

Annual Report

2024—25



Freemasons
Foundation Victoria

Improving the lives and
opportunities of Victorians

“It gives me great pleasure to commend the Board of the Freemasons Foundation for their continued commitment, leadership, and service to our wider community and Masonic family.”

The Foundation's enduring partnership with Freemasons Victoria remains a cornerstone of our collective strength, one built on shared values of charity, compassion, and community engagement.

Over the past twelve months, the Foundation has once again demonstrated its remarkable capacity to deliver meaningful outcomes through major projects that make a tangible difference in the lives of Victorians. Since its inception, the Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of initiatives that uplift communities, respond to need, and reflect the values at the very heart of Freemasonry.

We are especially appreciative of the Foundation's continued development of its Bequest Program. A visionary initiative ensuring that the spirit of giving endures for generations to come. The Foundation's ongoing support of our Masonic family, and its commitment to the betterment of the broader community, deserves the highest praise.

On behalf of Freemasons Victoria, I extend my sincere thanks to the Chair, the Board, and the entire team of the Freemasons Foundation for their outstanding work and for producing another excellent Annual Report that will be of great interest to all members. Together, we continue to make a lasting difference.

Peter Henshall
Grand Master





02	GRAND MASTER WELCOME
04	VISION, MISSION & VALUES
06	LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS
08	GOVERNANCE
12	APPROACH TO PHILANTHROPY
14	THE NUMBERS
16	DONATIONS ON DISPLAY
18	STORIES OF IMPACT
58	SUB-FUNDS
60	1889 BEQUEST SOCIETY
62	FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Acknowledgement of Country. Freemasons Foundation Victoria acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

From Freemasonry roots to community impact

Grounded in the strong foundations of Freemasonry, Freemasons Foundation Victoria has carried forward the traditions of giving and service while evolving into a modern philanthropic organisation supporting communities to thrive across Victoria.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FREEMASONRY



Brotherly love



Relief



Truth

Freemasons Foundation Victoria (FFV) was established by merging two charitable funds in 2014 - the Benevolent Fund (founded in 1889) and the Freemasons Public Charitable Fund (founded in 1989), consolidating Freemasons Victoria's philanthropic efforts for a stronger and healthier Victoria.

FFV operates independently of Freemasons Victoria yet draws on the enduring values and legacy of Freemasonry and the power of its membership.

These values shape the way we serve communities and individuals, driving impact through a combination of grantmaking, partnerships and scholarships. Through strategic partnerships and Foundation-led initiatives, FFV works to improve opportunities for all Victorians. By partnering with Lodges to fund projects at a community level, and awarding scholarships to enable individuals to pursue their educational aspirations, FFV aims to make an enduring impact.

1839

Lodge of Australia Felix established, launching Freemasonry in Victoria.

1867

The Royal Freemasons Homes of Victoria established, providing housing and support for elderly Freemasons.

1889

The United Grand Lodge of Victoria established, as well as the Benevolent Fund to support Freemasons facing hard times.

1912

First Freemasons Scholarship awarded.



“Freemasonry is an organisation of good men supporting each other, their families and the community.”

Don Reynolds
Past Grandmaster



Grand Master Sir William Clarke, Baronet, made the first charitable donation of £500 in 1889.

VISION

To contribute to a stronger and healthier Victoria through thoughtful and purposeful charitable support and community involvement.

MISSION

To invest in programs and initiatives that are expected to provide stronger and healthier communities and by supporting individuals through access to education.

6,500

MEMBERS IN VICTORIA

218

LODGES IN VICTORIA

1989

The Freemasons Public Charitable Fund established to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

2014

The Benevolent Fund and The Freemasons Public Charitable Fund come under a single trustee, Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited.

2024

Freemasons Foundation Victoria passes \$20 million in charitable giving.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

"This year gave me many opportunities to connect with Lodges, researchers, students and community organisations making a difference every day."

Garry James

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Chair



I am pleased to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report of Freemasons Foundation Victoria, a year that has been memorable for many reasons. As we move into our second decade, we have marked some wonderful milestones. Among them was seeing the Freemasons team at the annual Sleep At The 'G raise more than \$130,000 to end youth homelessness; joining Grand Master Peter Henshall to present \$80,000, live on

Channel 7, to the Good Friday Appeal; and celebrating with 114 inspiring students who received FFV scholarships at our presentation evenings in April and May.

We also awarded 28 Community Grants, with the funding supporting vital services and innovative programs in Community and Youth Development, Education, and Health and Research, all of which are making a significant impact. It was also an honour to join the celebrations to acknowledge some extraordinary Lodge fundraising efforts. All in all, it has been a privilege to witness first-hand the strength of Freemasonry in action.

However, it was also a sad year, with the passing of our former Executive Officer, Neil Cripps. I want to formally acknowledge his contribution, overseeing all aspects of the Foundation's operations for nearly 10 years, including establishing and maintaining our various grant programs. His passing was sadly felt by all who knew him.

I also thank Theresa Mangion for her contribution and support during her time with the Foundation.

In late 2024, the Board recognised that to effectively deliver on the many aspects of our strategic plan, we needed additional resources. That saw us welcome Sandra Jacobs as the new Chief Executive Officer and Joanna Walter as Finance Manager/Company Secretary. Since the year-end, we've also been joined by Matilde-Rose Andre as Program and Community Engagement Manager and Natalie Niceski as Grants and Office Administrator. It has been exciting to see the energy and momentum the new team has already brought to our operations and developing our future pathways.

In closing, I thank my fellow directors for their ongoing support, the leadership, and all those who have supported the Foundation since its inception in 2014. This year gave me many opportunities to connect with Lodges, researchers, students, and community organisations making a difference every day. I look forward to the coming year, knowing that the Foundation is well placed to continue delivering on its mission of "improving the lives and opportunities of Victorians".

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Garry James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Garry James
Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

"I am excited about the opportunities to build on this powerful legacy, bringing the values of Freemasonry forward through our giving."

Sandra Jacobs

Freemasons Foundation Victoria CEO



Since joining Freemasons Foundation Victoria as CEO in May this year, I have been struck not only by the scale of what the Foundation does, but also by the warmth of the Freemasons community and the generosity that underpins it. I particularly want to acknowledge the warm welcome and support I have received from the Foundation's Board and from the staff of Freemasons Victoria.

The legacy of Freemasonry, its values and the potential to make a lasting impact made this role not only exciting but deeply aligned with my own values. With both my grandfather and father-in-law being Freemasons, this position also allows me to continue a family connection in a way that is meaningful and enduring, working in an organisation where charity, giving and benevolence is at its heart.

In visiting Lodges, engaging with Freemasons and connecting with organisations we support, I have witnessed first-hand the breadth and impact of partnerships built across Victoria, which demonstrates the Freemasons' values of brotherly love, relief and truth in action. I have also been inspired by the dedication of our community partners - the not-for-profit organisations working at the front line to tackle some of Victoria's most pressing challenges. It is a powerful reminder that the Foundation's impact is not just about money being gifted - it's about lives changed and opportunities created.

In writing this year's Annual Report, I therefore wanted to do more than share the numbers; this report is a reminder, of who we are, how we got here, where we are heading and the difference that we've made. I hope that you will feel proud as you read the stories we share. The numbers are impressive: in this last reporting year, we distributed more than \$2.5 million to 143 charity partners and 179 schools and partnered with more than 100 Lodges and Chapters, to multiply our reach and impact.

In total, since 2014, FFV has distributed more than \$22.5 million through more than 1,500 grants. This should be a point of pride for all Victorian Freemasons, as well as demonstrating the scale, responsiveness, and long-term commitment that defines FFV's work.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities to build on this powerful legacy, bringing the values of Freemasonry forward through our giving. We will work closely with Lodges and Chapters across the state, leveraging a powerful network of local knowledge, generosity and commitment. We will also strengthen the resources of the Foundation, so we are well placed to deliver on our strategy and ensure our philanthropy remains both responsive to local needs and impactful at a statewide level.

I look forward to working with you all to continue to grow our impact and honour the proud legacy of Freemasonry in Victoria.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Jacobs'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light background.

Sandra Jacobs
CEO

Governance

The Board of Freemasons Foundation Victoria, in its role as Trustee for The Freemasons Public Charitable Fund (FPCF) and Freemasons Benevolent Fund (FBF), is committed to high standards of corporate governance and to implementing policies and procedures that reflect these standards.

To this end, the Board:

- Sets the strategy and oversees performance;
- Identifies, discloses and manages any conflicts of interest;
- Acts honestly, in good faith and in the best interest of FPCF or FBF;
- Uses care and diligence in fulfilling their functions; and
- Does not take improper advantage of its position.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

FFV Members are senior Freemasons and include the Freemasons Victoria Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Immediate Past Grant Master. The role of the Members includes the appointment of the Directors for a specific term. There must be five directors who are Freemasons before a non-Freemason director may be appointed.

Members



Peter Henshall

Member since March 2023



Myles King

Member since March 2025



Anthony Bucca

Member since June 2020

Directors



Garry James

Chairman

Chairman since November 2023

Director since November 2018



Matthew Schofield

Deputy Chairman

Director since May 2023



Philip Mayers AM

Director

Director since November 2016



Rodney Lavin JP

Director

Director since November 2018



John Patterson

Director

Director since November 2018



Xavier Murtagh

Director

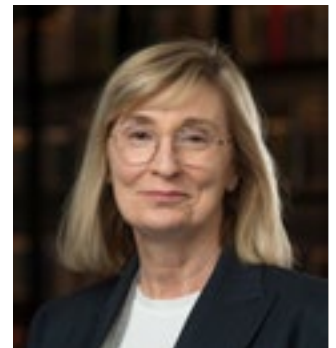
Director since November 2020



Christian Wood

Director

Director since November 2023



Susan Timbs

Director

Director since November 2023

Ashley Melnacic

Board Observer

Staff

Sandra Jacobs

CEO

Appointed May 2025

Joanna Walter

Finance Manager and Company Secretary

Appointed April 2025

Matilde-Rose Andre

Program and Community Engagement Manager

Appointed August 2025

Natalie Niceski

Grants and Administration Officer

Appointed August 2025



Left to Right: Natalie Niceski, Joanna Walter, Sandra Jacobs, Matilde-Rose Andre



City of Traralgon Band – Menin Gate

City of Traralgon Band at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres Belgium, during their Western Front tour, June 2025.
Front Row: L-R: Benoit Mottre - Chairman of the Last Post Association, Bugler, Wally Pope - Musical Director,
Dale Harriman - Mayor of La Trobe City Council, Alan Wilson - CTB President, Bruce Poole - CTB Drum Major, Bugler



“It was incredibly moving to see the City of Traralgon Band perform in the UK, especially on the Western Front. Knowing that our support helped them purchase lighter instruments that made this journey easier is a great reminder of the impact of our grants.

I feel very proud to be part of a Board that helps communities share their talents in such meaningful ways.”

Rodney Lavin JP

Director, Freemasons Foundation Victoria Board

Argyle Lodge and Traralgon Lodge, with support from a FFV Masonic Grant, donated \$3,960 to the City of Traralgon Band to purchase two new hybrid tubas, which are one third the weight of a traditional brass tuba.

Our approach to philanthropy

Our giving is designed to support a diverse range of programs and initiatives and to benefit current and future generations.

Impact Partnerships

CO-INVESTMENT AND CATALYTIC FUNDING

We back bold, strategic projects in partnership with others, investing for systemic change and enduring impact.

Community Grants

FOUNDATION-LED INVESTMENTS

We identify critical needs and fund initiatives from registered charities that create meaningful change where it's most needed.

Masonic Grants

COMMUNITY-LED IMPACT VIA LODGES AND CHAPTERS

We partner with Lodges across Victoria to support local charities and community groups, ensuring grants of all sizes make a real difference to community needs.

Scholarships, Bursaries and Education Grants

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL POTENTIAL

We invest in young people's futures by easing barriers to education and helping students reach their potential.

Benevolence

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED

We provide compassionate, practical assistance to Freemasons and their families facing hardship, upholding the values of care and fraternity.





Young Leaders Program

Young Leaders take part in a MasterChef-style challenge at Hamilton Parklands School, supported by a FFV Community Grant.

The numbers

\$2,523,193

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

570

DISTRIBUTIONS

134

LODGES AND CHAPTERS INVOLVED

\$325,209

LODGE CONTRIBUTIONS

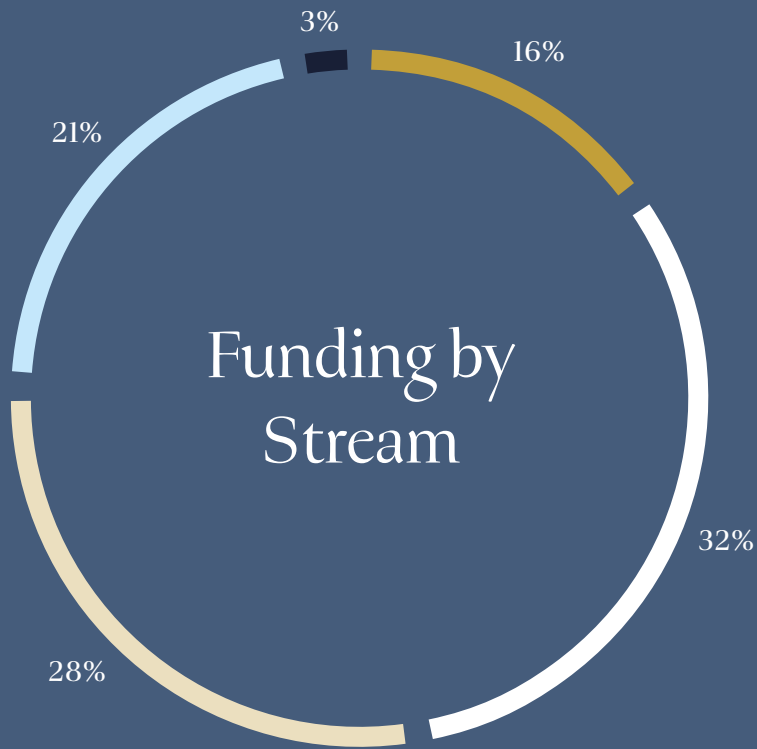
95

NFP PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS
SUPPORTED

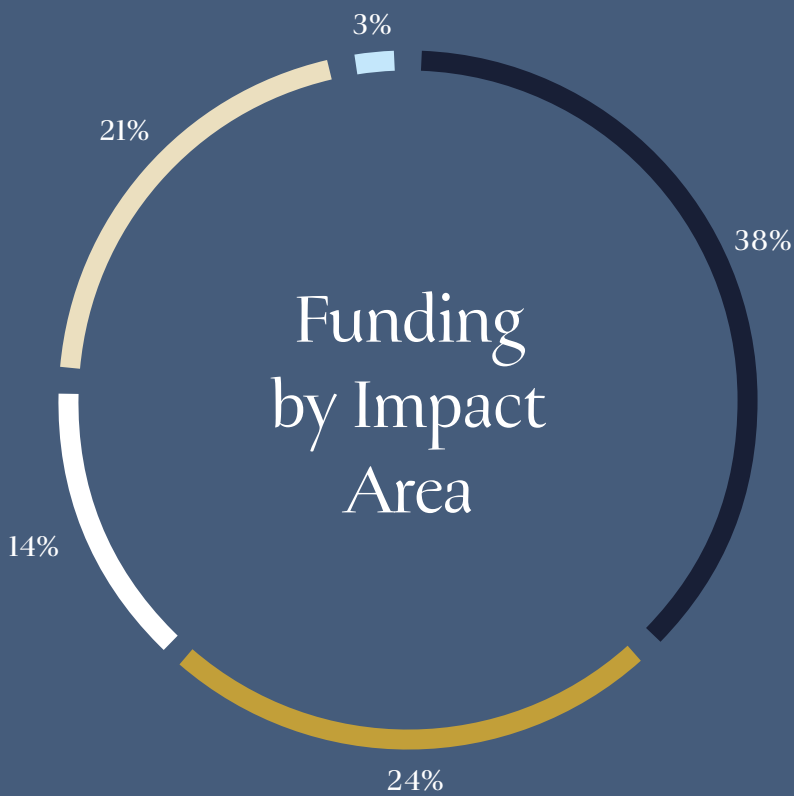
FFV contributed
\$1.62 for every
\$1 raised by Lodges

414

SCHOLARSHIPS / BURSARIES



- Impact Partner Grants
- Masonic Led Grants
- Community Grants
- Education Grants
- Benevolence



- Community
- Health
- Youth
- Education
- Benevolence

Donations on display



Wodonga Lodge – MND Victoria; Swan Hill Lodge – Fight Cancer Foundation; Australian Stroke Alliance; Bellarine Otway District Lodges – Feed Me Geelong; Past GM Anthony Bucca – Down Syndrome Victoria; Keysborough St Andrews Daylight Lodge – Explore Youth & Family Therapy; Gippsland Lakes Lodge – Gippsland Lakes Complete Health; Bank Place Lodge – My Room Children's Cancer Charity; King David Lodge – Smith Family Learning for Life; Whittlesea Masonic Lodge – SES; Geelong St Andrews in the South Lodge – Chronic Fatigue; King David Lodge – Smith Family Learning for Life; Lodge of Great Ocean Road – Torquay Improvement Association; Prostate Cancer Foundation Specialist Nurse Training; Baden Powell Lodge – Scouts Victoria, The Pines Campsite.



Swan Hill Lodge – A Good Kitchen; Melbourne St Clair Reunion Lodge – For Change Co; ANZAC Combined Lodges – Melbourne Legacy; Western District Lodges – Banksia Gardens Community Services (BGCS); Whittlesea Masonic Lodge – Foodshare; Bellarine Otway Peninsula – Foundation 61; Swan Hill Lodge – Chances for Children; Bellarine Otway District Freemasons – Down Syndrome Victoria; GM Peter Henshall – Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal; Bellarine Otway District – Geelong ME CFS Support Group; Baden Powell Lodge – Scouts Victoria, Camp Warrigal; Western District Lodges – BGCS Food Pantry; Baden Powell Lodge – Scout Foundation; Outtrust Lodge – Dolly Parton Imagination Library; Earl of Dunmore Lodge – Very Special Kids; East Gippsland Lodges – Gippsland Lakes Complete Health (dermatoscope); Good Friday Appeal; Maroondah District Lodges – Bayley House (evacuation chairs).



Early Years Empowerment Project

A child participates in the early learning program delivered by Ronald McDonald House Charities Victoria & Tasmania, with support from a FFV Community Grant.

Impact and Community Grants

4

IMPACT GRANTS

\$390,000

FUNDING

28

COMMUNITY GRANTS

\$705,325

FUNDING

Our Impact Grants enable the Foundation to initiate or support strategic projects that address systemic or emerging issues. These grants are often larger in scale and longer in duration, with the goal of creating long-term change.

The Community Grants program provides an opportunity for registered charities to access support for programs that align with our focus areas.

Guided by our mission and values, this funding empowers not-for-profits to deliver targeted initiatives that respond to community need.

In 2024, our focus areas were broad, including Community Development, Education and Health, Medical Research and Youth Development. These grants are designed to create meaningful change where it's needed most and to amplify the work of organisations already making a difference on the ground.

Eliminating cervical cancer in Victoria

In September 2021, Freemasons Foundation Victoria announced a four-year, \$1 million partnership with Cancer Council Victoria (CCV) to support their goal to eliminate cervical cancer - which is highly preventable through regular cervical screening and the HPV vaccination. The Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy aims to make Victoria the first place in the world to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem by 2035.

ORGANISATION

Cancer Council Victoria

LOCATION

Victoria, but with far-reaching impact

FUNDING

\$1 million over four years



Lockington & District Bush Nursing Centre staff at Elmore Field Days, promoting Cancer Victoria's Cervical Cancer Elimination outreach.

Having previously made significant contributions to men's and children's health, FFV saw this as a meaningful opportunity to support women's health.

CCV's strategy was guided by three priorities:

- Increasing cervical screening participation rates;
- Reducing patient level barriers to attending follow-up treatment (such as colposcopy procedures); and
- Increasing community confidence in HPV vaccination, especially in under-vaccinated communities.

Reaching the right audience in Victoria and the wider public health community

- 2.8M+ views of In Your Hands campaign video
- 500,000 parents & carers reached with HPV vaccination campaigns
- 500+ media mentions across Victoria
- 10 research projects
- 12 presentations at Australian and International conferences
- Three published journal articles

Evidence informed approaches

The program began by interviewing 725 Victorian women and a further 67 under-screened women from Arabic, Cantonese and Mandarin speaking communities. Using various research instruments, CCV uncovered the barriers, motivators and knowledge gaps around screening and self-collection, follow-up care and treatment. These insights informed campaigns and strategies – from multimedia campaigns to outreach activities. Over the years, CCV has repeated additional Victorian surveys to guide and monitor the strategy's activities and effectiveness.

“This research has provided invaluable insights to help us better understand the reasons people do or don't screen and what we can do to best inform, encourage and support Victorians to participate in regular cervical screening and stop cervical cancer before it starts.”

Alice Bastable

Cervical Cancer Elimination Manager

In Your Hands campaign

Development and delivery of the statewide In Your Hands campaign highlighted the option of self-collection for cervical screening. A formal evaluation showed increased knowledge and intention to screen among those who recalled the campaign and saw screening test numbers rise across Victoria. Increasing awareness of the HPV vaccination was another focus, especially targeting parents and carers of teens who have missed out on the vaccine due to COVID. These campaigns have encouraged them to check their child's vaccination status and get caught up.

Community champions build trust

CCV also targeted new migrant communities, recognising that young women arriving in Australia may not have been vaccinated in their home country and face increased barriers to cervical screening. To address this, they trained 33 cervical screening champions in the Arabic-speaking community and five in the Punjabi community. Delivery of this information by trusted peers ensures life-saving health information reaches communities in culturally safe and empowering ways.

Additional outreach activities helped reach thousands of people, including through Bush Nursing Centre cervical screening grants. More than 30 resources were developed for priority communities, including culturally safe resources to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The About Colposcopy video has garnered more than 46,000 views. These resources are now embedded at two major Melbourne colposcopy centres, improving patient experience. This multi-faceted partnership is delivering real impact - increasing awareness, improving access to screening and treatment, and promoting vaccination uptake across diverse communities. It has also been shared on a global stage and helped inform a national agenda to end cervical cancer. By supporting these strategic, evidence-based interventions, FFV is playing a pivotal role in Victoria's journey toward a cervical cancer-free future.





A welcoming table for all

At Christ Church Mission's Community Centre – affectionately known as St Kilda's Little Mission – the doors are always open to those seeking connection, nourishment and support.

Each week, around 700 people find a place at the Centre: some come for a meal, others to volunteer, and many simply for the warmth of community.

ORGANISATION

Christ Church Mission Inc

LOCATION

St Kilda

FUNDING

\$20,000

Thanks to a \$20,000 grant, the Centre has been able to significantly enhance its food program. The funding enabled the purchase of a new commercial freezer and a state-of-the-art Combi Oven – both game changers for the busy kitchen.

"This project has been an outstanding success," said the Centre team. "The new oven has completely transformed our kitchen operations. It allows us to cook efficiently, reliably and safely, enabling our volunteers to prepare meals on time and serve them hot and fresh. The commercial freezer has greatly expanded our storage capacity, reducing waste and ensuring we always have nutritious ingredients on hand."

The impact has been immediate and profound. Attendance at food projects has grown by 40%, with guests reporting positive feedback about both the variety and quality of meals. Stronger partnerships have been developed with local bakeries and delicatessens, boosting food rescue and community collaboration. Importantly, the Centre has also strengthened its referral pathways, connecting guests to health, housing and employment services, while encouraging many to give back as volunteers.

The Thursday night Open House dinners are more than a meal – they are a place of belonging, dignity and hope. With this vital support, the Centre is better equipped than ever to serve its diverse community well into the future.



Left to Right: Volunteers at Christ Church Mission Community Centre prepare meals for the Thursday night Open House dinner program. Volunteers proudly show off meals cooked in their newly installed oven. A volunteer celebrates the arrival of a new commercial freezer.



“ Thanks to this upgrade, we’re now better equipped to meet the growing demand for our service and to create a warm, welcoming environment for everyone who joins us.

On behalf of our team and the many individuals and families who rely on these meals, thank you to the Freemasons for your invaluable support.”

Penny Matthews
Manager

Building tomorrow's leaders in the Southern Grampians

The Southern Grampians region faces a common challenge experienced by many rural communities: young people leave to pursue study and work opportunities, unaware of the wealth of career pathways available locally. The Young Leaders Program, delivered by the Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network (GSGLLEN), is helping to change that story.

ORGANISATION

Glenelg & Southern Grampians
Local Learning & Employment
Network (GSGLLEN)

LOCATION

Southern Grampians

FUNDING

\$11,500



“ Without the support of industry and community the program would not be possible and the exposure to community groups such as the Freemasons is invaluable to our Young People in their connectiveness locally.”

Janelle Tooley

Program Coordinator

Across eight months, 11 students from Year 10 and 11 across four local secondary schools take part in a rich mix of immersive activities designed to build leadership and employability skills. The program not only helps young people gain clarity about their future pathways, but also increases their confidence, communication and teamwork skills, while forging stronger ties to their community.

The 2025 program launched in May at South West TAFE in Hamilton, with students introduced to mentors from a wide range of industries including local government, health, education, law, agriculture and business. The mentors provided guidance and hands-on experience, helping students connect their studies with real-world opportunities.

Throughout the year, the cohort participated in experiences designed to expand horizons. They tested their teamwork in a Masterchef Challenge, guided by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation; explored civic leadership with councillors and staff at Southern Grampians Shire Council; and discovered innovation at Sustainable Plastic Solutions.

A visit to Dunkeld Pastoral showcased how tourism, conservation and agriculture intertwine, while a cultural leadership day at the Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area gave students the chance to learn directly from Gunditjmarra rangers about traditional knowledge, history and the internationally recognised aquaculture systems of Budj Bim.

Each activity brought students closer to understanding the career possibilities in their own backyard. For local businesses, the program offered a chance to showcase industries and highlight employment opportunities, helping to address regional skill shortages. At the same time, mentors benefitted from the fresh perspectives and enthusiasm of the students they supported.

By investing in local youth, the Young Leaders Program strengthens the fabric of the Southern Grampians, cultivating a skilled, confident and community-minded workforce for the future.



Left: Young Leaders visit Southern Grampians Shire Council to explore local career pathways. Above: Students meet their mentors at the Young Leaders program launch at SW TAFE Hamilton Campus. Middle: Young Leaders explore leadership through a cultural lens at Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area, supported by Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation. Bottom: Students learn about council meetings during a visit to the Southern Grampians Shire Council chambers.

Livewire gives teens in crisis a voice and creative outlet

Freemason Foundation Victoria supported Starlight's Livewire program because it fills an important gap for young people and their families – supporting adolescents during times of significant challenge and change.

ORGANISATION

Starlight Children's Foundation

LOCATION

Royal Children's Hospital,
Melbourne

FUNDING

\$25,000





Livewire is Starlight Children Foundation's program dedicated to teenagers admitted to the Banksia Mental Health Unit at the Royal Children's Hospital – a 16-bed inpatient unit for young people aged 13 to 17 dealing with an acute mental health condition.

At Banksia, trained Livewire facilitators deliver creative workshops to help young people build confidence, express themselves and connect with peers. Livewire creates opportunities for teens to be teens – to make choices, have a sense of control over their own environment and develop relationships – important aspects of adolescent development that are generally limited in a hospital environment.

The impact of Livewire has been proven over many years. Since its introduction at Banksia in 2012, the program has significantly reduced the need for restrictive interventions such as "code greys" – emergency responses to threatening behaviour – with staff describing Livewire facilitators as an "integral part of our ward program."

FFV funding in 2025 has enabled Starlight's Livewire team to visit the Banksia Ward six days a week and introduce new initiatives that foster both practical skills and emotional wellbeing. In addition to activities such as music, film-making, art, writing, animation and gaming, young people have built confidence and a sense of accomplishment in cooking workshops, and found an outlet for authentic, messy, self-expression in the new "Graffiti Wall".

The workshops provide a positive outlet for expression, helping to keep young people engaged, calm and connected. For many, it has become a safe space for and a powerful way to find relief and release during difficult times.

“ Hospital staff see fewer escalations when Livewire is on the ward. Families often share how much lighter and more hopeful their child seems after a session.

That's the difference this support makes - not just for the young people going through some incredibly tough times, but also for their families and the whole hospital community.”

Angela Grant

Starlight's National Livewire Program Manager

Left: Livewire facilitators create safe spaces where teens can simply be teens through gaming and connection.

Above: Livewire art workshops give young people a positive outlet for creativity and self-expression.



“With more than 300 volunteers powering Big Group Hug’s work, FFV’s grant this year has strengthened the way we recruit and support our most precious resource, ensuring our team is equipped to meet the growing demand for essential aid for children and families.”

Bernadene Voss
CEO, Big Group Hug

In 2024, Big Group Hug received a Freemasons Foundation Victoria Community Grant of \$25,000 and a Masonic Grant of \$27,500 - in partnership with Elrona Lodge, Revival Lodge & Zodiac Knights Masters charity group - to build capacity of its volunteer workforce, reduce cybersecurity risks and boost digital efficiency.

Impact grants

Cancer Council Victoria

Elimination of Cervical Cancer Initiative
4th Instalment

\$250,000

Entertainment Assist

IMPACT 3-Year Plan
- Capacity Building Mental
Health and Wellbeing for
Entertainment Industry Workers
3rd Instalment

\$75,000

The Shrine

Shrine Young Ambassador Program
2nd Instalment

\$15,000

Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation Inc

Blue Ribbon Day
3rd Instalment

\$50,000

Community grants

(it's no) drama Ltd

Fish Creek

A community performance project for
people with disabilities and regional
arts workers

\$5,000

Australian Prostate Centre

North Melbourne

Purchase of clinical equipment
for day-to-day patient care and
equipment for ProSFIT exercise
program

\$46,704

Banksia Gardens Community Services

Broadmeadows

After-School program

\$50,000

Big Group Hug

Thomastown

Building the capacity of Big Group
Hug's volunteer workforce

\$25,000

Christ Church Mission Inc

St Kilda

New equipment for community food
relief program

\$20,000

Epworth Foundation (trading as Epworth Healthcare)

Richmond

Year 2 of the CONFIRM Trial: a better
way to manage low grade prostate
cancer

\$50,000

Feed One Feed All

Wantirna

Fit-out of additional kitchen for food
relief program

\$50,000

Find A Penny Foundation Inc

Hampton Park

Purchase of tilting pan to eliminate
lifting of heavy pots

\$20,000

Glenelg & Southern Grampians Local Learning & Employment Network (GSGLLEN)

Hamilton

Young leaders mentoring and
leadership development program for
secondary students in rural Victoria

\$11,500

Good360 Australia

Smithfield

Refurbished digital devices to
financially disadvantaged Victorian
residents

\$25,000

Heathcote Dementia Alliance Incorporated

Heathcote

Accessible walking trails located at
Reflections at Lake Eppalock

\$33,390

GRANTS LIST

Hope Bereavement Care

Geelong

Support After Suicide program

\$30,000

Inspirational Quilts

Watsonia North

Quilts for children entering medical facilities

\$5,667

Life Education Victoria

Eltham

Healthy Harold IT Upgrade: Enhancing the School Experience

\$10,000

M.H.S.N Australia

Mornington

Suicide prevention education

\$20,000

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Southbank

Regional Tour 2025

\$20,000

Mercy Health Foundation

Richmond

Outdoor exercise area in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Services at Werribee Mercy Hospital

\$25,000

Mums Supporting Families in Need

Seaford

Hampers for families in need

\$25,000

Outside the Locker Room Charity Ltd

Geelong

Mental health education sessions for regional and rural communities

\$25,000

Ronald McDonald House Charities Victoria & Tasmania

North Fitzroy

Continuation of the Early Years Empowerment Project

\$20,000

Rumbalara Football Netball Club

Shepparton

Algabonyah Driver Mentor program

\$20,000

Spinal Research Institute

Kew

Engage and Collaborate: a program for a healthier and stronger SCI community – Phase 3

\$48,860

St Vincent's Hospital (Melbourne) Limited

Fitzroy

The Nurse-Led Androgen Deprivation Therapy Clinic. Enabling men with metastatic prostate cancer to access new treatment options

\$17,284

Starlight Children's Foundation

Richmond

Livewire wellbeing program at Royal Children's Hospital

\$25,000

TeamSports4All

Hampton

Aiding kids in financial hardship to participate in club sport

\$20,000

The Project Rockit Foundation

Collingwood

Breaking Barriers: Empowering youth with civic and digital skills to tackle bullying

\$20,000

The Think Pink Foundation

Docklands

Think Pink Living Centre Physical Therapies Support Program

\$21,920

Youth Insearch

Sale

Empowering Latrobe's Youth: Mental health recovery through Youth Insearch weekend workshop

\$15,000

Freemasons Way – Reflections at Eppalock.

A feature of the walking trails along the banks of Lake Eppalock, where a nature-based sanctuary has been created by Heathcote Dementia Alliance with support from a FFV Community Grant.





“The Foundation's support of our multi-year Hub initiative makes it possible to drive forward collaborative, multi-disciplinary research that can truly make a positive impact in the lives of people with spinal cord injury.”

Dr Mario D'Cruz
Spinal Research Institute Director

With support from Freemasons Foundation Victoria, the Spinal Research Institute is expanding collaboration through its Engage and Collaborate program and Spinal Cord Research Hub - connecting researchers, clinicians, and people with lived experience to advance spinal cord injury care.

Masonic Grants

102

GRANTS

\$736,549

FUNDING

Freemasons are active
in every corner of Victoria,
with a long tradition of
service and philanthropy.

Lodge members are well-connected and well-informed, enabling them to identify where the gaps are, which issues matter most and who is doing good work on the ground. Through the Masonic Grants program, Freemasons Foundation Victoria partners with Lodges to enhance their fundraising efforts by awarding grants that support local charities and not-for-profit organisations.

This partnership model not only leverages the reach and insight of members but also ensures the Foundation can support projects right across Victoria. These Masonic Grants are a unique expression of Freemasonry in action - enabling local Lodges and Chapters to make a lasting difference in their communities. Grants, both big and small, can have a meaningful impact - what matters most is that they are connected to the needs of local communities.

Aligning with the Masonic values of charity and contributing to society, the program enables Freemasons to live their values in tangible ways, while being part of a broader philanthropic mission. Masonic Grants can support projects in the areas of Health & Medical Research, Community Development and Education/Youth Development Programs.





Social enterprise café - For Change Co

A Masonic Grant via Melbourne St Clair Reunion Lodge helped For Change Co deliver hospitality training for young people facing homelessness.

Northern District Lodges brimming with Good Samaritans

The Good Samaritan Inn provides safe, supportive accommodation for women and children escaping family and domestic violence.

Alongside refuge housing, the Inn offers longer-term self-contained apartments and tailored programs – from counselling to parenting support – to help families rebuild confidence, independence and a sense of self-worth.

ORGANISATION

Good Samaritan Inn

LOCATION

Banyule

LODGE / DISTRICT

17 Northern District Lodges

FUNDING

\$120,000

(\$24,000 Lodges / \$96,000 FFV)



“ This extraordinary gift is a powerful expression of your commitment to the community - and in particular, to the wellbeing of women and children, especially those who have experienced homelessness and family violence.”

Ms Patricia Bergin

Good Samaritan Inn Board Chair



Above: Members of Ivalda Masonic Lodge present a donation to Good Samaritan Inn CEO Felicity Rourke.

In a huge collaborative effort, 17 Lodges from across the Northern District joined forces to support The Good Samaritan Inn in the establishment of their new Banyule accommodation site. This safe and supportive facility will provide housing for 10 women and 20 children and young people, with a focus on promoting independence and healing over a 12-month period.

Together, the Foundation and Lodges contributed \$120,000 to the project. The Foundation's contribution recognised and amplified the extraordinary collaboration of the 17 Lodges, who united to mark the Ivalda Masonic Centre Centenary with this significant community investment.

The funds are supporting:

Essential whitegoods - equipping each apartment with \$50,000 to equip each apartment with an oven, rangehood, fridge/freezer and dishwasher, giving every family the resources to live independently and rebuild their lives in comfort and security.

Counselling services - delivering individual and group counselling, including 10 x 60-minute sessions for 15 women, and 32 parenting group sessions for 20 women over two years. These programs are critical therapeutic interventions for women recovering from the trauma of family violence.

Permanent children's play equipment - installation of an accessible swing set – providing safe play opportunities that support children's healing, joy and connection with their mothers.

At the Ivalda Masonic Centre Grand Re-Opening on 29 May 2025, the cheque was presented to Good Samaritan Inn CEO Felicity Rourke. This project stands as a testament to the power of collaboration - with the Foundation and Northern District Lodges uniting to create a safe, supportive, and healing environment for women and children escaping family violence.

The Good Samaritan Inn Banyule project was made possible thanks to the generosity and collaboration of 17 Lodges, Chapters, and Orders from across the Northern District, who joined with FFV to contribute to this important community initiative:

- The Army Lodge No. 478
- Ivanhoe Lodge No. 584
- Weston Street United Lodge No. 94
- Admiral Collingwood Lodge No. 13
- Albert Victor Lodge No. 117
- Antient York Lodge No. 80
- Brunswick United Lodge No. 924
- Centenary H.R.A. Chapter No. 52
- Diamond Valley Lodge No. 252
- Fairfield Lodge No. 254
- Lord Northcote Lodge No. 191
- Ivanhoe Mark Master Masons Lodge No. 58
- Metropolis Lodge No. 895
- Revival Lodge No. 926
- Samaritan Lodge No. 380
- Sunbury Macedon Ranges Lodge No. 97
- Whittlesea Lodge No. 256



Paws for comfort

When a child is seriously ill, the whole family feels the impact.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria supported the Ronald McDonald House Pet Therapy Program, harnessing the healing power of animals to comfort sick children and ease the stress on families.

ORGANISATION

Ronald McDonald House
Victoria & Tasmania

LOCATION

RMH Monash, Parkville & North
Fitzroy

LODGE / DISTRICT

Gregorios Lodge

FUNDING

\$11,600
(\$2,320 Gregorios Lodge / \$9,280 FFV)





Above: Top to bottom - Pet Therapy dogs Pippa, Tolly and Matilda.
Left: Members of Gregorios Lodge, FFV, and the Pet Therapy team pose with gentle giant Tolly at Ronald McDonald House Parkville. L-R: Carlos Quiroga, Gregorios Lodge, FFV Chairman Garry James, Nicole Brown RMHC VIC & TAS, Hillel Benedykt, Sue Benedykt, Theresa Mangion, Linda Drezins Lort Smith Pet Therapy Program Coordinator and Ron Patterson, Gregorios Lodge.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Victoria & Tasmania (RMHC VIC & TAS) exists to ease the burden of illness by providing a welcoming "home-away-from-home", close to major paediatric hospitals. Families are offered free accommodation, meals, laundry facilities, support services and, just as importantly, opportunities to connect with others facing similar challenges.

With support from FFV and Gregorios Lodge, RMHC introduced a Pet Therapy Program for families staying at its Victorian Houses. Delivered in partnership with the Lort Smith Pet Therapy service, the program offers 24 sessions across nine months, where trained volunteers and their therapy dogs spend time with children and parents.

The benefits of the human-animal bond go far beyond companionship. Research shows that interacting with therapy dogs can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, improve mood and help families feel more resilient and connected. For children missing their own pets or feeling anxious about hospital treatment, these visits provide moments of joy and calm.

Families and staff have spoken about the positive impact, such as the animals' presence giving their child something to look forward to and de-stress with upon returning from treatment at hospital.

With initiatives like Pet Therapy, RMHC VIC & TAS continues to create safe, supportive spaces for families navigating some of their toughest times.

“ With Pet Therapy, the Gregorios Lodge community have a rare opportunity to see the results of our contribution in action. The joy on the faces of children who are unwell, the smiles that brighten their day, and the comfort that the Therapy dogs bring are unforgettable.

These moments remind us that our support goes beyond numbers on a page or money deposited into an account-it brings real, immediate happiness to people who need it most.”

Carlos Quiroga WM
Gregorios Lodge

Communication upgrades boost Cohuna CFA Brigade

When an emergency strikes, every second counts. Thanks to a grant supported by Cohuna Masonic Lodge and FFV, the Cohuna CFA Brigade will benefit from vital communication upgrades to help keep the community safer.

ORGANISATION

Cohuna CFA Brigade

LOCATION

Cohuna, Victoria (regional area, responding up to 60km away)

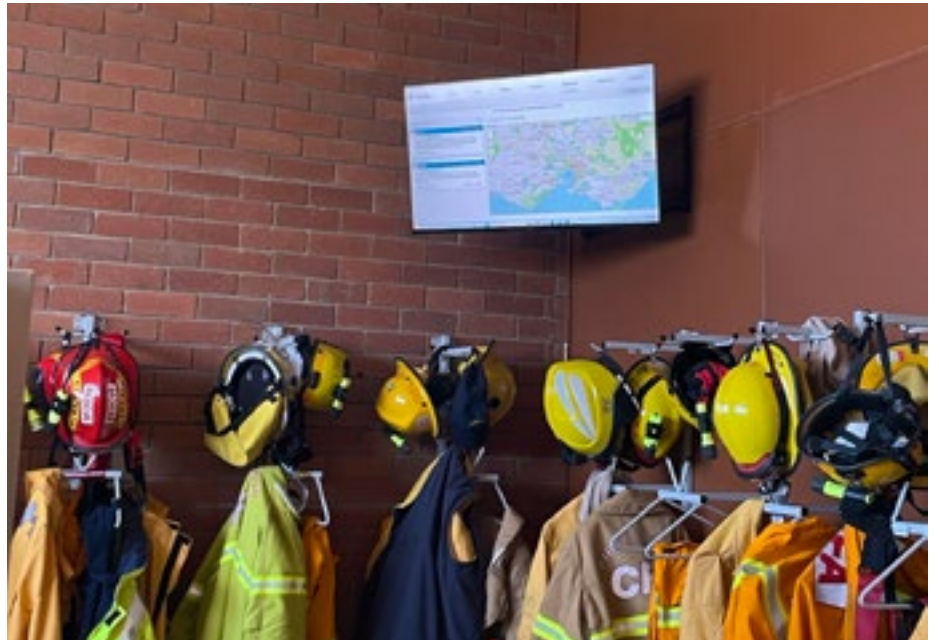
LODGE / DISTRICT

Cohuna Masonic Lodge

FUNDING

\$3,945 (\$800 Lodge / \$3,145 FFV)





“ Every dollar given to the Brigade, beyond government support, helps us enhance our equipment and training.”

Captain Matthew Trigg
Cohuna Fire Brigade

The grant contributed to the purchase of wiring and associated hardware to support five new television monitors, strategically placed throughout the station as advised by CFA experts.

Each monitor will be connected with data and coax cabling, allowing real-time information to flow directly from CFA paging systems to brigade volunteers. This kind of communications upgrade isn't covered by the Government's Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program, which is why community support through local Freemasons is so valuable in making it possible.

For a rescue-accredited brigade that responded to more than 120 emergency events in 2024, this upgrade is a game changer. The live feed will give Cohuna CFA members critical details about each emergency, including firefighter attendance, appliance requests, patient and asset observations, and navigation information.

Importantly, the new system will also strengthen the Brigade's training environment. With CFA volunteers required to continually upskill, the addition of live information points will create more effective opportunities for learning and preparation.

The Cohuna CFA Brigade is made up entirely of volunteers - locals who not only serve in times of emergency but also contribute in countless ways to community life. Their role is particularly vital in this regional area, where the brigade often responds to rescues as far as 60km from town.

This project is a true example of Freemasonry at work in the community. The local Lodges identified an urgent local need and, together with the Foundation, helped make it possible. The result is a safer, stronger Cohuna - and a Brigade better equipped to protect lives.

Left: Cohuna CFA Brigade and Cohuna Masonic Lodge members pose with the cheque for the newspaper. Credit: Lloyd Polkinghorne.
Above: Cohuna CFA Brigade members in action during a training exercise; One of the new monitors providing updates to the Brigade.

Masonic grants

City of Traralgon Band

Traralgon Band Instruments

Argyle Lodge and Traralgon Lodge

\$2,960

Paynesville RSL Sub-branch

2025 Marsh/Tierney Scholarship

Argyle Lodge, Morwell Lodge,

Traralgon Lodge

\$5,600

The Scout Association of Australia - Victorian Branch

Scouts Victoria - Albert Park

Scouts

Baden Powell Lodge

\$5,112

The Scout Association of Australia - Victorian Branch

Scouts Victoria - Camp Warringal

Baden Powell Lodge

\$4,224

The Scout Association of Australia - Victorian Branch

Scouts Victoria - The Pines

Campsite

Baden Powell Lodge

\$663

Lyme Disease Association

Lyme Awareness Video

Bairnsdale Chapter, United Lodge of North Gippsland, Gippsland Lake Lodge, Mitchell River Lodge, Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge, Bairnsdale Mark Lodge, McMillan Royal and Select Masters, Bairnsdale Conclave & Darrell Traplin

\$10,000

My Room Children's Cancer Charity

My Room Children's Cancer Charity

Bank Place

\$9,000

Freemasons Community Relief

Food Parcels for the Needy

Bayside Masonic Lodges

\$10,000

Geelong Food Relief - Christmas Appeal

Annual Christmas Food Drive

Bellarine Otway District Lodges

\$8,000

Foundation Learning Centre Inc

Student Wellbeing Resources

Berwick Balcara Lodge

\$2,859

Eastern Palliative Care

Mobile Duress Alarms

Blackburn United Lodge

\$10,000

Gather My Lodge

Gather My Lodge

Brighton Lodge

\$10,000

Foodbank

Emergency Food Support

Burgundy Ladies Group

\$2,500

The Scout Association of Australia - Victorian Branch

Scouts Victoria - Rochester Scout Group

Campaspe Valley Lodge

\$500

Gannawarra Memorial Toy Run-Bendigo Diocesan Trusts

Gannawarra Memorial Toy Run

Cohuna Masonic Lodge

\$4,500

Cohuna District Hospital

Scholarships to Commence Diploma in Nursing

Cohuna Masonic Lodge

\$4,000

Cohuna Fire Brigade

Communication Upgrades

Cohuna Masonic Lodge

\$3,145

Down Syndrome Association of Victoria

Supporting the Geelong Family Network within Down Syndrome Victoria

Cosmopolitan Lodge

\$30,000

Banksia gardens

Pantry

Derrimut Daylight Lodge, Maritime Lodge, Williamstown Lodge, Altona Lodge, Melton Lodge, City of Footscray Whyndham Lodge, Doubtable Galla Lodge, Glenroy Kensington Lodge, Lord Carrington Lodge, Sunshine Masonic Centre, Williamstown Masonic Centres

\$56,000



Big Group Hug Ltd

Streamlining and Safeguarding
Volunteers: Improving Volunteer
Safety and Efficiency

Elrona Lodge, Revival Lodge, Zodiac
Knights Masters Charity Group

\$19,500

RCH Good Friday Appeal

Good Friday Appeal
Freemasons Foundation Victoria Board

\$25,000

Very Special Kids

Hospice Accommodation
Freemasons Foundation Victoria Board

\$11,250

Corey Maric Youth Support Foundation

Corey Maric Youth Support
Foundation

Gardenvale Mobility Lodge

\$4,000

Geelong Coast Guard

Rescue Dummy

Geelong Lodge of Unity & Prudence
Lodge, Aquinas Lodge

\$1,910

Young Ostomates United Incorporated

Stoma Bears
Gippsland Forest Lodge

\$1,500

Gippsland Lakes Complete Health

Skin Cancer Scanning Tool
Gippsland Lakes Lodge

\$3,725

Paynesville Neighbourhood House

Meals for the Needy 2024
Gippsland Lakes Lodge, Bairnsdale
Daylight Lodge and Union Lodge of
North Gippsland

\$2,000

Banksia Gardens

Broady Bike Project
Grand Master's Discretion

\$2,000

Camp Quality

Grand Master's Discretion

\$5,000

Down Syndrome

Grand Master's Discretion

\$10,000

MCM Sleep At The 'G

MCM's Youth Housing Initiative (YHI)
Grand Master's Discretion

\$15,000

Melbourne Legacy

Grand Master's Discretion

\$1,500

RCH Good Friday Appeal

The Royal Children's Hospital
Melbourne

Grand Master's Discretion

\$15,000

Soldier On

Grand Master's Discretion

\$5,000

Fight Parkinsons

Grand Master of United Grand Lodge
of Mark Master Masons

\$1,500

Interchange Outer East

Grand Master of United Grand Lodge
of Mark Master Masons

\$500

Leukaemia Foundation

Grand Master of United Grand Lodge
of Mark Master Masons

\$1,500

Ronald McDonald House Charities Vic & Tas

Pet Therapy 2025
Gregorios Lodge

\$9,280

Cottage by the Sea

Cottage by the Sea Donation

Ivanhoe Lodge

\$4,000

Blue Ribbon Foundation

SEMSC Blue Ribbon Foundation
Fundraiser Dinner

Keysborough Lodge (South Eastern
Masonic Social Club)

\$2,300

Explore Youth & Family Therapy Inc

Sailing On - Bush Adventure Therapy
(BAT) program

Keysborough St Andrews Daylight
Lodge

\$2,500

Albury Wodonga Cancer Research Trust

Mobile Donation Kiosk
Lodge Belvoir

\$3,340

National Council of Jewish Women (Victoria)

Connect
Lodge Fraternal

\$4,000

Hatzolah

Emergency Medic Intake Program
Lodge Fraternal

\$4,000

Very Special Kids

Very Special Ride
Lodge Fraternal

\$1,250

NextSense

Cochlear Bears
Lodge of Concentration

\$600

Interchange Outer East

Interchange Outer East Sibling
Program

Lodge of Good Companions,
Monash Lodge, Lodge of Rapport,
Canterbury Lodge

\$20,600

Anglesea & Aireys Inlet Foodlink

Community Food Aid
Lodge of Great Ocean Road

\$4,000



“The Gather My Lodge service is about more than gardening. It provides a connection for Masonic widows and supports the needy and vulnerable in the community – and we’ve touched the hearts of many.

It’s a meaningful way to show care, extend support and ensure those in need remain connected to our community. It’s also a great way for the lodge members and families to come together.”

Bro Kevin Richardson PM
GML Coordinator, Brighton District Lodge

Freemasons Foundation Victoria has supported the Gather My Lodge initiative with \$17,000 in grants since 2023 to purchase equipment and set up trailers.

GRANTS LIST

Feed Me Incorporated

Feed Me

Lodge of Great Ocean Road

\$4,000

Torquay Food Aid Inc

Food Aid

Lodge of Great Ocean Road

\$4,000

Torquay Improvement Association

Security Cameras Purchase and Installation

Lodge of Great Ocean Road

\$2,000

Foundation Learning Centre Inc

Young Parents Education Program

Lodge of Progress

\$3,000

Monash Health Foundation

Supporting Casey Hospital

Lodge of Progress

\$1,350

Think Pink Foundation

Support Groups at the Living Centre

Lodge of Progress

\$4,007

Victorian Brotherhood

Christmas Family Support Initiative

Lodge of Progress

\$500

Bayley House

Evacuation Chairs

Lodge of Quest, Lodge of EOS,

Lodge of Australia Felix,

Lodge of Concentration

\$8,885

Soldier On

Health and Wellbeing Team

Lodge of Quest, Lodge of EOS,

Lodge of the Golden Fleece, Lodge

Amalthea, Bank Place Lodge

\$10,000

Next Step Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Inc

The Next Step's New Gym

Lord Northcote Lodge

\$9,626

For Change Co Ltd

Kitchen fit out

Melbourne St Clair Reunion Lodge

\$10,000

Kehilat Nitzan

Tikun Olam Food Van Program

Middle Park Lodge

\$3,000

Think Pink Foundation

Supporting Blokes Program

Middle Park Lodge

\$5,000

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

Victorian Specialist Support Nurses

Mitchell River Lodge PDGM,

Grand Chapter Victoria PGZ, Grand

Mark Victoria Grand Chaplain,

Ark Mariners Past Commander,

Grand Royal and Select Masters

Victoria PGM, OSM Worthy Supreme

Ruler, Allied Masonic Degrees - Darius

JW, Royal Order of Scotland - Chaplain

\$10,000

Think Pink Foundation

Wigs for Breast Cancer Patients

Monash Gully District and Lodge of

Good Companions

\$15,000

Hotham Mission

Hotham Mission Fundraising

North Melbourne Lodge

\$10,000

Arthur Grassby Scholarship

2025 Kokoda Trek

Orbost Lodge, Union Lodge

of Gippsland, Bairnsdale Daylight

Lodge, Gippsland Lakes Lodge

\$11,500

Gippsland Southern Health Services

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Outtrim Lodge

\$4,000

Heywood & District Secondary College

Standing Tall

Portland Lodge

\$4,000

Portland Citizens Brass Band Inc

Winter Jackets

Portland Lodge

\$1,000

Portland Secondary College School Bursary Fund

Disadvantaged Students Assistance

Portland Lodge

\$800

Portland Secondary College Youth Re-Engagement

Youth Re-Engagement Sports Area

Portland Lodge

\$4,000

TS Henty Naval Reserve Cadets

TS Henty Australian Navy Cadets

Portland Lodge

\$1,000

UCA Portland Congregation

Food 4 Thought Program

Portland Lodge

\$2,000

United Way Glenelg

Winter Care Packages

Portland Lodge

\$2,000

Playgroup Victoria

Rutherglen Playgroup Equipment

Rutherglen Lodge

\$2,000

GRANTS LIST

Joseph's Corner

Joseph's Corner Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

SEAVIC Lodge

\$3,000

Think Pink Foundation

Think Pink Ladies in the South Long Term Charity

SEAVIC Lodge

\$7,000

Paynesville RSL Sub-Branch

Colin Sinclair Scholarship - Kokoda Trek

Sir John Quick Lodge & Campaspe Valley Lodge

\$5,000

Springvale Benevolent Society

Christmas Hamper Program

Springvale Lodge

\$7,000

Emerge Australia

Rent Assistance

St Andrews in the South

\$320

Royal South Street Society

Freemasons Victoria Festival of Schools Instrumental Music

St Johns Lodge

\$10,000

Mount Clear College Breakfast Program

Support to College Breakfast Program

Sturt Buninyong United

\$250

Fight Cancer Foundation

Cancer Back on Track

Swan Hill Lodge

\$1,600

Chances for Children

Chances for Children

Swan Hill Lodge

\$4,000

St Vincent de Paul Society

A Good Kitchen

Swan Hill Lodge

\$1,600

Good Samaritan Inn Ltd

Support to Women and Children's Shelter

The Army Lodge, Ivanhoe Lodge, Weston Street United Lodge, Admiral Collingwood Lodge, Albert Victor Lodge, Antient York Lodge, Brunswick United Lodge, Centenary H.R.A Chapter, Diamond Valley Lodge, Elrona Lodge, Fairfield Lodge, Lord Northcote Lodge, Ivanhoe Mark Master Masons Lodge, Metropolis Lodge, Revival Lodge, Samaritan Lodge, Sunbury Macedon Ranges Lodge and Whittlesea Lodge

\$96,000



Geelong Coast Guard team with 'Ruth Lee' rescue dummy, funded by FFV, Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence, and Aquinas Lodge. Pictured are Riley Ellett, Dave Webb and Rod MacCormack from U&P Lodge with David McGowan (Commander) and Tony Warren (Deputy Commander) of Geelong Coast Guard at St. Helens Boat ramp.





Kevin Richardson and members of the Brighton Lodge-led, volunteer-run Gather My Crew gardening service for Masonic widows and community members in need.

Melbourne Legacy

Financial Literacy Program

The Army Lodge, Victorian Nave and
Military Lodge, United Service Lodge,
Lodge of Honour, Lodge Devotion

\$22,000

Mackillop Family Services

Emergency Medic Intake Program

The Clifton Hill Lodge

\$1,902

Very Special Kids

VSK - Lord Somers Camp

The Earl of Dunmore Lodge

\$8,000

Smith Family

The Learning for Life program

The King David Lodge

\$2,000

Specialist Hoops

Play23 & Tournaments for players
with disabilities

The Sunshine Wisdom Lodge

\$3,000

Joseph's Corner

Client Sponsorship request to
Sunshine Wisdom Lodge

The Sunshine Wisdom Lodge

\$7,290

Melbourne City Mission

End Youth Homelessness

United Grand Lodge Victoria

\$10,000

Lifeline Central Victoria & Mallee

Lifeline Remote Phone Hub Mildura

United Memorial and Merbein Lodge

\$1,250

Mildura Legacy Club

Servicing air conditioners, providing
wood & installing security lighting

United Memorial and Merbein Lodge

\$4,650

The Alfred Foundation

Alfred P.A.R.T.Y. support

United Services Lodge

\$2,002

Cystic Fibrosis

Breathe Easy Dandenong 24

United Services Lodge

\$7,998

Shepparton Foodshare

Donation to Foodshare

Valley Holy Royal Arch Chapter

\$600

Integra Service Dogs Australia Ltd

Service Assistance Dog

Victorian Naval & Military Lodge

\$5,000

Wangaratta RSL

Bob Iskov Kokoda Scholarship

Wangaratta Lodge of St John

\$1,500

Victoria State Emergency Service Whittlesea Unit

Chainsaw purchase

Whittlesea Lodge

\$2,100

Whittlesea State Emergency Service

Incident Response Trailer purchase

Whittlesea Lodge, The Diamond Valley
Lodge, Melbourne St Clair Reunion
Lodge, Gregorios Lodge

\$20,000

Motor Neurone Disease Association of Victoria

MND Victoria's Vital Delivery Service -
Regional Victoria

Wodonga Lodge

\$8,000



2025 Scholarship Presentations

Scholarship recipients from across Victoria gather to celebrate at Freemasons Victoria in April and May.

Individual Support

At Freemasons Foundation Victoria, we believe in the power of individual opportunity and the importance of support when it's needed most.

Education – investing in future leaders

We're proud to invest in the next generation through a range of education initiatives - supporting local Lodge-led scholarships, Foundation-funded student awards, and tertiary support scholarships that help Victorian students achieve their goals and overcome financial barriers to education.

Benevolence – support through hardship

Our Benevolence program provides compassionate, confidential support to Victorian Freemasons and their families experiencing financial hardship. Up to \$15,000 per individual per year can be provided, based on demonstrated need. This assistance offers relief and helps them navigate difficult times with dignity.

83	\$91,600
SECONDARY	FUNDING
31	\$231,500
TERTIARY	FUNDING
15	\$35,150
BURSARIES	FUNDING
11	\$64,500
THIRD PARTY SCHOLARSHIPS	FUNDING
274	\$116,010
LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS	FUNDING



Scholarships and Tertiary Support



FFV's Scholarships and Bursaries support young people to pursue education and build a brighter future - regardless of their circumstances.

This annual program continues the 113 year legacy of supporting education through a Foundation-run scholarship program. Awards are available for students in Years 7–12, as well as those entering their first year of tertiary education at a Victorian university or TAFE.

FFV also awards Tertiary Support Scholarships of up to \$3,000 to students undertaking their first tertiary course or continuing studies related to their original course at a Victorian university or TAFE. These scholarships are designed to ease financial pressure and remove barriers to success, so students can focus on learning and growth.

In April and May 2025, FFV hosted two Scholarship Presentation Evenings, bringing together more than 270 guests to celebrate the achievements of 114 remarkable students. Families, friends and supporters travelled from across the state to share in the occasion.

The evenings provided more than recognition; they were an opportunity to inspire. Guests heard from FFV Chairman Garry James, Freemasons Victoria Grand Master Peter Henshall, Deputy Grand Master Myles King OAM and FFV CEO Sandra Jacobs. Their words of encouragement and wisdom will stay with students as they embark on the next stage of their journeys.

2024 scholarship recipient Bianca Pollard shared her story at the events too, highlighting the real impact of the program. Catering was provided by the talented team at Common Bean Café from Banksia Gardens Community Services, showcasing another wonderful community partnership.

For FFV, these scholarships are more than simply financial assistance, they are a commitment to fostering talent, perseverance and ambition. More than a century since the first Freemasons scholarship was awarded, this intention remains as strong as ever.

Above: Bianca Pollard, the 2024 FFV Scholarship Recipient, speaking to the audience

Ethan finds balance and focus thanks to scholarship

“Knowing I have three years of support behind me has boosted my confidence. It’s reassuring to know I can manage uni, work, and life without my savings dwindling away.”



At just 15, Ethan Jesse began his first casual job at McDonald’s, quickly taking on a leadership role as a Crew Coach. His early experience sparked a passion for the food industry, motivated by his father’s challenges as a coeliac, and inspired his goal to make gluten-free products more accessible and affordable. Through

determination, he balanced work, school, and leadership roles. He mentored younger students in maths, served as a Mentor Leader at Blackburn High School, and helped coordinate fundraisers for the Fred Hollows Foundation. Even after a serious concussion during Year 12 football, he stayed focused on recovery and study, achieving an ATAR above his goal. Alongside his school commitments, he worked in multiple casual roles, including Woolworths and ProQuest, demonstrating a strong work ethic.

Now studying a Bachelor of Commerce and Arts at Monash University, Ethan is exploring future pathways, from owning a business to working in global commerce. While adjusting to the greater study load has been challenging, he is proud of his first-semester results and is continuing to find his balance between study, work and home life.

The Freemasons Foundation Victoria scholarship has helped him manage additional costs like fuel and transport and allowed him to focus on his degree and long-term ambition of improving food options for people with dietary needs.

Rachel’s journey into Medical Imaging

“I wouldn’t have been able to be so successful in my first year without it. I’m immensely grateful for the Freemasons’ support”



Rachel Barry’s path to university has been shaped by extraordinary resilience. After losing her father, a Freemason, to cancer in 2020 and supporting both him and her brother through serious illness, Rachel faced immense challenges during her schooling. Despite the circumstances, she excelled academically - earning

Academic Excellence awards in Chemistry and English, and placing in the top 5% of the state for Chemistry.

Rachel’s early exposure to MRIs through family illness sparked a fascination, and with a strong track record of excelling in STEM subjects, she is now thriving in her first year of a Bachelor of Medical Radiations (Medical Imaging) at RMIT Bundoora. She achieved high distinctions across all subjects in her first semester, including a perfect score on a physics test, and found clinical placement a highlight that reinforced her passion for patient care and imaging technology.

The Freemasons Foundation Victoria Tertiary Scholarship has eased financial pressures and stress, enabling Rachel to focus on her studies, engage in university life and plan for the future, including pursuing sonography after her degree.

Lodge Education Program

274

SCHOLARSHIPS

41

GRANTS

\$116,010

AWARDS VALUE

Freemasons Foundation Victoria supports Victorian Lodges with their local scholarship and award programs to encourage and support students to continue on their education pathway. In partnership with local schools, scholarships are awarded on academic achievement or financial need.



MASONIC EDUCATION GRANTS

Supporting students to dream big

SCHOOL

Bairnsdale Secondary College

LOCATION

East Gippsland

LODGE / DISTRICT

Mitchell River Lodge No.742

GRANT

\$6,000 (\$3,000 Lodge / \$3,000 FFV)

Since 2015, Mitchell River Lodge has proudly supported the next generation of leaders in East Gippsland through its annual scholarship program at Bairnsdale Secondary College. With the support of Freemasons Foundation Victoria, the Lodge awards two scholarships each year to Year 12 students continuing straight on to tertiary education.

On 5 February 2025, Lodge representatives presented scholarships to two remarkable students: Naomey Gillies, who has been accepted into the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, to study a Bachelor of Arts/ Science majoring in Archaeology and Zoology; and Sophie Hoxley, who will attend the University of Melbourne to study Arts with a major in History.

The recipients are selected not only for their academic performance and financial need, but also for demonstrating positive attitudes such as resilience, co-operation, communication, honesty, and strong relationships with peers and staff. These values reflect the spirit of the award, which carries with it the legacy of a bequest from a Worshipful Brother of the Lodge.

By combining local knowledge with philanthropic support, the scholarships deliver a message to Bairnsdale students that their community believes in their potential.

Above L-R: Naomey Gillies, Sophie Hoxley, Robert Hills - Mitchell River Lodge Treasurer, Charles de Rochefort - Mitchell River Lodge Secretary.

Third Party Higher Education Scholarships

11

SCHOLARSHIPS

\$64,500

VALUE

Freemasons Foundation Victoria has agreements with nine Victorian Tertiary Institutions in Victoria, enabling us to expand the reach of our scholarship initiative.

These scholarships are awarded for equity and achievement and to foster a pipeline of talented young people and support future leaders across a range of disciplines, including agriculture, music and technology.

“ The financial assistance not only eased my educational expenses but also gave me the confidence to focus on my studies without added stress. This support has played a vital role in helping me work toward my goal of becoming a lawyer, and I truly appreciate the investment in my future.”

Eva
Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws
Deakin University



INVESTING IN POTENTIAL

The Freemasons Foundation Scholarship at Deakin University supports students to pursue their education and future aspirations, providing vital assistance to students facing the many demands of tertiary study.

One recipient, Eva, recently completed their studies at Deakin and shared that the scholarship had a profound impact on their journey. Eva has now joined the workforce while undertaking a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, taking the next step towards a rewarding career.

Federation University
Agricultural Award

La Trobe University
Agricultural Award

Marcus Oldham College
Agricultural Award

Australian Catholic University
Freemasons Foundation
Victoria Scholarship

RMIT
Freemasons Foundation
Victoria Scholarship

Deakin University
Freemasons Foundation
Scholarship

Swinburne University
Freemasons Foundation
Victoria Scholarship

Swinburne University
David Johnson Freemasons
Foundation Scholarship

Monash University
Freemasons Foundation Victoria
Music Scholarship

Monash University
Eleizer Benedykt
Music Scholarship

Monash University
John Dann Music Scholarship
(Henty Lodge)



“The scholarship has helped support my studies as well as my future transition to Uni with school supplies and application fees. It has also supported my Year 12 workload as I have been able to concentrate on my studies instead of trying to work more hours to save for Uni.”

Jackson Whelan

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Year 12 Scholarship recipient

“This scholarship has provided me with a sense of stability for my future schooling. The funds have gone towards my school art camp that will happen later in 2025. It has also assisted with things such as school materials and school-based singing lessons.”

Madeline Whelan

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Year 10 Scholarship recipient

Masonic Education

All Nations Lodge

Clunes Primary School

\$200

Allara Lodge

Boneo Primary School

Eastbourne Primary School

Rosebud Primary School

Rye Primary School

Dromana Primary School

Tootgarook Primary School

\$2,000

Beechworth Lodge of St John

Beechworth Secondary College

\$1,000

Benambra Lodge

Tallangatta College

Tallangatta Primary School

St Michael's Primary School

\$2,400

Bogong Lodge

Beechworth Secondary College

\$1,600

Campaspe Valley Lodge

Moama Grammar

\$500

Carisbrook Lodge

Carisbrook Primary

\$250

Cosmopolitan Lodge

Junior Scholarship Awards for 14

Primary School Schools on the

Bellarine Peninsula

\$1,400

Gippsland Forest

Gippsland Community College

\$1,500

Gippsland Lakes Lodge, Union Lodge, Bairnsdale Daylight and Orbost Lodge

St Brendans Primary School

Lakes Entrance Primary School

Lakes Entrance Secondary College

Nungurner Primary School

Nicholson Primary School

Swan Reach Primary School

Metung Primary School

Tambo Upper Primary School

Toorloo Arm Primary School

Mallacoota P-12 College

Cann River P-12 College

Orobost P-12 College

Orbost Primary School

Orbost Nth Primary School

Newmerella Primary School

Marlo Primary School

St Josephs Primary School

Lindenow Primary School

Bruthen Primary School

Payensville Primary School

Eagle Point Primary School

Lucknow Primary School

Clifton Creek Primary School

Lindenow Sth Primary School

Buchan Primary School

Bairnsdale West Primary School

Bairnsdale 754 Primary School

Wild Cherry Primary School

Bairnsdale Secondary College

Nagle College

\$33,000

Guiding Star Lodge

Sebstopol State School

\$500

Keysborough St Andrews Daylight Lodge

Mordialloc Beach Primary School

\$200

Lara Lodge

Lara Secondary College

\$1,000

Leura Lodge

Camperdown College

Cobden Technical College

Derrinallum College

Lismore Primary School

\$1,250

Lodge Belvoir

Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod

\$500

Lodge Belvoir

Wodonga Middle Years College

- Huon

Wodonga Senior Secondary College

Wodonga Catholic College

Wodonga Middle Years College

- Felltiber

\$3,000

Lodge of Concentration

Norwood Secondary College

\$1,000

GRANTS LIST

Lodge of Great Ocean Road

Aireys Inlet Primary School
Anglesea Primary School
Bellbrae Primary School
Lisieux Catholic Primary School
Lorne P-12 College
St Therese Catholic Primary School
Torquay Coast Primary School
Torquay College
\$2,560

Lodge of Unity

Bright P-12 College
\$1,000

Mitchell River

Bairnsdale Secondary College
\$3,000

Mornington Lodge

Mornington Secondary College
\$4,000

Peace and Loyalty Lodge

Rowville Schools
\$10,000

Portland Masonic Lodge

Heywood & District Secondary College
\$1,000

Portland Masonic Lodge

Heywood & District Secondary College
\$125

Portland Masonic Lodge

Heywood & District Secondary College
\$1,000

Portland Masonic Lodge

Heywood & District Secondary College
\$1,000

Portland Masonic Lodge

Heywood Consolidated School
\$125

Portland Masonic Lodge

Heywood Consolidated School
\$1,000

Rosebank Lodge

Beeac Primary School
\$2,000

Rupertswood Numurkah Lodge

Numurkah Secondary College
\$1,500

Rutherglen Lodge

Local High School Bursaries
\$700

Southern Cross Lodge

Maldon Primary School
Other schools in district
\$2,000

St George Lodge

Avoca Primary School
Campbells Creek Primary School
Carisbrook Primary School
Castlemaine Primary School
Clunes Primary School
Dunolly Primary School
Inglewood Primary School
Mooroolbark Early Childhood Education Centre
Moonambel Primary School
Newstead Primary School
St Augustines Primary School
Talbot Primary School
Timor Primary School
Wedderburn Primary School
Winters Flat Primary School
Carisbrook Primary School
Harcourt Valley Primary School
\$3,450



Left: FFV CEO Sandra Jacobs addresses recipients and guests at a Scholarship Presentation evening.



Sturt Buninyong United

Mt Clear College

\$250

Swan Hill Lodge

Local Secondary Schools

\$17,000

**Talbot Freemasons Lodge
for Central Goldfields
Masonic Group**

Highview College

Maryborough Education Centre

\$2,000

Talbot Lodge

Talbot Primary School

\$500

The Mordialloc Lodge of Charity

Keysborough Gardens Primary School

\$4,500

**United Memorial and
Merbein Lodge**

Merbein P-10 College

Red Cliffs Secondary College

Ouyen P-12

Red Cliffs Secondary College

\$2,500

Warrnambool Lodge

Warrnambool College

Emmanuel College

Brauer College

Merri River School

\$2,000

Zetland Lodge

Our Lady of the Rosary

Kyneton Primary School

Tylden Primary School

Malmsbury Primary School

Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School

Langley Primary School

\$1,500



Sub-Funds

Named Sub-Funds provide an opportunity for members of the community who share our vision to work collaboratively with us.

Often this takes the form of Freemasons Foundation Victoria endowing a donation or bequest to provide gifts to chosen charities or cause areas in years to come, growing the initial investment via a pooled fund.

This year \$79,200 was distributed from Sub-Funds to benefit local students and support causes that matter to Lodge members and donors.



Freemason Emmanuel (Manny) Marabeliotakis congratulates BGCS CEO Gina Dougall on ongoing partnership initiatives.

GRANTS LIST



SEAVIC Lodge Subfund receives a certificate of appreciation from Think Pink.
L-R: Ross Kennedy, K G Yap, Irene Hendel, Elenor Yap, David Hendel.

Yarram Eisteddfod

Program Support
Tarra Masonic Lodge Sub-Fund
\$500

Yarram Secondary College

Awards
Tarra Masonic Lodge Sub-Fund
\$200

Kerang District Health

Nursing Scholarship
Kerang Lodge Sub-Fund
\$7,000

Epworth Medical Foundation

Nursing Scholarship
Anonymous Sub-Fund
\$6,000

Epworth Medical Foundation

Nursing Scholarship
Ray Millar Sub-Fund
\$8,000

Epworth Medical Foundation

EJ Whitten Prostate Cancer Research Centre
Friends of Epworth Sub-Fund
\$39,500

Swan Hill Lodge's Jodie Sharam
Knox Tertiary Scholarships

Tresco Chisel United Lodge Sub-Fund
\$3,000

St Mary's House of Welcome

Steps to Housing
Anonymous Sub-Fund
\$5,000

Joseph's Corner

Josephs Corner Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
SEAVIC Lodge Sub-Fund
\$1,000

Think Pink Foundation

Think Pink Ladies in the South Long Term Charity
SEAVIC Lodge Sub-Fund

\$2,000

Tertiary Awards

Lamborn Trust Sub-Fund
\$5,000

Banksia Gardens Community
Services

Food Pantry
Western Masonic Centre Sub-Fund
\$2,000



The 1889 Bequest Society



Bequest Society

The 1889 Bequest Society was established to thank and acknowledge people in their lifetime for making a bequest to Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

It is named for the year in which FFV found its beginnings. In 1889, a donation of 500 pounds was received from Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Sir William Clarke, 1st Baronet. It was a substantial amount – equivalent in today's terms to more than 10 years wages for an ordinary worker, and this generous gift is still giving.

A bequest may take the form of the whole or any portion of an estate or a specific sum of money. Choosing to leave a gift of even 1% of an estate will help FFV continue its work into the future. Anyone who notifies FFV that they have included a gift in their Will to FFV is invited to join the 1889 Bequest Society.

Each year, we hold the 1889 Bequest Society lunch to thank and recognise those who have pledged a lasting gift. The event also offers attendees the chance to hear directly from a grant recipient whose project is making a real difference in the community.

This year's guest speaker was filmmaker Leila McDougal, who shared the story behind *Just A Farmer* - a powerful film addressing mental health and suicide in rural and regional communities. Leila spoke movingly about the film's impact and the vital role of FFV's support, leaving guests inspired by the life-changing potential of their bequests.

FFV would like to sincerely thank those men and women that have already made a bequest to FFV as part of their Will. Their legacies will support our work into the future.

We would also like to thank our patrons and volunteers.

1889 Bequest Patrons

Sue Benedykt
Bob Jones

Bequest Working Party

Rosemary Evans
Michael Halls
Myles King OAM
Rodney Lavin JP
Philip Mayers AM
Geoffrey Thompson
Belinda Trembath



Left: FFV leaders and guests at the 1889 Bequest Society lunch featuring *Just a Farmer* filmmaker Leila McDougall. L – R: Rodney Lavin JP (FFV Director), Garry James (Chairman), John Patterson (FFV Director), Leila McDougall (*Just a Farmer* filmmaker and guest speaker), Anthony Bucca (Immediate Past Grand Master), Philip Mayers AM (FFV Director) and Kelly Wandel, (*Just A Farmer* community screening liaison manager).

Right: Bequest Society members Belinda Trembath and Rhona Mayers with a seeing eye dog in training.





As at June 2025,
Freemasons Foundation
Victoria had \$68M of
funds under management,
administered by JBWere.

For the 12 months ending 30 June, the total portfolio return was 11.04%. One of the key responsibilities of the Board is the monitoring of the investment activities via a robust Investment Policy with the objectives including to:

- Invest in a manner that provides a level of return to fund the mission, objectives and purpose of the Foundation, its outgoings and build a legacy for the future; and
- Manage risk through prudent financial management and diversification.

To obtain a copy of the full financial reports for the year, please visit our website www.freemasonsfoundation.org.

	Freemasons Benevolent Fund		Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation		Total	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
INVESTMENT INCOME	2,071,864	2,850,859	972,039	1,359,686	3,043,903	4,210,545
OTHER INCOME	59,361	49,564	47,970	719,853	107,331	769,417
FUNDS	(1,646,315)	(1,693,776)	(863,560)	(829,417)	(2,509,875)	(2,523,193)
OPERATING EXPENSES	(565,228)	(659,395)	(169,449)	(172,392)	(734,677)	(831,787)
NET SURPLUS/ (LOSS)	(80,318)	547,252	(13,000)	1,077,730	(93,318)	1,624,982
NET ASSETS	43,156,816	45,528,064	20,620,398	22,558,206	63,777,214	68,086,270





Be part of something great

Freemasons Foundation Victoria exists only thanks to the generosity of the Freemasons who have gone before us.

Every contribution - large or small - helps improve the lives and opportunities of Victorians.

There are many ways you too can be part of this tradition of giving.

Bequests

Leave a lasting legacy by including a gift to Freemasons Foundation Victoria in your Will. Your generosity will continue to make a difference for generations to come.

Donations

You can make a tax-deductible donation any time, supporting programs that strengthen communities and create opportunities across Victoria.

Sub-Funds

You can establish a Sub-Fund to support the charities and causes you care about. Donations are kept in a pooled fund, enabling effective investment management of funds and the benefit of our Foundation's administrative support for your grant making.

Philanthropic partnerships

We can do more together. As our Foundation evolves, we're open to connecting and collaborating with organisations that align with our values. If you are inspired by something you have read in this report, and lead an organisation that wants to make real, lasting change in Victoria, we'd love to hear from you.



Freemasons
Foundation Victoria

[FREEMASONSFOUNDATION.ORG](https://freemasonsfoundation.org)

The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation ABN - 97 577 321 065
Freemasons Benevolent Fund ABN - 77 505 868 957