presentation that will have a big impact on the Central Coast Community.

Central Coast Freemasons presented five cheques, together totalling \$51,390.

These donations were made possible through the fundraising efforts of local masons during the year, with the help of **Freemasons on the Central Coast** and **Masonicare**, the charity of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT.

The following donations were presented:

The Glen, Chittaway Point	\$1,330.00
Headspace, Gosford and Lakehaven	\$1,330.00
Camp Breakaway	\$1,330.00
The Smith Family	\$5,000.00
Surf Life Saving Central Coast	\$42,400.00

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

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Representatives from **The Glen**, **Headspace**, **Camp Breakaway**, **The Smith Family** and **Surf Live Saving Central Coast** were on hand to receive their donations which was then followed by a lunch hosted by the freemasons.

“Fundraising activities bring many Freemasons together who would otherwise not do so, giving them a wonderful sense of purpose” said Central Coast Freemason Geoff Bown.

The recipients

Below are details about the organisations that received donations.

The Glen

Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre, Chittaway Point.

The Glen was set up in 1994 and operates from the Central Coast, servicing clients from all over NSW and Australia. The founding motivation was, and still is today, to reduce the over representation of Indigenous Australians in the prison system due to drug and alcohol addiction.

Donation:
\$1,330



The Glen's program is designed to treat a client in a holistic manner to address their issues. This means treating the person as a whole (spiritually, mentally, culturally and physically). The Glen's program is about trying to empower people to take control of their lives, to live a good fun life, and to become active members of their families and the community as a whole. Over the last 25 years, The Glen has accepted over 3,200 men of which 40% are referred from the justice system.

The Glen is often considered part of the “fabric” of the Central Coast Community, hosting large community events that attract over 1,000 people at a time and can help connect them to the right services. They organise local waterways and graffiti clean-ups, help with community BBQs, organise art exhibitions, compete in local sporting competitions and have a dance crew that consistently performs at local events. They also deliver youth drug and alcohol education talks to schools, sporting clubs, hostels and community groups.

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Headspace

Gosford and Lake Haven

Headspace provides the following services to young people aged 12–25 years on the Central Coast:

- Mental Health Services: intake, assessment, counselling, psycho-education and school presentations
- Physical Health Services: support from Doctors and Nurses
- Alcohol and Drug counselling and support
- Vocational services and social support

In the last year, Headspace Gosford and Lake Haven provided over 7,500 occasions of service to almost 2,000 young people.

They now have two additional services co-located with their headspace centres:

- A mental health service for young people experiencing moderate and complex mental health problems
- An employment service that provides young people 16–25 years with individualised intensive support to find or re-engage with employment and/or study.



Donation:
\$1,330

Camp Breakaway

Since 1982 Camp Breakaway has been a place of joy for people with disabilities. A non-profit charitable organisation, it has become a leader in its field for disability care and provides two to seven day social and recreational holiday programs.

From babies to seniors, Breakaway cares for adults and children with severe and multiple disabilities. These include children with high medical needs and rare disorders, autism, and seniors with dementia.

Breakaway's unique programs include 24 hour clinical and companionship care, supported by qualified carers and volunteers trained in the care of people with disabilities.

When a person walks through the door of Breakaway for a holiday, everything is provided: accommodation; meals; entertainment; activities; and specialised equipment.

Breakaway's guests often say, "I had so much fun! When can I come back?"

Donation:
\$1,330

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We were very please to receive a letter from Denise Pastor, Camp Breakaway's Fundraising Coordiniator:

Dear Freemasons on the Central Coast,

I want to extend my sincere gratitude for the generous donation of \$1,330 towards linen and bed side tables for our newly renovated disability cabin.

I appreciate wholeheartedly the effort that went into every dollar raised and thank all your members for turning up early to barbecue.

I have attached some wonderful photos we have taken recently of the adults with disabilities having a great time at Breakaway.

On behalf of Breakaway, the Board, staff and volunteers, and most importantly, the people who spend time at Breakaway, thank you.

Sincerely,

Denise Pastor
Fundraising Coordinator, Breakaway



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The Smith Family

Commencing in 2018, District 21 has supported 10 children from the Central Coast area under the auspice of The Smith Family Disadvantaged Children Programme.

The children have been assisted with their school uniforms, requirements for school, and their school excursions.

The money donated will assist the children for the year 2020 / 2021.

Donation:
\$5,000

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Surf Life Saving Central Coast

This year Freemasons on the Central Coast have again continued sponsorship of Surf Life Saving Central Coast by purchasing the hi-visibility hot pink safety bibs that help to keep all the Nippers on the Central Coast safe and visible in the surf.

We were the first to start this initiative in 2012 which has now been taken up by Freemasons and other community-minded groups around Australia and throughout the world.



Donation:
\$42,400

How it all started

In 2011, Freemasons on the Central Coast created a relationship with Surf Life Saving Central Coast, which encompasses all the surf lifesaving clubs on the Central Coast, with the donation of the 'The Freemason'.



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This relationship continued to evolve with the donation of surf skis and IRBs (Inflatable Rescue Boats).



A short time later, after the unfortunate drowning of a surf lifesaver at the Australian Championships in Queensland, discussions commenced between Chris Parker, CEO **Surf Life Saving Central Coast** and **Freemasons on the Central Coast** to find a way to minimise future risk to our community. The greatest problem was being able to spot the lifesaver in the surf or under the water.

Tests were conducted to ascertain the most visible colour that could be spotted underwater, especially in rough conditions where the water gets discoloured by the sand. From the tests, it was clear that hot pink was the best colour to use.

Surf Life Saving Central Coast in conjunction with **Freemasons on the Central Coast** then got to work and sourced the bright pink 'rashie' vests that are now common place on our beaches.

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First to wear the vests on the Central Coast were the Nippers (under 14 years) in September 2012, and by the end of the year, as the vests were accepted by parents and children alike, they became the norm for all surf clubs in NSW.

The following year the vest was introduced to the Seniors (14–18 years) and the Masters, becoming compulsory for **all** competitors in **all** age groups. Now, on the Central Coast, all surf life saving clubs provide the pink vests to all Nippers and Seniors.

Since the introduction of the vests in 2012, and with the diligent work of all our local hero's at **Surf Life Saving Central Coast**, there have been **no fatalities** involving any surf life savers, Nippers or Seniors on Central Coast Beaches.



Freemasons on the Central Coast are extremely proud and thankful for this statistic and will continue to work with **Surf Life Saving Central Coast** to keep our beaches, and community, safe.

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- [31Oct19_District21_FiveDonations](#)

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