

# MEDIA RELEASE



Page 1 4 June 2024

**District 21 – Central Coast**

## A little help for Toukley Neighbourhood Centre



**Toukley Neighbourhood Centre –** the heart of the community, providing early intervention strategies for the disadvantaged and vulnerable, so all people are empowered to meet their needs and achieve their full potential.

Now a well-oiled machine where you're met with a welcoming smile and efficiently directed to appropriate services; however, this time last year it was a very different story ...

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.



## MEDIA RELEASE

Page 2

4 June 2024

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With rising damp problems and mould contributing to much sickness amongst staff, and the possibility of this affecting visiting adults and children, the decision was made that the Centre had to relocate. Earlier this year it was arranged that the Centre would lease the Uniting Church premises in Toukley. Although a smaller space, this offered a far better layout; a few modifications were needed but these were quickly made with help from the local community.



Freemasons on the Central Coast were able to assist by providing two new laptops to replace the old, outdated computers previously used. According to Centre staff, the new laptops and software have enabled much easier and more efficient provision of the services needed within the neighbourhood.

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Page 3

4 June 2024

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The Centre now has a better database for keeping client records; for the ordering and controlling of foodstuffs; arranging delivery of food parcels; production of staff rosters for reception and back office; referrals and counselling; and housing information.

The Centre is open to all, including families with children and individuals of either sex. An outside, secure play area is currently being established where children can have fun while their parents seek advice or assistance within.

Much of the Centre's focus is on providing food services with food supplied through Foodbank who deliver ordered supplies for a donation to offset delivery costs. Various services are available:

- Sealed containers outside (safe from marauding possums) where people can discreetly access bread and other staples
- Provision of food parcels either face-to-face or anonymously
- Delivery of food parcels to those suffering mobility issues or lacking transport

Other services the Centre provides are housing referrals via the Toukley Shelter, and clothing where all items received, are sorted, cleaned and made available through the Op Shop. Unfortunately the Centre and Op Shop don't have space available to offer furniture.

Over the next five months, a major venture will be to raise money for the purchase of Christmas hampers and children's toys and any monetary donations for this would be so gratefully received.

Rebecca, Liz and Chris expressed their sincere thanks to **Freemasons on the Central Coast** for the valuable contribution of laptops and software enabling more efficient provision of the 'Hand Up' – **not** hand out – services that are the philosophy of the Centre.

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- [4Jun24\\_ToukleyNC](#)

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